



The Order of Malta's News in Hungary

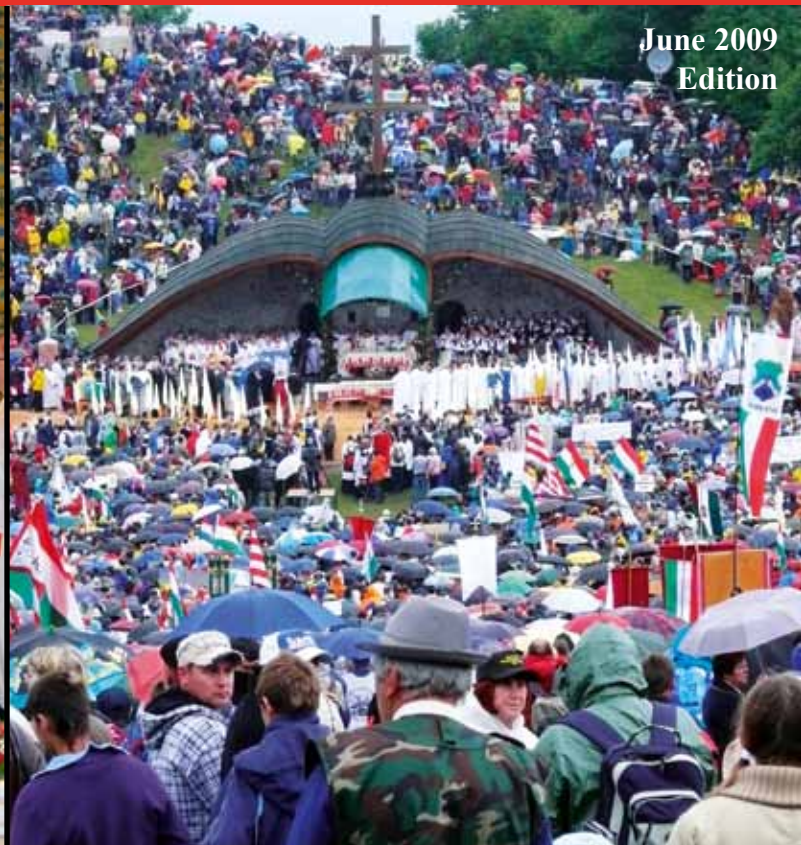


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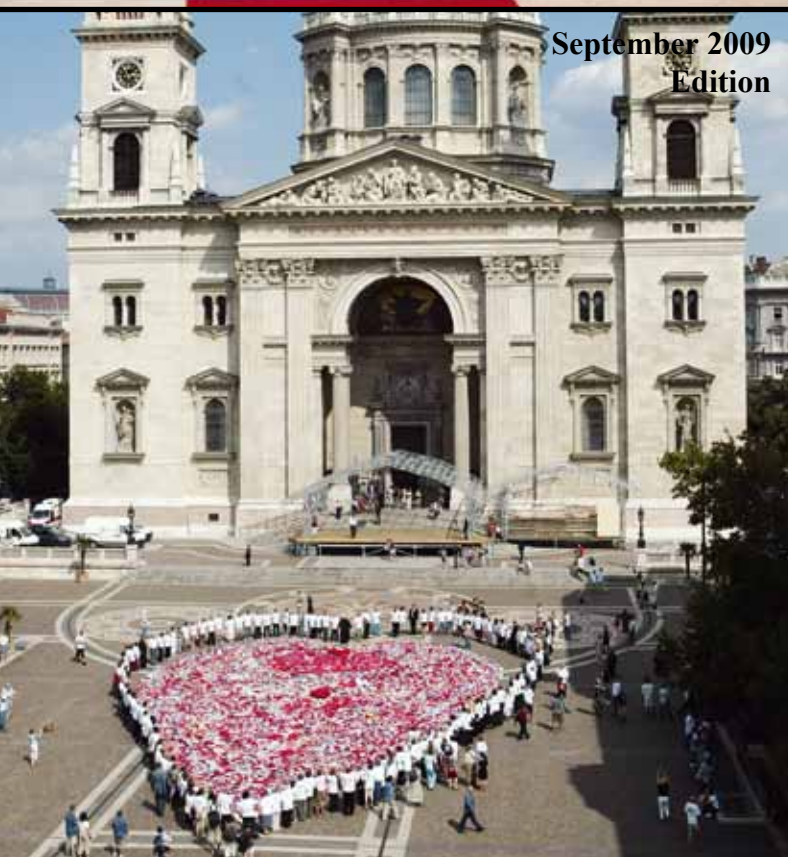
2009 summary



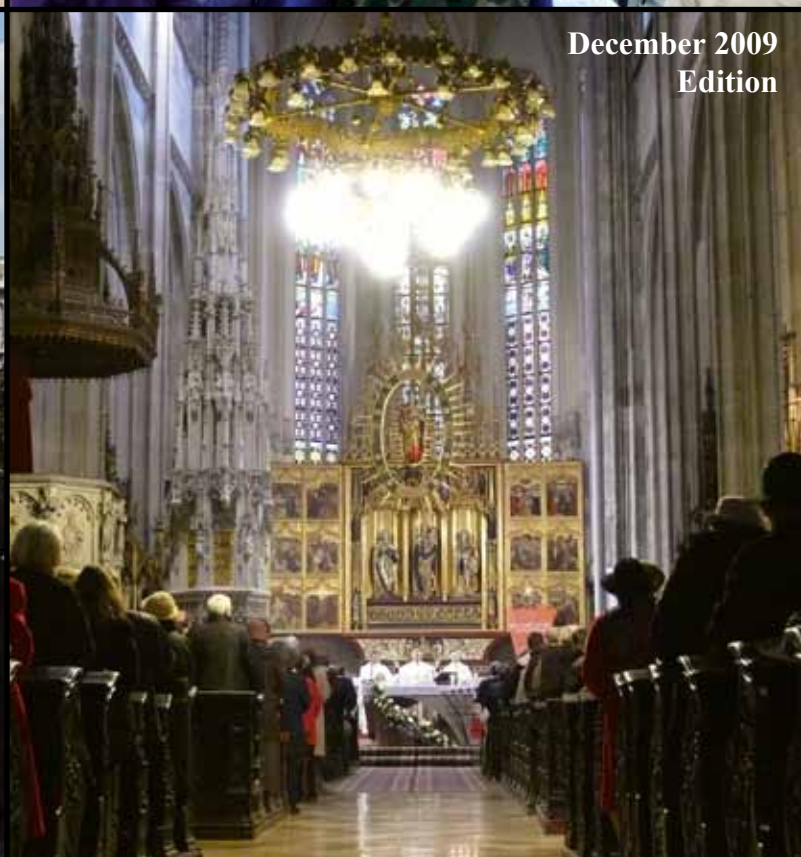
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**The Order of Malta's
News in Hungary**

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)

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

Editorial Team: Péter Szabadhegy (Editor-in-Chief), Gábor Tihanyi, Erzsébet Henn, Ágoston Czigler;
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 Hungarian Association's North American Delegation

Cover photos:

Top left: Holy Mass in the Zugliget Church commemorating MMSz's 20th anniversary;

Top right: pilgrimimage at Csíksomlyó;

Bottom left: MMSz's 2009 motto:

"Hungary has the biggest heart";

Bottom right: Holy Mass in the St. Elizabeth Basilica in Kassa, Slovakia.

Dear Reader,



It is for the fourth time now that we have the pleasure to present to you the English version of the Order of Malta's News in Hungary – an abbreviated compilation of the four quarterly Hungarian newsletters published in 2009 jointly by the Order's Hungarian Association and MMSz, its volunteer-based charity and humanitarian organization.

2009 was a special year for the Hungarian Association in many respects. The presiding theme running throughout the year was that MMSz celebrated its historic foundation 20 years ago. This anniversary triggered a series of events in 2009, starting with the Holy Mass in the Zugliget Church in February, two visits by our Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing, to Hungary (one in February and one in June), and ending with several commemorations during the summer of the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Hungarian borders to East German fugitives. As we all surely remember, it was camps organized by MMSz surrounding the Zugliget Church in Budapest, which provided lodging in 1989 to East Germans hoping to reach freedom in West Germany (see page 7 for Father Imre Kozma's reflections of the historic moments).

As always, this edition shares with you the series of main events, in which both the Hungarian Association and MMSz organized and/or participated throughout the year.

2009 was also a year for preparing this year's election of the Hungarian Association's election of its future leadership. Four task forces are busy working on the strategic issues facing the Association. The task forces are 1) the Association's human resource competencies, 2) its medium-term financial plans, 3) its opportunities for organizational optimization, and 4) the future challenges facing MMSz. We trust that this professional and systematic approach to addressing the Association's and MMSz's challenges will result in re-energized Hungarian Knights and Dames working to ensure a sustainable medium-term future for the Order's activities in Hungary.

The Editor

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Dear Members of the Order, dear Friends,

The Order's Council Complete of State elected our new Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing, on March 8 of last year. Because of the crowded schedule during the first months of his rule, the Grand Master was obliged to put off personal visits to, and establishing ties with, the priories and associations. In this light, his decision to accept in the first year of his reign the invitation of the President of the Republic of Hungary and of the Association of the Hungarian Knights to make an official visit to Hungary February 8-11 of this year was all the more notable. Before this time he had only visited the Irish Association.

The principal reason for his visit, which was also returning last year's visitation by the Hungarian President to Rome, was the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Hungarian Maltese Charity Service. It afforded the Grand Master an opportunity to become acquainted with the members of the Hungarian

Association and of the Charity Service, as well as a first-hand look at the latter's numerous projects.

The Grand Master was accompanied by a suite consisting of Grand Chancellor Jean-Pierre Mazery, Grand Hospitaller Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, the Prelate and former Apostolic Delegate in Hungary Angelo Acerbi, the Order's Ambassador to Hungary Prof. Erich Kussbach, as well as Alberto Leoncini Bartoli and Paolo Garofalo. The Hungarian side was represented by the Association's President György O'sváth.

The first appointment was with His Eminence Cardinal Péter Erdő. Afterwards, the Grand Master was received in the Sándor Palace with full pomp (hussars in parade uniform, honor guard, military band etc.) by President of the Republic László Sólyom who during their meeting decorated the Grand Master with the Presidential Grand Cross. (Earlier in Rome, the President had received the



Collar of Merit of the Order.) In their discussions the head of state expressed his appreciation for the impressive achievements and great merit of the Charity Service, with which he was very well acquainted. He highlighted one of the country's major problems, the situation of the 800,000-strong gypsy population and what it represents on the ethnic, cultural, political and economic fronts. The meeting was followed by a festive luncheon for eighty guests.

After the meeting with the President, the Grand Master was received by, and held discussions with, the president of the Parliament, the prime minister and the foreign minister. The overwhelming theme of the meetings was admiration for the work of the Charity Service, and each touched on the problem of the gypsies. Information on the subject provided by the Hungarian Association and the Charity Service was received with much interest. During the visits, the Grand Chancellor and the Grand Hospitaller on behalf of the Order, and the president of the Parliament and the prime minister on behalf of the host country, received the highest decorations as prescribed by international diplomatic protocol. On the one hand, these decorations are expressions of the excellent cooperation



György O'sváth welcoming Fra' Matthew Festing to Budapest

between the two states, and on the other, a token of the hope that this cooperation will continue in the future.

On February 9, His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate Janusz Julius gave a dinner at the Nunciature.

On February 10, the Grand Master and his suite visited the Charity Service's facility at Békásmegyér, as well as "House of Providence" on the Bem rakpart in Budapest, and viewed the hour-long film about the Service's

activities. Next day saw a Mass at the church in Zugliget, a gathering at the Service's national headquarters, and a reception for 400-500 guests at which the Grand Master awarded the Order's Cross of Merit to 10 outstanding members of the Charity Service.

The visit was a success in every way. The Grand Master emphasized on several occasions that the history, organization, efforts and successes of the Hungarian Maltese Charity Service might serve as an example to the

Order's priories and associations. Mons. Imre Kozma, President of the Charity Service, was present at the several meetings with the State's constitutional representatives, and they expressed their special admiration for his person and their gratitude for his work. The Grand Master noted several times that no other association of the Order enjoys such appreciation and prestige in its home country as does the Hungarian one. We are grateful for this accolade.

György O'sváth

Calendar of Events – The Order of Malta in Hungary

■ Meeting with the Johanniter Order

The new year started with the traditional annual reception organized by the Johanniter Order. The Hungarian Association was represented by Vice-President Ubul Tamás Kállay.

■ Saint John Scholarship Fund

Members of the Johanniter Order and the Hungarian Association living in Switzerland established a Scholarship Fund over ten years ago to finance the studies of needy Hungarian students in Hungary in order for them to study in religious high-schools. During the annual meeting on January 18 the Charge d'affaires, Mrs. Oliver Orosz, presented the work of the Fund. Twelve students were recipients of a scholarship, one of them from the Upper Hungarian region. Mr. Csaba Takács from Budapest coordinated this undertaking.

■ Hospitaller Conference – January

Before the Order's strategic seminar,

the Hospitaller Conference was held on January 15 in Venice, Italy. The Hungarian delegation was represented by Hospitaller, Imre Ugron, and Vice-President of MMSz, Miklos Vecsei. Hospitallers from European countries as well as from all parts of the world participated. Among the many discussions, Miklos Vecsei spoke about the increasing gap between the well-to-do citizens and the needy poor. He considered this problem a personal spiritual issue, deserving special attention from the Order.

■ The Grand Master's State visit to Hungary

Our Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing, arrived for a three-day State visit to Budapest on February 8 upon the invitation of László Sólyom, the Republic of Hungary's President. The timing of the State visit coincided with the 20th anniversary of the founding of MMSz, the Order's volunteer-based

charity and humanitarian organization in Hungary. This was the 4th State visit by the Order's Grand Master to Hungary since the Iron Curtain came down. Three Presidents of the Republic of Hungary (Árpád Göncz, Ferenc Mádl, and László Sólyom) visited the Order in Rome in the past 20 years.

The Grand Master was accompanied by Grand Chancellor Jean-Pierre Mazery, Grand Hospitaller Albrecht von Boeselager, the Order's prelate Angelo Acerbi, the Hungarian Association's President György O'sváth, the Order's Amabassador to Hungary Erich Kussbach, Ambassador Alberto Leoncini Bartoli (diplomatic advisor), and Chief of Protocol Paolo Garofalo. The entire entourage had a very busy schedule, including welcome dinner in the Buda Castle organized by György O'sváth, a breakfast meeting hosted by the Cardinal Primate Erdő Péter, a formal state lunch at the Sándor Palace in the Buda Castle organized by President



The Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing, meets President László Sólyom

László Sólyom, a visit to the Hungarian Parliament where the Prime Minister and President of Parliament received the Grand Master, a lunch honouring the President of Hungary hosted by the Grand Master in the Buda Castle's Hilton Hotel, a laying of the wreath ceremony at Hero's Square, a visit to Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs, a dinner hosted by Apostolic Nuncio Juliusz Janus. Following holy mass in the Order's chapel (in its Buda Castle main office building), the next day was spent visiting various MMSz institutions led by President of MMSz Father Imre Kozma, such as the "Gondviselés" houses in Békásmegyér and at the Bem

rakpart. The Hungarian Association organized an evening reception in its Buda Castle main office building, where the President introduced Association members to the Grand Master.

The last day (February 11) began with a Holy Mass in the Zugliget Church commemorating the 20th anniversary of the founding of MMSz. After the Mass, Fra' Matthew Festing handed over medals to MMSz workers, visited the MMSz headquarter building to view the display containing artifacts used in the East German refugee camp in Zugliget, and acquainted himself with MMSz's activities. The Grand Master concluded his trip to Hungary by expressing his

envigored friendship with Hungary as well as his positive experiences with the Hungarian Association and MMSz. He often acknowledged the size and span of MMSz's presence in Hungary, saying that it serves as an example to follow.

■ On February 11 the Vice-President of the Hungarian Association, Francis Bakách Bessenyei, along with confreres Géza Habsburg and Francis Schell, participated in a **Holy Mass organized by the American Association** honoring the Blessed Virgin of Lourdes and the sick of the world. This celebration was followed by a reception, where the members of our delegation had an opportunity to meet the other knights and elaborate on the recent visit of the Grand Master to Budapest.

■ The Association's North American Delegation held its one day Lenten **retreat** on March 4 in New York, organized by confrère Francis Schell. Rev. Barnabas G. Kiss, OFM, pastor of the Hungarian parish in Detroit, was the retreat master for 16 participants, among them eight members of the Order.

■ The customary annual **Way of the Cross** was held on Wednesday, April 8, of Easter Week at 3:00PM in the church of Mary in Buda. Msgr. Pál Bolberitz was the celebrant with many participants from the Order.

■ **The Hungarian Association's Council Meeting**

The council meeting held on April 17th began with a closed session, in which the President and the Admission Committee informed the council members about personal matters regarding certain members and about the candidates taking part in the admission process. In the open session, the President presented his report



The Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing, visits MMSz's main office building

elaborating on the recent visit of the Grand Master. He thanked those members who participated in the event and passed on the gratitude expressed by the Grand Master, who had a very favorable impression of his visit. The President dwelled on the aging membership but he expressed hope resulting from the increasing number of new candidates.

■ The Hungarian Association held its **retreat** in the St. Gellért retreat house in Leányfalu on April 17-19. Dr. Ernst Philippe Gudenus, Retreat master, reflected on Saint Paul's letter 2 Cor.12 (9-10) "When I am weak, I become strong". Candidate András Pallos was inducted into the Order at the Holy Mass on the closing day.

■ Pilgrimage to Lourdes

This year, the pilgrimage to Lourdes took place from May 1st to the 5th under the spiritual leadership of Zoltán Pásztor, Conventional Chaplain of the Order. There were 84 Hungarian pilgrims, 30 of them from the MMSz.

■ Holy Mass in memory of Cardinal Mindszenty

Five members represented our Order in Esztergom on May 2 for the annual memorial mass honoring Cardinal Mindszenty. Cardinal Péter Erdő, Primate of Hungary, reflected on the mock trial and false accusations mounted by the former communist regime. History subsequently absolved Cardinal Mindszenty.

■ The vigil mass in memory of the beatified Martyr **Bishop Vilmos Apor** was celebrated on May 22nd in the Saint Imre Cistercian Church in Buda. Six members of the Order, with the leadership of our President György O'sváth represented the Association.

■ Pilgrimage to Csíksomlyó

This year's pilgrimage was held between May 27 and June 3. A total of 35 Hungarians attended including the families of the members of the Order. The walking segment of the pilgrimage closed with a Mass after the arrival of the participants from Udvarhely. On Monday we crossed the straits of Békás into Moldova and visited several beautiful active Romanian Orthodox monasteries.



The procession in Csíksomlyó

■ Reception on the Feast Day of Saint John

His Excellency, the Ambassador, Professor Dr. Erich Kussbach, hosted the reception in the evening at the usual venue of the Museum of Military History. Ambassador Kussbach in his statement remarked that after a 45 year hiatus, now our country has fostered diplomatic relations with the Order for 20 consecutive years. Our confraternal orders, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and the Johanniter Order, were represented at the highest level. His Excellency Primate of Hungary, Cardinal Péter Erdő honored the event with his attendance as did His Excellency Julius Janus, Papal Nuncio.

■ Celebration of the Feast of Saint John and Investiture

On June 24, the Feast Day of Saint John, the Association's Hungarian Delegation held its regular annual general meeting. Delegate Béla Ugron appraised the achievements of the past year. After the general meeting new members of the Order, Luca Kornis, Péter Kornis and András Radvánszky were invested and took their vows, while Dame Edit Chemez pronounced the Promise of obedience, during the celebration of Mass at the Church of our Blessed Lady in the Castle of Buda. During the subsequent reception the newly initiated members were congratulated by all. Seizing the opportunity of the occasion, President György O'sváth bestowed awards to László Tardy, Master Conductor of the Matthias Church and László Németh, Managing Director of the D-Plusz Printing House (printer of this magazine), expressing his gratitude for their continued altruistic assistance and support.

■ The Grand Master Visits Hungary

His Most Eminent Highness Fra^c Matthew Festing Grand Master arrived in Hungary on June 26, at the invitation of the President of the Republic of Hungary. He was accompanied by Grand Chancellor H.E. Jean-Pierre Mazery and Grand Hospitaller H.E. Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager. They were invited to participate in the official celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the events of 1989. The leaders of several other countries took part in the Ceremonies. Those in attendance included German President Horst Köhler, Austrian President Heinz Fischer, President of Switzerland Hans-Rudolf Merz, President of Slovenia Danilo Türk, President of Finland Tarja Halonen and Vice President of the European Commission Günter Verheugen.



Heads of state celebrating the 20th anniversary of the events of 1989

On the morning of Saturday, July 27, the Grand Master and his delegation along with the other foreign heads of State were present on the Kossuth Plaza, marking the opening of the Ceremonies by the national defence forces procession and ceremonial flag raising. Subsequently the guests participated in an assembly meeting at the Upper Chamber of Parliament. At noon the nation's President hosted the Grand Master at the Sandor Palace for a luncheon along with the other foreign heads of State. In the afternoon the Grand Master and his delegation visited the Basilica of St. Stephen followed by a short walking tour of central Budapest. The Grand Master expressed his pleasure and satisfaction with the visit in as much as he had the opportunity to exchange ideas with several leaders of foreign countries. He and his entourage returned to Rome in the late afternoon.

■ President's Colloquium

President György O'sváth held his Colloquium on August 19th at the head office building of the Hungarian Association. He evaluated the Order's accomplishments in the last six months, including its religious activities. This

annual event offers the opportunity for the members of the Association to have discussions with one another and to offer ideas and ask questions of the Association leadership. In the evening, the Saint Stephen's Day reception began at 7:00 o'clock at the same location. His Eminence, Primate of Hungary, Cardinal Péter Erdő honored the reception with his presence along with His Eminence the Papal Nuncio and many other Church dignitaries. Several government officials, many members of the Order and friends of the Association also attended.

■ Malta Camp 2009

This year, the camp for handicapped youth, organized by the Order for the 26th year, took place in Segovia, Spain from August 15 to 22. The Hungarian contingent consisted of 12 members, including 5 handicapped youth. The organizer and leader of the group was Veronica Györi-Dani, and the attending physician was Dr. Tamás Kállay. During the week, the Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing, paid a visit and took part in the camp's group photo shoot, the camp's High Mass and in the traditional Christopher Cup event. There were a number of exciting excursions from



The Malta Camp in Segovia

which the campers could choose during the week, besides the organized program, such as Avila, the Prado museum, or the Reina Sophia museum in Madrid. Nature excursions were on the schedule as well as a trip to the zoo, or just a visit to the nearby nature reserve to enjoy the beauty of the country side. The participants of this camp returned home with renewed energy, enthusiasm and great memories. The 2010 Eurocamp will take place in England from July 10 to 17.

■ Mass and procession on Saint Stephen's day

On the feast day of the founder of the state and kingdom of Hungary, a Holy Mass was celebrated on the square in front of Saint Stephen's Basilica by Cardinal Archbishop Péter Erdő, Julius Janus apostolic nuncio, Joachim Meisner, Cardinal Archbishop of Cologne, the members of the Hungarian Catholic Bishops Conference and all the other visiting high ranking priests from the bordering countries. The Order of Malta was honored by an invitation to participate in the organization of this year's procession. Members of the Association were requested to form a group to carry the Holy Right Hand relic of Saint Stephen. The Knights of



St. Stephen's relic carried by members of the Order on August 20th

Malta alternated with the members of the Order of the Knights of Saint Stephen in carrying the revered relic during the procession.

■ **The Malta Camp for Carpathian Basin's handicapped youth**

This event was organized jointly by the Association's Hungarian Delegation and the MMSz at Kőszeg, (Mission Centre) led by Laszlo Legeza. They participated in a rich cultural program and lively camping activities. The campers came from all areas of the Carpathian Basin including groups from Hungary (Budapest, Győr, Sopron, Miskolc, Tokaj, Szeged). There were 20 handicapped persons and 30 caretakers, members of the various volunteer groups.

■ On August 29 in the **Saint Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna**, a Holy Mass was celebrated in honor of Saint Stephen by the Bishop of Nagybeckerek, Dr. László Németh. Thirteen Hungarian members of the Order participated at this event.

■ **The feast of our Lady of Philermo**

On the 8th of September our Chaplain Msgr. Pál Bolberitz celebrated Holy Mass in the chapel of our headquarters

with 24 members and their relatives present. Preceding the Holy Mass, Vice-President Ubul Tamás Kállay held a seminar regarding the future situation and strategic objectives of the Hungarian Association. The basic ideas for this discussion came from the presidential colloquium report, held on August 19: 1) 2010 will mark 20 years since the reestablishment of the Order's activities in Hungary. The achievements to date, the changes in the domestic situation and also in foreign countries, the personnel changes of our membership, as well as financial challenges demand very serious planning and organizational efforts; 2) in 2010 the Association's Council has to be reelected, with significant changes to be expected, as the core of the present council has been active for more than 15 years. There is an urgent need to involve younger members in this service; 3) we should aim to provide in-depth information to our membership and to encourage all to become more actively involved in the works of the Association in order to rejuvenate the leadership; 4) we should organize workgroups to plan the Association's activities and strategies for the future.

Twenty members of the Association took part in the seminar on September

8. Participants agreed to organize four workgroups: 1. a group to handle personnel and succession issues; 2. a group to prepare a financial plan for the coming year and for the next 5 years; 3. a group to analyze the organization of the Association and propose ideas to rejuvenate same; 4. a group to encourage even better cooperation with MMSz. The group leaders were charged to organize their groups. As a volunteer organization, we need to work together to solve internal problems among ourselves in order to successfully fulfill the Order's objectives.

■ The Association's **German Language Speaking Delegation's annual retreat** was held at FrauenChimsee, Germany, on September 11-13. On the evening of arrival, the Delegation conducted its annual meeting where a number of reports were made about the members' activities. Elections were held for the leadership of the Delegation with the following results: President/Delegate Miklós Karácsonyi; Vice-President Zsuzsa Máriássy; Secretary Mária Clary-Aldringen and Treasurer András Tahy. The retreat was led by Msgr. Dr. Pál Bolberitz.

■ A joint **retreat** of the members of the Hungarian Delegation and the Knights of St. Stephen took place on the last weekend of September at Mátraverebély. Father Peregrin of the Franciscan Order lead the retreat. On Saturday, Cardinal László Paskai O.F.M. Archbishop of Esztergom, celebrated Holy Mass, which was followed by a procession. A total of 50 members of our Association participated.

■ His Excellency the Archbishop Angelo Acerbi, Prelate of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, appointed **Dr.**

Pál Bolberitz, Grand Cross Conventual Chaplain of Honour, to care of members within the Hungarian Association seeking vocation to the class of professed knight.

■ **Zoltán Meszlényi**, an assistant Bishop who died as a martyr in 1951, was beatified on October 31st in the Basilica of Esztergom. The Holy Mass and the ceremony was celebrated by Cardinal Archbishop Péter Erdő, Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest and Archbishop Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation of Canonizational affairs. Bishop Meszlényi is the first martyr of the old communist dictatorship to be beatified by the Church. Thirteen members of the Hungarian Association represented the Order.

■ The Association's annual visit to his Excellency the Nuncio **Julius Janus** took place on November 12. The Hungarian Association was represented by President Gyorgy O'svath, Vice-President Tamás Ubul Kállay and Chancellor Erzsébet Podmaniczky. In a friendly, informal discussion the President presented an informative description of the many events from the past year. The Nuncio listened very attentively and frequently asked questions. He asked for further information on the topic of "self-styled orders", whose existence creates difficulties for the Hungarian Association.

■ The fall meeting of the **Association's Council** took place on November 13 in our Fortuna Street offices in Budapest. The day began with a Holy Mass in the Association Chapel. Almost all members of the Council were present. The President opened the "closed session" to handle personnel issues. The Council accepted the completed probation periods of eight candidates. Since all were

recommended by their tutor and by their spiritual advisor, the President agreed to recommend that their membership be accepted by the Order in Rome. The candidates for membership are: dr.György Antall (Hungarian Delegation), Mrs. Kratschmer, born countess Katalin Kornis (German Delegation), Reverend János Merka (German Delegation), countess Morozzo della Rocca, born Ilona Rudnay (German Delegation), Gregor Roy-Chowdhury (German Delegation), Balázs Tahy (Hungarian Delegation), dr. Gáspár Gábor Ugron (Hungarian Delegation), Maciej Wasilewski (Hungarian Delegation).

In the Council's "open session", the leaders of the future strategy working groups presented the results of their deliberations and identified the tasks that lie ahead for the Association. Chancellor Erzsébet Podmaniczky informed members of the Council of the dates and schedules for next year's election of officers. Pál Csapodi, chair of the finance committee, informed the Council of the financial difficulties facing the Association and the likely necessity of raising the membership dues. The Association's program for the next year was discussed and accepted. The meeting was closed with a prayer and members departed to join the pilgrimage to Kassa, Slovakia.

■ **Saint Elizabeth Celebration, Kassa**

Again this year the Association was able to celebrate the feast of Saint Elizabeth through the invitation of our members in the Kassa area. During the memorable days in Kassa all were drawn to the north portal of Saint Elizabeth Cathedral, which displays recently restored statues of Hungarian saints. The lectures about the feast, given in the Academy, filled

those present with the spirit of Saint Elizabeth and the wonder of the amazing events of her life. Katalin Varsányi's presentation brought to life the many events in Saint Elizabeth's life with the aid of the photos she prepared and exhibited. In her travels she was able to discover images of Saint Elizabeth in the most hidden areas of the world reflecting the importance of the love she had for others.

In the second part of the Academy program, Father Antal Kuklay spoke about "Joint activities reaching across borders". He spoke about Sárospatak – Kassa as an example. These two cities were connected by the life of Saint Elizabeth. It was her love for the world that came to fruition through her aid to the inhabitants of settlements, the neighboring peoples, along the road connecting the two cities, renewing their lives.

On Sunday all participated in a festive Holy Mass at the Cathedral. Cannon Dr. László Sedon, pastor of Miskolc-Hejőcsaba, the principal celebrant, emphasized the importance of love in his sermon and called the congregation to follow the example shown by Saint Elizabeth. Following the Mass, honors were paid at the grave of Ferenc Rákóczi, with a wreath laid by Vice President Ubul Tamás Kállay.

■ The Association's **Retreat for members in obedience** was held once again at Fehérvárcsurgó on November 26-29. The retreat was led by Prof. Pál Borberitz, Grand Cross Conventual Chaplain "ad honorem". The theme of his remarks was: "The Sacred Signs of the Church". Twelve members participated in the retreat.

20 Years After the Border Opening

In Germany, on the banks of the Rhine, still visible on a Roman milestone, the following message is legible: "Pro patria consumar", or in English: "To be consumed for the fatherland".

This sentence, engraved thousands of years ago, mirrors the emotions of the Roman soldiers living away from home.

Csilla, Freifrau von Boeselager, born Csilla Fenyés in Hungary, also reflected this emotion while living in Germany. She was consumed for our homeland, for its spiritual and material welfare, its freedom and its attachment to God.

This woman lives in the memory of the Germans as the Angel of Budapest.

It was in her heart that the thought of the Hungarian Maltese Charities was born. It was she who founded it in Germany, in Hoellinghofen, then eventually also in Hungary, and through God's mysterious plan I was her partner in this effort.

It was the Hungarian Maltese Charities which received in 1989 the East German refugees in Hungary.

She also was a refugee. Scarcely three years old when she left Hungary, she fled to Germany first, then to Venezuela. There numerous events reinforced in her the sensation of being homeless; however, the Sisters of Guadalupe counterbalanced this with great effect.

In the United States she studied at Vassar College with the children of prominent families. Away from the atmosphere of the convent school, she "lost" God in the twisted world of science, but in the biology laboratory, under the lens of a microscope, in the image of a cell, God's face was revealed to her again.

A scholarship competition carried her to Germany, where she increased her knowledge. Through her work she also

experienced success but also discovered that in reality she was European.

Other discoveries awaited her in Germany when during a ball Baron Dr. Wolfhard Boeselager caught sight of her and summarized the experience in the words:

She is the one for whom I have been waiting! As in a fairy tale, Csilla became the wife of a well-to-do baronet and bore two children: Ildiko and Ilona. She also brought up the son of friends, Rafael, who currently is one of those who continue her work. But the surroundings of this happy family were not enough for her.

The chatelaine of Hoellinghofen wanted to propagate this happiness beyond the castle. First, she deepened the religious knowledge of Hoellinghofen's youth, such as preparing them for the sacrament of confirmation. Later, she desired to spread her experiences in ever wider circles, even throughout the whole of Europe.

From this short remembrance of Lady Csilla much can be gleaned. But those who really wish to know her, have to familiarize themselves with the Franciscan spirituality, which aims to encounter divine perspectives and attitudes, and which is contained in Holy Scripture: "He who serves me should follow me." Correspondingly, the measure of progress among the followers of Jesus is different than that of the world. "Among you, whoever wants to be great must be your servant" (Mt 20, 27).

The life achievement of Lady Csilla is the Hungarian Maltese Charities, a realization of God's will. God's will – we know – can be realized without us, but how much happier shall we be if we may be his instruments?

1989 was the year of miracles in Hungary and in Europe – that exultant period



when the life of millions was not led by selfishness, hatred, pride and the spirit of exploitation but rather by good intentions and altruistic service – as was stated in our Parliament by the representatives of many nations during the celebration of this twentieth anniversary.

Hungary no longer followed its earlier policies and put aside its immediate interests. Its responsible leaders at that time decided well and followed new paths. The conduct of our Maltese members demonstrated that charity, namely hospitality – synonymous with redemption – is omnipotent.

In 1989 a miracle had occurred. Hungary dismantled the Iron Curtain and opened its borders to the East German refugees. The Berlin Wall was thus circumvented and the reunification of Germany and Europe was started.

Csilla, Baroness Boeselager, symbolizes the truth that no matter how small a country may be, when it discovers the strength of its inner values and regains its self-confidence, it may become an example for the whole of Europe. This nation then, aware of its values, is no poor relation of the powerful, but rather reminds them that in the family of nations all possess great values. When these values surface, even the course of history may receive new directions.

Imre Kozma

Calendar of Events – MMSz

♥ 24 Hour Health Center in Szeged

The MMSz opened a 24 hour health center in Szeged with 16 beds available for those in need. There they can examine, provide bathing facilities for the homeless, keep them under observation for a 24 to 48 hour period, and seek to improve the condition of the sick, and if necessary, transport the individual to the appropriate facility. The establishment of the center was helped with a 15 million forint (55,000 euro) donation from the Public Foundation „For the Homeless”. The MMSz donated 10 million forints (37,000 euros) along with valuable equipment, supplies and hospital beds. The real estate was made available by the City of Szeged.

♥ Expanding Ties with Austria

During 2008, we attempted to further build our ties to neighboring Austria in order to promote specific donation solicitations. In the past years, we only had connections with the province of Innsbruck, through the assistance of Dr. Laszlo Baittrok, from where we received donations. The dissemination of information about the activities of MMSz has shown significant results. During the summer months, the MHDA of Burgenland and Linz helped with electric and mechanical wheelchairs, and in October through the efforts of Andreas Mensdorff-Pouilly a student hostel of the local university in Linz donated to MMSz 600 chairs and tables which were in very good condition.

♥ Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of MMSz's Northern Hungary Region

The Northern Hungary Region of MMSz, on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary, introduced itself more visibly, so that the

inhabitants of the area would become more familiar with its charity work. It organized an exhibit at the Recreation Center near the Malta House in Diósgyőr and on March 25 invited all those to a conference with whom it was in some relationship or who in some form assisted its work. Three 20 minute films were shown: "20 Years", "House of Providence", information about the region's institutions, and "The Future Is In Their Hand".

♥ "Spotless Donation", a Joint Undertaking of the MMSz and Vanish

The marketer of Vanish products, Reckitt Benckiser Company, has provided 5 million forints (about 18 thousand euros) in the past year to support MMSz's Budapest organization, which operates and employs homeless in its Mosoly Street laundry. Over 8 tons of clothes were collected, which were donated by tens of thousands of donors at the "Spotless Donation" collection points. We are planning a similar laundry to be opened in Veszprem, assisted by a new donation from Vanish. The Reckitt Benckiser Company assists with a 10 forint (about 4 euro cents) donation to the planned laundry for every Vanish product sold in the month of July.

♥ "New for Old" Salamander Shoe Exchange Undertaking

In this event, lasting until June 7, the Salamander Hungaria Company gave a 20% discount to those shoppers who brought in slightly used pairs of shoes to be donated to the 20 year old MMSz. The shoes collected in this manner were then distributed among the needy.

♥ Credible Counselling Program for Credit Debtors /Hitel-S/

In February 2009 the MMSZ launched

a program to assist families, that are unable to repay their credit or their public utility debts. In the context of this complex program, advice is given not only with respect to household finances, but also economic, social and lifestyle issues. Families receive advice about the kind of resources they can obtain, how they can search for employment, and how they can return to sustainable finances. As part of this pilot project the Savings Bank (Takarékbank), that is, some of the members of the so called SavingPoints network, have joined. We are looking to cooperate with other potential financial partners in order to expand this program nationally.

♥ "With You for You" Program

Within this program, the MMSz in Győr organized and coordinated eight organizations, through which we provide free-time activities for young people, who otherwise are not productively occupied. In the context of the Plaza program, in the Győr shopping center's youth facility, there are every day valuable programs, games, available internet connection, and useful information for those young people, who spend most of their time on harmful or useless endeavors. With our events we want to help send a message that, in the spirit of "with you and for you", they will engage in more productive activities, gather social experiences with and for each other, and establish examples that are worthwhile to follow.

♥ Cooperation with the University of Pécs

In past years, catastrophes in distant countries required emergency assistance. In 2005, we established the International

Missionary Doctors Group, whose volunteers have acquired experience at several aid missions. We assist in their continuing education, so that they will be prepared to assist in any location. In order to assist in our international development and humanitarian aid expansion, for the training of our volunteer experts and to be able to organize joint programs, we entered into a cooperative agreement with the University of Pécs Medical School.

♥ **Ötlet (Idea) Volunteer Program**

MMSz's Western Transdanubia Region is attempting to make improvements to the availability of jobs for young people between the ages of 18-26 and also for the over-45 jobless population with its "ÖTLET" (IDEA) volunteer program. The participants do volunteer work 6 hours a day for 10 months in libraries, hospitals, social institutions and local government offices in order for them to acquire professional training, thereby improving their chances of getting a job.

♥ The Waste Management Employment of the Tarnabod Electronic Waste Dismantling Workshop has been saved. The MMSz's "Befogadás" (Acceptance) Social and Non-profit Employment Corp. received special and immediate support from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. The 9 million forint (about 33,000 euro) aid was needed since the operation of the Electronic Waste Dismantling Workshop was in danger of being shut down due to the current difficult economic situation – thus the employees in that facility could have lost their employment.

♥ **Development of model-assets in Csilla House of Pécs**

Because of the continuing improvements made by MMSz's organization in

Pécs, we were able to remove physical barriers to access within this building. We not only removed obstacles for the handicapped but we made better acoustics available for the hearing impaired. With the help of the so-called "induction voice strengthening method", reception of hearing aid signals was made possible to be built into the walls. As a result of this reconstruction a larger segment of the handicapped now enjoy a higher quality lifestyle.

♥ **Tire donations from Michelin**

MMSz received a donation of automobile tires, valued at 4 million forints (about 15,000 euros), from the Michelin Hungaria Company which was formally presented by Mr. Béla Nagy, Communications Director, to Lajos Györi-Dani, head of MMSz's central region.

♥ **Meeting of the MMSz National Delegates**

The MMSz held its regular National Delegates' Meeting on June 6th. Following Holy Mass on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the MMSz's foundation, Father Imre Kozma presented memorial medals for 20 years of exceptional work to valued volunteers. He mentioned that the decision was a hard one because so many more hard working volunteers could have been included. He also announced that with the resignation of Vice-President Sándor Tombor, the retirement of Mária Tettinger and the departure of Gyula Levente Sass, there are personnel changes to be made, such as: Miklos Vecsei, presently Operational Vice-President, was nominated to be Vice-President and the head of MMSz's central region, Lajos Györi-Dani was asked to fill the Operational Vice Presidential slot. After the leadership and delegates voted Miklos Vecsei to become Vice-President, Father Imre Kozma thanked Sándor Tombor and

Mária Tettinger for their conscientious work provided to the poor and needy as well as to the MMSz for the past 20 years.

♥ **Donation received from the Béres Company**

The Béres Pharmaceutical firm has decided that it not only will contribute 10-10 forints based on the number of Actival Kid multivitamin tablets sold for the maintenance of MMSz's playgrounds, but it also donated 1,000 boxes of vitamin tablets which we distributed last August to the children who spent their summer vacation at our Malta-supported playgrounds. Joseph Béres and his wife visited our Lajos Street playground in June with the guidance of Father Imre Kozma. Additionally the Béres firm donated 3,000 boxes of Szemerő (eye-strengthening) vitamin tablets to help those in need. We transported this load to Temesvár on August 4th, where the Romanian Malta Aid Service is in charge of distribution.

♥ **Community Network**

On the basis of MEH's (Hungarian Energy Authority) decision over DEMASZ (Southern Hungarian Power Supply Company), the company will reimburse the 2008 overpayments made by its customers. The amount designated for this endeavor of DEMASZ will be distributed through the efforts of MMSz to the needy and/or customers who already have had their power supply disconnected in Csongrád and Békés counties.

♥ **Ambulance and Rescue Service in Bessenbach**

The International MotoCross races were held on June 18th and 19th in Bessenbach, Germany. Malteser Hilfsdienst, our sister Malta organization in Germany, took care of the event's health and accident insurance, to which MMSz's Rescue Service members



Disaster training exercises in Sukoro

had already received invitations. They worked in unison with the Order of Malta in Germany to take care of the injured. The cooperative work, in this instance, presented the opportunity to exchange their experiences with each other for building future, even better cooperation.

♥ Volunteer training for disaster emergencies

The MMSz started a volunteer training program for disaster emergencies. The training is being performed in conjunction with MMSz's Beregszász (in the Ukraine) chapter and will include trainees from the Lower Carpathian region. The instructors plan to train 15 volunteers, who will also participate in the annual meeting of ambulance and emergency personnel at Sukoro.

♥ Renovation of the underpass at the Budapest West Railway Station

The Foundation for Homeless in cooperation with the MMSz has undertaken to improve the condition of the underpass at the West Railway Station (Nyugati Pályaudvar) in Budapest. As a first step a day-care center for the homeless was opened, where assistance and counseling are provided. Future plans include provision for greater security as well as beautification of the underpass.

♥ 20th anniversary of "Acceptance Day"

The MMSz celebrated in Zugliget its "Acceptance Day" on August 15, when East Germans were accepted there 20 years ago. This commemoration was the climax of the MMSz 20 year anniversary. Holy mass was held by the Archbishop of Veszprém, Dr. Gyula Márfi, together with MMSz's president, Father Imre Kozma, in the Zugliget Church to begin the celebration. Numerous MMSz workers received medals of honour from the Hungarian Association while those workers, who served under MMSz for the past 20 years, received a certificate from Father Kozma. The leader of the Order of Malta's German volunteers,

Constantin von Brandenstein, presented Father Kozma with a commemorative award. Wreaths were laid by Father Imre Kozma and Klaus Bönnemann, the second ambassador to Hungary from re-united Germany, at the memorial tablets outside the Zugliget Church's wall to conclude the ceremony.

The MMSz then hosted a reception at its main office premises in Budapest, where 400 members of the Order, MMSz workers and guests attended. Many guests came from Austria and Germany, including Wolfgang Wagner, one of the leaders of the Zugliget refugee camp; Ingo Radtke and Michael Lülisdorff from the Malteser International; Raphael Hoensbroech, Csilla von Boeselager's adopted son; and Norbert Graf Salzburg-Falkenstein, leader of the Order's operations in Austria.

MMSz's "Hungary has the biggest heart" program was concluded in the afternoon, when the many thousands of collected hearts during the year were placed in the square in front of St. Stephen's Basilica. This was the way we expressed our 20 years of experience in one main message: Hungarians' hearts are always prepared to help in difficult times.



Commemoration of MMSz's 20-year anniversary outside the Zugliget Church

♥ **The following MMSz officers received VILMOS APOR medals on August 15:**

GOLD medal to Rezső Lendvai, regional director of the Western Transdanubia Region. SILVER medal recipients: Emilia Morva, secretary of the Central Hungary Region; Dr. Joseph Koles, former director of the Hatvan chapter; Dr. Eszter Istvánffy Földváry, director of the Mihály Mentés "Gondviselés Ház", a residence for the elderly; Dr. Tamás Horváth, director of the MMSz ambulance services; Katalin Utasi Csonka, director of the Csilla "Gondviselés Ház"; Ágnes Dusa, regional secretary of the Southern Transdanubia Region; Dr. Imre Kis, regional director of the Northern Hungary Region; Dr. Mrs. Gyula Fejér, team leader at Komárom; István Sebestény, director of the "Gondviselés Ház" at Fő Street; Ágnes Hidas Czifra, director of the "Gondviselés Ház" at Esztergom; Miklos Kohányi, managing director of the Befogadás Nonprofit organization; Mrs. Csongor Rác, volunteer of the national home office. BRONZE medal recipients: Monika Vámos, co-worker at the lung cancer screening bus; Vera Danko, volunteer; Zsuzsanna Dobi-Barocsi, director of assistance services; Krisztián Lenkei, volunteer at the bathing services, Budapest; Jozsef Mihály, social worker for the past 16 years at Kecskemét; László Pávics, driver for the MMSz for the past 14 years; Zsófia Preininger, group leader for various children and volunteer programs at Szoc-Halimba-Nyirad; Viktoria Schuller, co-worker of the Sopron chapter.

♥ **13th Eurocamp for international youth**

The international Maltese Eurocamp was held in Hungary at Győrújbátor on August 15 – 22. 72 young men and women from six countries took part in the week-long program. The program included workshops, sporting events, hiking trips as well as evening campfire

sessions. The attendees discussed how the Order of Malta's organizations operate in their respective countries and exchanged ideas on improving activities in the future. They also participated in the formal procession held on the feast day of St. Stephen of Hungary.

♥ **Summer resort at Tiszaórs**

More than 45 families spent their summer vacation at our summer resort in Tiszaórs. Handicapped from our "bathing" group spent 10 days there and the following groups enjoyed one-week vacations: disadvantaged children from our Esztergom chapter, elementary school children from Tarnabod, as well as children from the "I want to Live" foundation.

♥ **100 months of "TÜNDÉRKERT"**

Interested readers reviewed the pages of "Tündérkert" (Garden of Fairies) newspaper's 100th jubilee issue. The MMSz began this paper with the purpose of strengthening the programs at the newly constructed apartment playgrounds by reporting on activities in a regular feature titled "Játszva megelőzni" (prevention through play). Since reader comments from parents, children, and teachers make this a favorite read, the MMSz is eager to continue its publication.

♥ **Story land at the Budapest Péterfy Hospital Emergency Center**

With the help of young MMSz volunteers and the use of the story-wall paint program, doctors and nurses at the hospital created a story world on the walls of the waiting and examination rooms during their free time.

♥ **Wine Festival 2009**

The international Wine and Champaign Festival was held this year on September 9–13 at the Buda castle. Part of the

program consisted of a benefit wine auction on September 17th at the Military History Museum. The funds generated as the excellent local wines came under the gavel were raised for the benefit of MMSz.

♥ **Emergency Medical Training Course**

The tenth emergency medical training course began on September 9. The purpose of this program is to acquaint interested persons with emergency medical procedures, regardless of their previous medical experience. Participants can pass a medical training test, which is a prerequisite for service as a volunteer with the Maltese Ambulance Service.

♥ **MMSz Conference at Lakitelek**

The traditional MMSz annual meeting was held at Lakitelek on September 11-13. This meeting is aimed each year at addressing and discussing the current issues confronting participants. The MMSz's biggest source of work effort comes from volunteers. The function of our national organization decidedly depends on volunteers, who accept various assignments. This latest meeting focused on renewing the number of volunteers both in our institutions and in our 142 local chapters.

♥ **Family Day in Győr**

The MMSz organized a health day in the Győr plaza on September 12th with the aim that the following message should reach as many young people as possible: "Spend your free time sensibly, drug free and healthy." The publicity of this message in the plaza was provided by the members of the local MMSz chapter. During the day the Kardirex Egészségügyi (Healthbusiness) Center offered free screening tests and also

supported the MMSz with a donation of medicines in the value of 1,300,000 forints (about 5,000 euros).

♥ **László Sólyom, President of Hungary at Tarnabod**

The Hungarian president visited the village of Tarnabod accompanied by Father Imre Kozma. Tarnabod is a model village where the homeless and disadvantaged are integrated with the local population, assisting the village to become economically and socially productive. The President met with local citizens at the electronic waste dismantling workshop and the children's playhouse.

♥ **The clothing drive of 2009** resulted in donations of about 42 tons of used clothing. This program was assisted by the Reckitt Benckiser Corp. which manufactures cleaning products, called Vanish. Emese Molnar, a representative of the company, presented the managing director of the campaign with a donation of 5 million forints (about 18,000 euros) to be used to furnish the new laundry/cleaning establishment at Veszprém, manned by the organization for the homeless. Additional donations will be forthcoming from future sales of the cleaning products.

♥ **Renovations of the school building at Rát in Lower Carpathia**

The second phase of renovations has begun at the school. After a new roof was installed in time for the beginning of the school year, which represented the first phase, the donors decided to continue their support funding the building of a gymnasium. This project will once again be coordinated and supervised by the MMSz chapter of Beregszász. The generosity of friends of Lower Carpathia and Dr. Péter Szabados make this project possible.



The renovated school building in Rát

♥ On November 5th Douwe Egberts Omnia coffee put into action a program initiated in the support of the MMSz by the Sara Lee Hungarian Co., called "**Csészényi gondoskodás**" (A **cupful of care**). For each package of coffee sold as part of this program, the Company donates two cups of coffee to the poor helped by the MMSz.

♥ **Gift of an Ambulance**

The MMSz donated a Ford transit ambulance to the Romanian Maltese Charity Service's Nagybánya chapter.

♥ **Suzuki donates a car**

The general manager of the Hungarian Suzuki Company, Hisashi Takeuchi, delivered a Suzuki SX4 vehicle to MMSz. Father Imre Kozma accepted the vehicle at a brief ceremony. The guests were given an orientation on MMSz's activities at the central headquarters in Budapest, where they were also able to examine a remnant of the Berlin Wall on display.

♥ **Fund Drive by telephone**

A national helpline foundation was established (Nemzeti Segélyvonal Alapítvány), of which the MMSz is also a member. The aim of the foundation is to support the programs of charity

organizations in Hungary. The call number of the helpline is 1752. Each call to this number signifies a payment of 245 Forint to the foundation. Founder András Iklódi and the members of the advisory board provided a report about the foundation to the press on November 27.

♥ **Gift of Good Sight**

The occasion provides free eye examinations as well as eyeglasses for those who could otherwise not afford to have good quality eyeglasses. With the help of MMSz, 1000 individuals were able to take advantage of this opportunity to receive an examination and eyeglasses until December 15th. The estimated value of this activity is 7,000,000 forints (about 25,000 euros).

♥ **A main supporter and strategic partner of the MMSz is SPAR Hungary.**

Each year this firm rewards workers who performed outstanding achievements. The presentation of the "Arany fenyő" (golden pine) award took place at Siófok. In all Hungary between December 1, 2008, and October 31, 2009, shoppers were able to buy 200 and 500 forint donation cards in SPAR stores to support the MMSz. Two stores had the best results in this fund drive and were awarded certificates of achievement at a ceremony.

The MMSz is 20 Years Old

The Hungarian Maltese Charity Service (MMSz) was established February 4, 1989, under the leadership of Rev. Imre Kozma, a pastor in Zugliget district of Budapest. It was only a short time later that, because of the emerging of historical events, the MMSz became a large-scale relief and rescue organization. It worked in partnership with governmental and social organizations to handle crisis caused by the influx of East German refugees (Aug. 1989), the revolution in Romania (Dec. 1989), and the war in Yugoslavia (1991). The formation of its functional programs and organizational network came about with the support of positive public opinion and with the validation of the urgent need for relief by governmental agencies.

Along with its traditional relief activities, the MMSz accepted responsibility for governmental health and social activities, operated institutions, introduced special problem solving models, programs and strategies to offer solutions to problems not dealt with or not dealt with sufficiently previously. MMSz service is delivered through seven national regions that cover every county in Hungary and is active in 350 locations. There are 142 local chapters, 206 institutions, 5,000 regularly active individuals, 15,000 mobilizable volunteers and 840 regular employees that serve the needy. The Maltese charitable work has made the MMSz one of the biggest organizations in Hungary, providing charitable services throughout the widest area. All the MMSz programs offered carry the Christian message: "receive", "accept", and "sustain".

The most typical MMSz institutions are: homeless care, home for the elderly,



Father Imre Kozma speaking at a MMSz 20th anniversary event

care for the disabled, child protection, service for the addicted and various healthcare services. The expansion of the MMSz network is continuous and supports 10,000 persons daily.

MMSz has also initiated its own special programs that are aimed on helping the most threatened and most needy groups. As example "Prevention by playing" a Maltese Playground and Playhouse aimed at preventing "crimes committed out of boredom"; therapeutic assistance; loan of hospital beds; home healthcare assistance; integration of the homeless and Roma families (locations: Tarnaod, Erk, Monor, Taska, Pecs-Gyorgy).

Programs of international cooperation that bear special mention include: "Building bridges in Europe", a youth service exchange program, a holiday visit program for needy children to Lichtenstein, and the "Families for Families" program that provides monthly assistance from families to needy families in Ukraine.

The MMSz has responded in a number of occasions to offer urgent large scale humanitarian assistance in areas affected by catastrophes – in eastern Hungary

and Tisza River flood areas; earthquake and tsunami areas in Southeast Asia; earthquake in Pakistan and Java and conflicts in Lebanon and Palestine.

The members of the MMSz strive to help the poor and the sick with their work in the spirit of the eight-pointed cross of the Order of Malta while at the same time doing as much as possible to defend the Christian faith. Their hope is that their commitment to works of charity touches and heals all of society.

To help support MMSz, please send your contributions to Magyar Máltai Szeretetszolgálat Egyesület

1125 Budapest,
Szarvas Gábor út 58–60.

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