

Confrat

Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul



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Confraternity News

Issue 159

January 2026

In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti, Amen

Grand Master's Message

Dear Knights and Dames,

We are now back from the Christmas break, and our work resumes from where we left off in December. I hope you all enjoyed a restful and joyful holiday season, and I thank you sincerely for staying in touch over the break.

As we begin planning for the year ahead, we are reminded of our mission: to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

The Supreme Council is currently in contact with the St Vincent de Paul Society to support individuals and families who are doing it tough—particularly those struggling to make ends meet in the face of rising living costs.

For the past two years, the Grand Chapter of Melbourne has proudly supported VincentCare, a branch of the St Vincent de Paul Society, and we remain committed to this important work.

As Knights and Dames of the Confraternity, it is both our obligation and our duty to assist those in need. Even a small gesture—such as providing a meal—can make a meaningful difference. Where possible, practical support such as food or essential items is often preferable to monetary assistance, which may sometimes be misused.

I would also like to commend the excellent work carried out by the Grand Chapter of Malta before Christmas, where 16 hampers were distributed to organisations and parishes in Gozo. This is a wonderful example of service in action.

We would love to hear about the good deeds being carried out in your own chapters. Please feel free to share your initiatives and experiences.



I am confident that there is a St Vincent de Paul branch near you, where you may be able to assist through a donation or by offering some of your time as a volunteer. The Society is entirely volunteer-run, with over 10,000 volunteers in Melbourne alone.

Our mission remains clear: to help others in need.

Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli GM.

CKSPP

Melbourne. Australia.

Chevalier Fr. Francis Xavier Buhagiar PE

Chaplain of the Confraternity

Melbourne. Australia.



Dear Confraternity of St. Peter and St. Paul, greetings and blessings to the New Year of the Lord 2026: Hope that you will find the scriptural reflections on our beloved Saints very nourishing as you journey in Faith during 2026.

Pope Leo XIV confirmed that this year 2026 is dedicate to the "800 years "since the " Birth of St. Francis of Assisi " Feast Day 4th October 2026.

January 1 st: Mary, Mother of God: World Day Of Peace

"As for Mary, she treasured all these things in her heart (Luke 2:19)

Mary was already betrothed to Joseph when the Angel asked for her consent to be the mother of Jesus. She was willing in her "Fiat" to co-operate with God's mysterious plan. She was not given all the details of God's plans, but at every step Mary pondered everything in her Heart. In her humility she completed trust in God.

At the foot of the Cross, Mary would continue to ponder and ponder God's promise. Jesus gave

Mary, his own Mother to us in the Person of St. John. She is too" Mater Eccelsia " Mother of our Universal Catholic Church .

Dear friends, with the prayerful support of Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, she will protect us from

Any darkness in our daily life and fill our hearts with the "The Light "her Son, Jesus. Then with confidence we can face the many challenges this year will bring.

January 25th: Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle of the Gentiles.

"Go out to the whole World; Proclaim the Good News to all CREATION "(Mark16:15)

"Ananias, a devout Jew from Damascus said to Saul:" you are to be His Witness before All Humanity "(Acts: 22:14).

What I found remarkable is, that Jesus from the beginning of His Ministry, commissioned

Ordinary people, Fisher Men. They only understood his "Mission " at Pentecost. Their Profession of Faith in Jesus lead them to martyrdom.

St Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus was like a Pentecost, a wake up call. Remember friends, we too need to understand, that our missionary discipleship, despite our failings, be willing to open ourselves to Jesus' steadfast love, trust and mission.

January 31st: St. John Bosco (1815-1888)

Salesian of Don Bosco , New Rector Major :Rev. Fr. Fabio Attard from Gozo-Malta
A missionary and educator in the universal service of the Gospel:" Go and teach
All nations"

John Bosco was born near Castelnuovo in the Archdiocese of Turin Italy in 1815. His widowed Mother, Margaret, provided him with a good humanistic and Christian Education. John Bosco was ordained a Priest on June 5, 1846. He founded the Oratory Of St. Francis de Sales with the help of John Borel. This is the reason the Order is called "SALESIAN OF DON BOSCO"(SDB)

Gifted as an Educator and Leader, he formulated a system of Education based on "REASON""RELIGION" and "KINDNESS".In 1868 there were 800 students involved In this Education system. In 1875 a wave of emigrants to Latin America,prompted him to start "the Salesian Missionary Apostolate ".This great apostle of youth died In January 31,1888.He was canonized by St. Pope Pius XI in 1934.St. Pope John Paul 11 named him" Teacher and Father to the Young" he announced the First Youth Day in December 1985 .On Palm Sunday 23rd March 1986 was held in Rome.

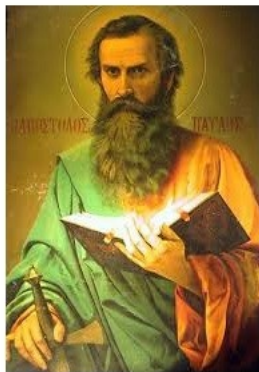
Saint Don Bosco's Love for All Youths and Humanity is very evident with the World-Wide services the SDB members Males and Females offer today. Please always Pray for our dearest Children and Young People.

Praise be the Lord:

Rev. Fr. Francis Buhagiar

Prayer of St. Paul

Romans 1:8

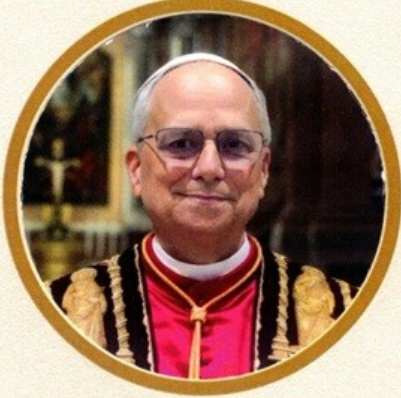


First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.

HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV APOSTOLIC BLESSING

Thank you to His Holiness Pope Leo XIV for the Apostolic Blessing and thank you our Members and Friends for accepting it with joy.

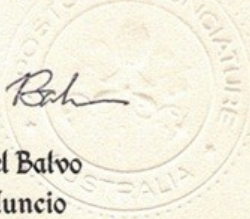
Our Confraternity is still young but it is doing great, because it is bless by the great Apostles Peter and Paul. Thank you for your support.



The Holy Father Leo XIV
cordially imparts the **Apostolic Blessing** upon
**The Confraternity of the Knights of
Saint Peter & Saint Paul, and their
extended Family and Loved Ones**
throughout the **New Year**
2026
and through the intercession of the **Blessed Virgin Mary**
invokes upon them an abundance of divine graces for their
service

+ *Charles D. Balvo*

✠ Charles Daniel Balvo
Apostolic Nuncio



Grand Chapter of Malta

By Chevalier Carmel Saliba
Grand Prior

Distribution of hampers to those in need.



During December, the Grand Chapter of Malta, based in Nadur Gozo, distributed several hampers to parishes and other organizations like the “Arka Foundation” in Gozo, before I visited Sydney Australia for a holiday.

The remaining hampers were distributed by my colleagues. There were also 60 cakes that were given to the Franciscan Friary in Ghajnsielem that were shared at a children’s party.

During my stay in Sydney, Australia, I visited Melbourne, on Tuesday 30 December 2025, there I had the pleasure of meeting with some Members of the Supreme Council of the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul. It was very important for me to meet with them. Thank you for their warm welcome.



Photo from left: Chevalier Carmel Saliba / Grand Prior Chapter of Malta, Chevalier Mario Sabatini / Deputy Grand Master, Dame Maria Vella, Dame Grace Vella, Chevalier Joseph Coleiro / Grand Chancellor, Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli / Grand Master and Dame Mary Portelli.

On 31 December 2025 my wife and I, together with the Grand Master Chev. Peter Paul Portelli and his wife Dame Mary Portelli

visited the Macedon Ranges Regional Park in Melbourne which is being refurbished and still needs more funds. The Confraternity in Australia is holding discussion with those involved on how they can help in this project.



Photo: The War Memorial Cross on Mt. Macedon, Melbourne.

On 5th January 2026, The Grand Master Chev. Peter Paul Portelli and I had the opportunity to have an interview on the Special Broadcasting Service Radio by the Executive Producer of the Maltese Programs, Mr. Joe Axiaq.



Photo from left: Mr. Joe Axiaq, Chev. Carmel Saliba and Chev. Peter Paul Portelli

On 29 January 2026 the Grand Master Chev. Peter Paul Portelli presented the certificate showing the Apostolic Blessing imparted by His Holiness Pope Leo XIV to the Confraternity of

the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul. The Chapter of Malta will print and frame this great achievement in the history of the Confraternity.

During January, the Grand Chapter of Malta issued an Official call for prospective candidates who may be considered for admission to the Confraternity on 28 June 2026. A maximum of five candidates from Malta and five from Gozo will be accepted to be admitted. Prospective candidates can be both men or women and be of good character.

All the nominations will be duly referred to Chev. Carmel Saliba, Grand Prior in Gozo and Chev. Vince Marshall in Malta and the nominations needs to be communicated with the Grand Master Chev. Peter Paul Portelli for approval.

UNWAVERING SUPPORT TO BISHOP ANTON TEUMA

The Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter and St. Paul strongly deplores the attacks made by certain sections of the social media and by some Maltese politicians against His Excellency Bishop Anton Teuma, following comments he made in a Homily regarding the placement of children under the age of two in childcare centres so that their parents can go to work.

His remarks simply reflect the reality of what is currently taking place in this world of today.

Children under the age of two need to be nurtured, raised, and loved by their parents, not entrusted to the care of childcare centre workers.

The Confraternity, firmly condemn these unjust attacks, particularly those by certain politicians who appear to be exploiting this issue for political gain.

Bishop Teuma, the Confraternity wishes to express its unwavering support and we stand in solidarity with you during this challenging time.

God Bless you in St. Peter and St. Paul.



Photo: Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli with his Excellency Mons. Anton Teuma Bishop of Gozo during his visit to Melbourne.

Matthew 4:18–22

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

As he was walking along the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers—Simon, who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew—casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. He said to them, *“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”* At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

A prayer for Dame Elvira Lorenzin



One of the main sponsors of the Confraternity, Dame Elvira Lorenzin, is having a major surgery in the coming days. Please remember her in your prayers.

Photo: Chevalier John and Dame Elvira Lorenzin.

Prayer for Surgery and Healing

With the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Saints Peter and Paul, we pray:

Dear Lord, we entrust Dame Elvira into Your loving and merciful care as she prepares to undergo this major surgery. Guide the hands, minds, and hearts of the surgeons, nurses, and all medical staff, granting them wisdom, clarity, and skill. Calm Dame Elvira’s fears, fill her with Your peace, and let her feel the comfort of Your presence throughout this time. We pray for a successful procedure, a smooth and swift recovery, and the complete restoration of health in body, mind, and soul.

Amen.

BISHOP GIOVANNI CEFAL MEETS WITH POPE LEO XIV

30 January 2026

Mons. Giovanni Cefai, M SSP is a Maltese prelate who heads the Territorial prelatry of Santiago Apóstol de Huancané in Peru.

Bishop Cefai was born on 5 August 1967 in Żebbuġ, in the island of Gozo in Malta. He is a priest with the Missionary Society of Saint Paul, and is the first priest of the society to be elected bishop.



Photo: Bishop Giovanni Cefai meets His Holiness Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican.
On December 12, 2014, Fr. Robert Prevost was ordained Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru.
Now Pope Leo XIV.



Photo: His Holiness Pope Leo XIV with Bishop Giovanni Cefai of Territorial prelatore of Santiago Apóstol de Huancané in Peru.

That is all for this month. Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter.

May God bless you through the intercession of St. Peter and St. Paul.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli
Grand Master
CKSPP.
Melbourne. Australia.

