



FOR THE FAITH AND
IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY



St John

Eyes on the Future

THE ORDER OF ST JOHN

PRIORY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRIOR

Because of your generosity of time, talent and treasure, the U.S. Priory was able to contribute \$2.8m to St John Eye Hospital Group (SJEHG) in 2022, the largest donation we have ever sent.

THANK YOU for your outstanding support of *our Lords the sick and the poor* in the Holy Land this past year. Because of your generosity of time, talent and treasure, the U.S. Priory was able to contribute \$2.8m to St John Eye Hospital Group (SJEHG) in 2022, the largest donation we have ever sent.

In addition to supporting the operating budget, our Nurse and Doctor program directly sponsors 13 staff members. We funded three Retinopathy of Prematurity cameras for Gaza, Hebron and Anabta, a new Outreach van for the West Bank, a new clinic in Kufor Aqab, a new Optical Coherence Tomography machine and 550 additional cataract surgeries in Gaza.

I was recently in London for our Order TEC (The Executive Committee) and OHAC (Order Honors and Awards Committee) meetings, representing North America (U.S. and Canadian Pories). I had the honor of participating in an intimate dinner to present the fifty-year service award, the Service Medal in Gold, to our Grand Prior, HRH The Duke of Gloucester. The following day, I represented our Priory at the Investiture of our new Sub-Prior, Dr. Steve Evans. I then departed London at 26°F (6°F below freezing)

on route to Miami at a tropical 86°F. There I gathered with St John Association leaders from the Caribbean countries of St Lucia, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Bermuda, together with the Sub-Prior, and colleagues from the Canadian Priory to explore how we can all better serve "One St John." Stay tuned for further developments as we discern how best to support our St John sisters and brothers in the Americas outside of the Canadian and U.S. Pories.

I returned from balmy Miami to home north of San Francisco and 60°F, to celebrate a blessed Christmas with my wife Jane, and our daughter, Rebecca, and her family. Coloring cards with Emma (6) and Olivia (2) for "the kids whose eyes hurt" summed up 2022 far better than I can articulate. We are truly making a difference by saving sight and changing lives. Impacting not only the lives of those we treat, but also of those who engage with us in our chivalrous mission to reach out a helping hand with our individual blessings, be they creative or financial. Through our work with St John of Jerusalem Hospital Group, the St John Volunteer Corps and the operation of our Priory itself, we all have something to give, and your continuing generosity—in all its forms—is greatly appreciated.

Our work is never done, but together with our time, talent and treasure we can continue to serve many more of *our Lords, the sick and the poor* such as Ne'Ma (see article on page 3). I have pinned the prayer from our Sub-Prelate, Russ, on my shaving mirror, lest I should ever forget.

O, Heavenly Father, give me a heart like the heart of Jesus, a heart more ready to serve than be served, a heart moved by compassion towards the weak and oppressed, a heart set upon the coming of your kingdom in the world of men and women.

As we start a new year, I pray that we open our hearts and minds to sisters and brothers that share the desire to 'serve rather than be served' as we consider fine candidates to join our Order. Deadline for submission is Friday, February 17, 2023.

Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum,
Nigel G. Heath, KStJ
Prior

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NE'MA'S CHRISTMAS

Ne'ma, an 8-year-old girl from Gaza, has had vision problems her entire life. "Ne'ma was only a few weeks old when we realized our beautiful baby girl could not see the world," said her father, Mohammad. "We took her to one of the general hospitals in Gaza. They said we should wait a few more months, but we got more and more concerned. We decided to seek specialist advice from St John Eye Hospital in Gaza. They confirmed our fears—our daughter had been born with cataracts in both eyes, and was blind."

Her case was a complicated one. It involved eight years of treatment with St John. First the team removed her cataracts when she was only 2 months old. That resulted in Ne'ma being without the lens of her eyes until she was old enough to have artificial ones implanted. This led to a pressure build up which caused her to develop glaucoma in her right eye. An implanted tube relieved the pressure.

She waited until she was 8 for two major surgeries—one with glaucoma specialist Dr. Amer Muhsein to insert her long-awaited artificial lens in her right eye and ensure her glaucoma implant was still functioning, and another with pediatric specialist, Dr. Mohammad Daraghmeh, to insert an artificial lens in her left eye. The surgeries were scheduled for December.

This would be a difficult treatment for any child and their family to go through, but Ne'ma's family also had to deal with the permit system. Only one person would be allowed

to leave Gaza to accompany Ne'ma for surgery. Her mother stayed behind, while her father accompanied Ne'ma for treatment.

However, during the trip, Mohammad got sick with a major infection and was rushed to another hospital in Jerusalem. Ne'ma was left alone, facing two major surgeries without the comforting arms of a parent to turn to.

Our Jerusalem Hospital staff stepped in to fill the gap. Inpatient Nursing Director Ahmad Amer explained, "Most of us have children so we could understand the stress both the child and her father would have felt being separated at such a crucial time. Our team cooperated to ensure Ne'ma was mentally and physically okay by playing and walking with her to keep her busy. We also minimized her anxiety by connecting her with her family and father via phone calls a few times each day."

Fortunately for Ne'ma, after years of treatment and suffering, and the tough experience in December, her journey to vision is taking a positive turn. Her stitches were removed and our staff in Gaza were delighted to report she now has better vision than she has ever had before.

Mohammad also made a full recovery and said of the experience, "I'm so thankful for the care that was provided for my daughter. Ne'ma was lucky to be treated at St John." ❄️





Left to right: Robert Butner, Janice Smulcer, Ruthann Skaff, Lt. Nick Earl, Bitá Esmaeli, Bishop Kai Ryan, David Goldberg, Catherine Stevenson, Patrick Miller, Commander Brian Lethcoe, David W. Peters

OUR HOUSTON REGION

"Investiture was a great effort and a lot of hard work," said Catherine Stevenson, M.D., DStJ, co-chair of the Houston Region. "At the end of the day, we rolled up our sleeves and pulled it off. I couldn't be more proud of the Confrères in our Region, whose commitment of time, talent, treasure and service, along with a big dose of Texas hospitality, made this year's Investiture so memorable and so much fun."

It has taken a couple of months for Catherine to catch her breath and reflect upon what made the Investiture and Rededication in her hometown such a phenomenal success.

"There were so many pieces of the puzzle," she says, "but early on, David Goldberg, Russ Levenson and I divvied up responsibilities. David took on the task of fundraising, and with the generosity of the Diocese of Texas and five of the city's Episcopal churches, as well as our many Confrères, we were able to send substantial funding to the Hospital. Russ, along with his 'cast of thousands' at St. Martin's, assumed the role of pulling together the myriad aspects of the Investiture

ceremony. I tackled the job of working with the Priory's national office on the logistics for all of the events.

"Looking back, I think we all made a terrific team," she says. "I can remember how much effort it took to host the first regional party at the River Oaks Country Club in 2011. Fast forward 11 years and you can see we've certainly come a long way."

What Catherine says really cinched the deal in making the weekend exciting was the attendance of three of the Order's Great Officers: Prince Richard, the Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior of the Order, the Lord Prior Professor Mark Compton and Bishop Timothy Stevens, the Order Prelate, as well as Fra' John T. Dunlap, Lieutenant of the Grand Master of the Order of Malta.

"It was truly a regal affair," she says. "We were so fortunate to have them come to Houston and participate. They brought a certain imprimatur to the occasion."

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“We’re also multi-generational. Along with Confrères who have been esteemed members for a long time, we have younger members we’ve recruited because their values align with our Order’s commitment to a life of service.”

Compared to other Regions in the U.S. Priory, Houston is relatively new. In 2010, it was carved out of what used to be called the Dallas region. Today, the state of Texas is divided into three Regions: the Southwest Region headquartered in Dallas, the Houston Region and the Austin-San Antonio Region.

“What makes our Region so unique is its diversity,” says Father Goldberg, MDiv, OSTJ, who serves as the other Houston co-chair. “I think that’s one of our city’s great strengths, and it’s reflected in the composition of our membership.

“Among the 53 Confrères in our Region, we have a great breadth of experience and perspective.

“We’re also multi-generational. Along with Confrères who have been esteemed Members for a long time, we have younger Members we’ve recruited because their values align with our Order’s commitment to a life of service.”

Catherine says her own experience as a young Member helped guide the Region’s strategy of recruiting new Members early in their careers.

“When I joined the Order in 1997, I was one of the youngest in my Investiture class,” she says. “Because of that, I feel like I really grew in the Order. I’m not exaggerating to say it has shaped who I am. Giving young people that same kind of opportunity is a real gift.”

Catherine says the Region achieved an important step forward in 2015 when Dr. Bitá Esmaeli, OSTJ, and Russ Levenson, D.D., OSTJ, joined its ranks.

“Bitá and Russ have been real catalysts in building our membership,” she notes. “Bitá’s reputation among her colleagues in the Houston medical community and Russ’s role as rector of St. Martin’s, the largest Episcopal Church in the country, have given us the ability to attract a caliber of people who understand what a ‘life of service’ means. These new members also have the willingness and ability to be generous in their support of what the Order stands for.”

Community service also plays an important role in the Region.

Prior to the pandemic, the St John Volunteer Corps participated in an art therapy program at the DeBakey VA Medical Center. During the past three years, the Region has partnered with the Order of Malta in a monthly food distribution program.

“In addition to our commitment to service, I think it’s important to be mindful of the ‘Pro Fide’ part of our model,” says David.

“Houston is a big city and the Region extends all the way to Waco on the I-35 corridor between Dallas and Austin, so it’s really difficult for many of our Confrères to gather at the same time.

“What Investiture did is build a sense of camaraderie that brought members throughout the Region to meet in small groups they formed on their own,” he continues.

“The choral Evensongs we host throughout the year, the annual Remembrance Sunday Evensong in November and our St. John’s Day event, offer opportunities for Confrères to gather in prayer and fellowship.

“We live by example, in service to the sick and the poor. Faith and service define who we are. We touch the lives of many people in innumerable ways in Houston, and the great gift is that our own lives are so much richer because of it.” ❄️

LOS ANGELES REGION CONFRÈRES BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR INVESTITURE 2023

Nearly 40 Confrères and their guests convened in early November at the Pasadena home of the Region's Episcopal bishop, the Right Rev'd John Taylor, MStJ, and his wife, Canon Kathy O'Connor, for a fall garden reception.

Over afternoon refreshments, Regional Co-Chair Thomas Roedl, CStJ, welcomed the attendees and introduced Bishop Taylor, chief pastor of the area's 55,000 Episcopalians, who expressed his appreciation for the Order's service in his diocese and shared his enthusiasm for the Los Angeles Region serving as location host for the U.S. Priory's Investiture in 2023. He noted that, as a Member of the Order, he looked forward to being part of next year's Investiture service.

The Bishop spoke about Los Angeles's close ties with Jerusalem, noting that the following week, the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, the Most Revd. Dr. Hosam Naoum,

would speak at the Episcopalians' annual convention in Southern California. The Bishop also noted the work of the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem as the dioceses of Los Angeles and Jerusalem continue a companion relationship that began in 2005. He went on to say that the Order of St John's support of the Eye Hospital is an especially meaningful way to follow Christ's example to serve those among us who are often looked at as "the least of these."

Thanking the Taylors for welcoming the Order into their home, Regional Co-Chair Brian Landers, OStJ, offered an overview of next year's Investiture, noted the Region's significant volunteer and fund-raising responsibilities and asked those gathered to be ready to ensure a spectacular **Investiture weekend, October 6-8, 2023, in Los Angeles.** ❄️

2023 PRIORY MEMBERSHIP CHECKLIST

Happy New Year! The new year always brings a sense of reflection and renewal, and an opportunity for a fresh start.

With that spirit of renewal in mind, we are pleased to provide a "2023 Priory Membership Checklist" for your convenience:

✓ Make your 2023 Oblation

- \$1,700
- \$850 for Younger Members (35 and under) and Priory Esquires
- \$850 for Members of the Clergy

An Oblation Response form may be found [here](#).

✓ If you make a recurring donation for your Oblation, please check to ensure it covers this year's increase; if not go to the [Member Dashboard](#) to update.

✓ Review your profile contact information on the Member Dashboard; update mailing address, email address and phone numbers as needed. These updates will automatically be reflected in the online [Member Directory](#).

May the new year bring you health, happiness and a fresh start! ❄️

MEDIEVAL MAYHEM IN RURAL PENNSYLVANIA

In the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in rural Pennsylvania, an almost-annual medieval battle takes place. At the most recent event, the U.S. Priory's Daniel Reany, OSTJ, took the field as a crusading Hospitaller. "Pennsic has been happening since the 70s, but this was my first, and it was incredible," Daniel said.

The clash of weapon and shield, crossbow bolts and arrows flying through the air, and calls of "Hold the line!" or "Charge!" sparking roaring battle cries. These are the sights and sounds of the Pennsic Wars.

The almost-annual event, derailed briefly by COVID, drew nearly 8,000 people to Cooper's Lake in Pennsylvania for two weeks of revelry and combat. "Almost everyone there had some type of canvas tent, so with the banners and bonfires, the grounds really looked like a huge medieval encampment," Daniel said.

Roughly 1,000 warriors took to the battlefield. "The intensity of it is truly indescribable," Daniel said. "It's something that has to be experienced to be understood. I'd heard about it for well over a year, and thought I knew what it was going to be like. I had no clue until the first battle started."

Daniel has been a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) for less than a year. He dove right in and developed a persona of a Hospitaller knight. "I never considered anything else. It was an obvious choice. I knew before the first time I went to a practice that I was going to be a Hospitaller."

The time period covered by the SCA is long, basically anything before 1600. "It used to be Western civilization before 1600, but people's interests are wide and the SCA recognized that, so it's become a lot more expansive and inclusive," Daniel said. "That means that on the battlefield you can have a Crusader fighting alongside a Samurai and a Zulu warrior. That truly makes it a society of creative anachronisms.

"As far as Crusaders go, there are a lot more Templars than Hospitallers in the SCA, so it's not that often I see someone else with our signature white Maltese cross on a black tabard or shield. When I do, I strike up a conversation and eventually get around to talking about our modern Order. Inevitably, the fellow SCA Hospitallers I come across are at least aware of the modern Order of St John, because they've all done extensive

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Daniel Reany, center, holding the black shield with the white cross, takes part in the Bridge Battle at the Pennsic War.





Daniel Reany, right, with his wife, Melissa at Pennsic 49.

research into the ancient Order. But most don't realize there is a U.S. Priory, or that Americans are part of this British order of chivalry. They listen with great interest when I tell them about our Order's work in the Holy Land."

Within the SCA there are knights, dukes, kings and queens of various realms in the U.S. and abroad. "There is feasting, and court is held with great pomp and circumstance," Daniel said. "People take it very seriously, and it is in fact a large non-profit organization that promotes teaching and learning about history, and encourages chivalry in everyday modern life. I respect all of that a great deal. When my wife and I go to SCA events, we often wind up talking to each other about Order of St John events. Court processions and knightings in the SCA always remind me of Investiture. When I was invested as a Member in 2014, my sponsor, Palmer Hamilton, was knighted. I was honored to witness that."

Daniel said at SCA events he thinks of the knights, dames and others he knows through the Order of St John. "By their grace and virtue, and by their service to *our Lords, the sick the poor*, they've been recognized by the Crown —by Queen Elizabeth II, and now by the new sovereign head of our Order, King Charles III. I don't know if I'll ever be 'knighted' in the SCA, but it is our service, *Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum*, and my membership in the Order of St John that I hold very close to my heart." ❁

"Inevitably, the fellow SCA Hospitallers I come across are at least aware of the modern Order of St John, because they've all done extensive research into the ancient Order. But most don't realize there is a U.S. Priory, or that Americans are part of this British order of chivalry. They listen with great interest when I tell them about our Order's work in the Holy Land."



Fresh off the battlefield



PRO FIDE

“The greatest among you will be your servant...”

Matthew 23:11

I wonder if you have made a “New Year’s Resolution?” (If you have, and this lands in your hands after

January 1... I wonder if you have kept that resolution!)... Lose weight? Be more patient? Exercise more? Less time on your phone? What is your resolution?

What might we members of the Order “resolve” to do in 2023? Since I first came into the Order, my own understanding about its mission and purpose has evolved. Yes... we all “know” our motto... *Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum*, (for faith and for the service of humanity), but sometimes that can get lost in the pomp and circumstance of our gatherings. Investitures, titles, promotions, special recognitions – these are – in fact – part and parcel of our Order. When I was invested, I was honored and humbled to put the letters “MStJ” just after my name. And when I was elevated to officer—even more honored and humbled to shift to “OSTJ.” These are honors indeed, but they are letters that signify something so much more important—do they not? They designate that you and I are called to not just “be” members of the Order, but to be members committed to our motto—our mission—to promote our faith... to promote serving to our Lord’s children.

That can be hard in this world of ours for a number of reasons, but let me lift up three. The first—we are overwhelmed. I read my local newspaper, the *Houston Chronicle*, every day. I love living in Houston—and I love our cities many attributes—many of which you visitors to our fall Investiture service experienced and enjoyed. But I mourn the deep pit of need in our city. Like many cities, daily news stories reveal the rise in the scourges of crime, violence, homelessness and poverty. It can be truly—simply—overwhelming to respond to these open wounds that plague so many places in our nation—in our world. Feeling overwhelmed can hamper our response to the invitation of our motto.

The second... we are just distracted. You and I live in a time when using the words “information overload” may seem to some hyperbole, but to most (including the one offering you these words today) too inadequate. Television, radio, internet pop-ups, phone calls, texts, emails, billboards—all of them crying out for just a bit more of our time. I opened a rather harmless email from a friend of mine on his recent trip into the gulf to go fishing, showing the beauty of some unexpected dolphins—when a “pop up” appeared showing someone asking “would you take \$300 to fly to Paris and purchase a baguette for me?” Well, I got “caught” for a moment—and watched the entire story (yes, someone said yes, etc., etc.)—but

what a waste of my time. A gentle tug from the virtual world got me sidetracked from what I intended to do.

Then thirdly (for now, lastly) selfishness can get in the way. You and I, most of us who are members of the Order, if not all of us, are perhaps far more blessed than most of those who walk on planet Earth. It is easy to get lost in our own comfort, our own inner drive to achieve our personal goals, our need to have our desires met before tending to those of others. It is understandable, but of course putting self first—before others—is antithetical to the call of our Lord, to the invitation of our motto.

So—being overwhelmed, being distracted, being self-centered—all of them have the potential to get in the way of what you and I are called to do—and as your Sub-Prelate, I confess, I have been guilty (and I use that word intentionally) of all three. So then—how to respond?

Well to being overwhelmed, let me suggest something rather simple—promote the faith, promote service to our fellow members of the human family—as *best you can*. Years ago, Episcopal priest Garret Kaiser wrote a little book entitled, *A Dresser of Sycamore Trees*. In one section he describes the challenge of being overwhelmed with the needs of the world around us. He acknowledges that sometimes when we watch the news, or read the paper or consider the deep canyons of need in the world around us—it is hard to get our heads around it, let alone our hearts. He uses the two words “moral obesity” to suggest trying to take it all in, is somewhat like sitting in your comfort chair eating one bag of chips after another—after a while, you become so heavy with what you have eaten, that you cannot get up! The same is true of our intake of all the need about us... it can become so overwhelming that we just do not know where to begin—so we become paralyzed with our moral obesity. Here is your antibiotic—do something.

You nor I (thanks be to God) are called to be the Savior of the world, but you and I who have an Order devoted to that Savior and His message ARE called to respond to His calls upon us to love, to care, to give, to serve—as *we are able*. You know the old story about a man who comes upon a young boy on a beach covered with beached starfish. The man notices the boy trying to save just some by tossing them one by one into the ocean and says, “Son, there is no way you are going to save all of these starfish... what a waste of your time! This does not mean anything...!” The boy picks up one starfish, throws it out into the ocean and says “It means something to this one!”

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And when we are distracted? Well yes... there is plenty to distract us... but perhaps the cure for that is to consciously turn all of those distractions off (if not permanently just time to time?). Remember the wonderful word from David's pen... "... be still and know that I am God..." (Psalm 46:10). When I was a younger priest, one of my colleagues took notice of my frenetic habit of being always engaged in one project after another, and she gave me a framed version of those words as a gift—"be still," and you may—in fact—see, hear, take notice of things that mean much more than watching a video of a kid who flies to Paris for a baguette! Be still enough to hear the voice of God, to be prompted by the Spirit of God, to follow the invitation of the Son of God to serve. Make a conscious decision to shut off the noises of (in the words of Thomas Aquinas, d.1274, and many of the traditional liturgies of the greater Church), "...the world, the flesh and the devil..." Be still, be quiet—and my hunch is you will hear with clarity the loud whispers of the need nearest you and the one to which you are most able to respond.

Then lastly that selfishness business. I suspect when Jesus uttered the words with which I began, he knew they would ring clear to people of every age—of every generation. People in Jesus' day wanted to be great... people in our day want to be great. We want to be seen as successful, as winners, as well—great. But Jesus said the path to greatness is trod with stepping stones of service—service that demands no particular attention, recognition, accolades—even, dare say I—letters at the end of one's name.

Now before landing this plane, let me say again, confess again, I have been overwhelmed, distracted and selfish—so much so, so often that I have often completely bungled an opportunity to adopt our motto in my daily life. I wish it weren't so, but it is. But this I have found—when I respond to the many needs of the world, by just doing what I can where I am—I am incarnating our motto. When I am still enough to hear God's voice and be prompted by God's Spirit, I am amazed at how many opportunities are put before me to promote our motto. And when—I find my way (by God's grace) to humble myself enough to say "no" to my own selfish inclinations, I find that putting someone first—even before the man in the mirror, is not as hard as I thought.

Just this very day, I am traveling and I stepped off an elevator to find an elderly woman who had fallen just outside another set of elevator doors. Her shopping bags were all around her, her cane that had not served its purpose was splayed on the flooring tiles only steps away. She was not hurt, but clearly embarrassed. I confess—I was busy—I was on my way to a morning exercise walk—I actually was listening to something on my phone—and I knew to help her meant delaying whatever plans I might have had.

But she kindly (and I mean that) looked up to me and said "I have fallen... can you help me up?" There she was—the "starfish" if you will—right in front of my eyes. It required a

moment of focus not on the many needs around me, but this one; it demanded I shut off my podcast and listen to the need in the moment; and it absolutely required me to delay my plans for the next few moments in the service of this, one of God's children. I hoisted her up, we gathered her things, and I set her cane in her hand. After checking if she needed any further help, she said, "No, I am fine. I knew someone would come."

I do not share that little story with you to receive any accolades. There have been FAR too many times when I probably completely ignored the needy person at the tip of my nose, but today—today at least—I saw one I could help; I saw an opportunity to be still and quiet and respond to the voice of our Lord... and my small delay in my own selfish plans for the day was a minor inconvenience compared to the assurance this dear elderly woman had "I knew someone would come." That someone was me, but it might not have been me—if I had been too overwhelmed, too distracted, too selfish.

So, what is YOUR New Year's Resolution? Maybe—maybe it should be (mark this down) "*Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum...*"... "*For the faith, for the service of humanity;*"—not just in words.... Not just in pledges... not just in moments of recognized gatherings—but in the sincere, quiet, selfless response we make to the world of need around us. So...Happy New Year... may it offer you many opportunities to live out our motto—"Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum..."

And so, now, a prayer for service... perhaps print out... paste on your morning and evening mirror... let it be your prayer the whole year through.... And—let me know—will you.... By year's end, if the Lord Almighty answered your prayers...

A Prayer for Service....

O, Heavenly Father, give me a heart like the heart of Jesus, a heart more ready to serve than be served, a heart moved by compassion towards the weak and oppressed, a heart set upon the coming of your kingdom in the world of men and women.

I pray tonight, O God, for all the different kinds of people to whom Jesus gave special concern and care when he was on earth:

*For those needing food or drink or clothes;
For the sick and all those who are wasted by disease;
For the blind;
For the disabled;
For people suffering from life-shattering diseases like leprosy in Jesus' time and HIV/AIDS in ours;
For prisoners;
For those oppressed by any injustice, and for refugees and asylum seekers'
For the homeless, and all the lost sheep of our society;
For all victims of sexual exploitation and abuse;
For the lonely;*

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*For all single parents;
For the worried and anxious;
For those who are living faithful lives in obscurity;
For those who are fighting bravely for unpopular causes;
For all those who are working diligently for you throughout
your world.*

*Grant, O Father, that your loving kindness in giving me so much
may not make me less sensitive to the needs of others less
fortunate, but rather move me to lay their burdens on my own
heart. If I should experience any adversity, help me to brook on my
own sorrows, as if I were alone in the world of suffering; but rather*

*help me to take time to serve, with compassion, those who need
my help. Let the power of my Lord Jesus Christ be strong within me
and his peace invade my spirit. Amen.*

John Baillie, d. 1960.

*PF/PUH,
The Rev. Russ Levenson, Jr., D.Min., OStJ
Sub-Prelate*