

ORDER OF MALTA FEDERAL ASSOCIATION

DEFENSE OF THE  
FAITH PROGRAMS:  
A GUIDE

---



## Introduction

*“Be it mine to practice and defend the Catholic, the Apostolic, the Roman Faith against the enemies of religion...”*

This petition from our daily prayer reflects one of the two charisms central to our Order. Ours is a history of saints and martyrs who defended the faith with the sword, with the intellect, and with charity. Today, defense of the faith is no longer accomplished militarily but is achieved in many other ways, especially through intellectual engagement. The purpose of this document is to assist the Federal Association regions in their defense of the faith efforts and offer some thoughts on what that actually entails.

What is defense of the faith? What are some of the ways the Order can work to defend the faith in the third millennium? It is worth remembering that defense of the faith is not always a parry and thrust of rhetoric or theology with a non-believer but is also accomplished by demonstrating the love of Christ through service to the poor, the sick, and the troubled. Our primary goal must always be the salvation of souls. In his apostolic exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis writes:

Today, as the Church seeks to experience a profound missionary renewal there is a kind of preaching which falls to each of us as a daily responsibility. It has to do with bringing the Gospel to the people we meet, whether they are our neighbors or complete strangers. This is the informal preaching that takes place in the middle of a conversation, something like what a missionary does when visiting a home. Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others and this can happen unexpectedly anyplace: on the street in a city, or during work or in a city square or on a journey. In this preaching, which is always gentle, the first step is personal dialogue, when the other person speaks and shares his or her joys, hopes, and concerns for loved ones, or so many other heartfelt needs. Only afterwards is it possible to bring up God’s word...

However, defense of the faith does require that we be educated in the teachings of the Church. The First Letter of Peter reminds us: “...Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame.” (3:15-16)

We must always be ready to speak in defense of the Church, and not be ashamed of proclaiming her truths, creating opportunities for the Catholic faithful at large to learn more about their faith. This brings us to the purpose of this guide.

Defense of the faith programs ideally should aim to achieve certain goals.

- a) Deal with important religious issues of the day, be educational, and, where possible and appropriate, be ecumenical, drawing on the Church’s long intellectual tradition of defense of the faith.

- b) Act on opportunities to give lay Catholics a deeper understanding of their faith so they can defend Catholic principles and teachings to others.
- c) Strive for lasting impact. The program should encourage attendees to ask, “And now what?” It should inspire people to stay involved with the topic and ask how they might make a difference. This could include providing attendees with take-home materials and providing priests, religious and lay leaders with talking points, meditations, and discussions dealing with the topic covered at the event. The goal is to provide people with something they could do to address the issue in their daily lives.
- d) Use the event to acquaint Catholics and non-Catholics alike with the Order of Malta and its works.

What follows is an attempt to offer some step-by-step suggestions on how Federal Association regions can begin to structure and present defense of the faith programs. This guide is not meant to be comprehensive or definitive but rather to share some perspectives, questions, and techniques drawn from the experience of others who have presented successful programs both large and small. The needs and objectives of each region will vary and consequently these guidelines should be adapted to local circumstances and the subject matter of the program. New issues will continue to assail our faith, and the Order must find innovative ways to defend it. The charism of defense of the faith will never lose its importance.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the Atlanta, Central North Carolina, and Lancaster regions for their contributions to developing this guide. A special thank-you to Frank Orban III, KM whose notes from Lancaster’s program on “Christian Persecution in the Middle East” served as a significant source for this guide.

Respectfully submitted,

Defense of the Faith Committee  
Federal Association of the Order of Malta

## Program Development

### Defense of the Faith Committee

Since there can be many moving parts to defense of the faith events, it requires a dedicated and collaborative group of individuals to execute them, three to five people at a minimum. To start, a proposal form (discussed below) should be drawn up and presented to the region and its hospitaller for discussion and approval by the appropriate committee. Occasional committee meetings—whether in-person or by virtual means—will be necessary to review all elements: content and speakers, promotion and media relations, finance, outreach, venue contracting and outfitting, printing, transportation of guest speakers, and more. While specific responsibilities can be assigned to members of the full committee, forming a smaller executive committee to spearhead the effort has proven helpful.

Ideally, the committee will designate someone to take the lead in marketing the event, who will draft the event descriptions, press releases, personal letters, and bulletin and pulpit announcements. This will help achieve a certain uniformity across all these materials. At the same time, drafts of documents should be shared with other committee members for comment. Other members of the region can act as liaison to the surrounding Catholic parishes to ensure that posters are hung and that bulletin and pulpit announcements are distributed.

### The Proposal Form

A Project Proposal Form, attached as Appendix 1, provides a template for listing and addressing the basic elements of a successful program. Using this form can enable a region to assess the time and money necessary to execute a program. Such considerations include:

- Who is your intended audience, and how will you reach them?
- Who else, locally, is already addressing the topic you want to cover? Has it been covered exhaustively by other groups? Are there other groups with whom your region might collaborate?
- Have you considered any ecclesial, legal, logistical, and political issues that might need to be taken into account to run the program?

The greatest costs associated with programs tend to be the speaker fee, the speaker's travel and lodging expenses, venue rental, and any hospitality expenditures. Often you can find a local business or institution willing to take care of printing programs and marketing materials at little or no cost. Regions have typically relied on either regional funds or the generosity of members to cover program costs, although some programs have sold tickets or taken up free-will offerings. The funding of regional defense of the faith programs is principally the responsibility of the individual region, but regions may also contact the Federal Association Defense of the Faith Committee to request financial assistance, using the request form attached as Appendix 2. The Federal Association committee will evaluate the proposal, and if warranted, will make a funding recommendation to the Federal Association Board of Directors. Such requests must be made at least three months prior to the event.

## Possible Program Formats with Situational Considerations

Regions need not launch their defense of the faith efforts with large programs that draw hundreds or thousands of attendees. Instead, a gradual approach may work best, starting with monthly meetings to discuss related topics, or designating specific members to offer reflections or lessons on applicable aspects of the Catholic faith. In a similar vein, regions can disseminate articles or books to members for discussion at monthly gatherings, or via conference call, as the Atlanta Region has done (as described in the attached Appendix 3). A book discussion can proceed a chapter or two at a time on a monthly basis. Regions can either designate a rotation of leaders from their ranks to guide the discussion on a month-by-month basis, or they can assign a particular discussion leader based on expertise in the topic. These discussions can occur as part of regular regional meetings or as special events. The design can be flexible, but the goal is to sharpen the members' understanding of the faith and their ability to articulate it.

Several different program formats have proved successful at the regional level. A fundamental question to ask in the planning is whether the program is intended only for members of the Order or for the general public. The answer to this question will influence the format of the program.

### Smaller Programs

One approach is to put on a series of smaller, topically related sessions. Such programs typically focus on discussion. They tend to be more dynamic than larger programs since they allow for more audience participation. These programs include the following features:

- They can be held in-person (see attached Appendix 4 for the Lancaster Region's example and attached Appendices 5 and 6 for the Central North Carolina Region's examples) or via conference call (see attached Appendix 3, again, for the Atlanta Region's example).
- By request, speakers can bring supplemental materials and suggestions for further reading as an opportunity to further enhance the attendees' understanding of the subject.
- Less aggressive marketing is needed if the design is for a smaller, more interactive audience.
- If feasible, offer the same program twice in one week at two different time slots: a weekday evening and a Saturday morning. By accommodating different schedules turnout is often the same for both days.

### Major One-Day Program

A major program held on one day or evening, marketed to Catholics-at-large or to the general public, is another effective program format that can have a much larger reach to a much larger audience. This format typically forms around one speaker discussing a specific topic. It can include formal prayer or a Mass. However, undertaking a program of this kind requires:

- more aggressive marketing to reach the larger intended audience;
- broader reach in marketing techniques;
- more complex organization and coordination by the regional committee, since there are many moving parts;
- advanced planning to allow enough time to organize and prepare properly; and

- liturgical considerations if prayer or a Mass is to be incorporated before or after the main speaker.

One successful variation on a major program format is a multi-day program, as described in the Lancaster Region's example attached as Appendix 7. Both days focused on the same theme, one that was too big to cover in one evening and that had various levels of complexity most effectively dealt with in specialized segments. A major question in putting on the program is whether people must attend both days of the program to absorb its full message or whether the two days can be viewed as independent of each other. Such a two-day program could begin with an evening keynote speaker who addresses a large general audience and covers the core of the topic. The program on the second day in a smaller venue can take the form of a seminar with several panel participants who drill deeper into the topic and approach it from different perspectives such as political, theological, and structural. This format could include an opportunity for Q&A with the audience, which might appeal to people who are professionally interested in the topic or who have a personal or intellectual engagement with it. This second part likely would last for only a half-day.

If each day is distinct, it may be helpful to have two separate posters or means of marketing. In the Lancaster example, the main poster touted the first day's larger venue and keynote speaker's program but called attention to the next day's program. Another poster featured both days' programs with equal prominence and was posted at locations such as schools and religious institutions where people were likely to read through a wordier description. These larger-scale, multi-day programs require:

- more aggressive marketing and broader outreach;
- more thought about the program's theme and the structure of the days; and
- potentially different target audiences for each day, one for the general public and one for those professionally interested.

As we are a religious lay order, prayer ideally should be an integral part of any defense of the faith program. Whenever possible, tying in some form of liturgy or prayer service grounds the program in our Catholic faith, and, if done well, elevates the program by pointing to the centrality of Christ and his Church in all our actions.

## **Speakers and Topics**

Whether running a big program or a smaller one, identifying an appropriate engaging topic and one or more effective speakers is critical.

### Finding a Speaker

There are several factors to be considered in choosing speakers.

- Location - Who nearby might be a speaker of interest to your audience? You need not fly someone in from across the country.
- Intended audience - Who do you want to reach? Who might be the best person to reach that audience?

- Above all consider - qualifications and abilities. A speaker should be both engaging and orthodox; that is to say, faithful to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. On this especially important point, it is highly recommended that you research any speakers who are not well known. You can find recordings of most known speakers on YouTube or the internet to get a feel for their speaking ability and style. General internet searches and conversations with people well-versed in the subject matter can also offer insight into a speaker's quality.
- Does the speaker require an honorarium? If so, how much? Will you be expected to cover travel expense, lodging, food?
- Possibly have a meal with the speaker before or after the event, or invite local clergy to meet the speaker, which helps develop good relations between the Order and parish priests.

If you are inviting a bishop from another diocese to speak in your diocese, it is important first to ask the local bishop to extend an invitation to the other bishop. In following this protocol, you can ask the proposed visiting bishop whether he would be willing to speak on such and such a date, in principle, if invited by the bishop of the diocese.

## Topics

There are two ways to find a subject for a program. Either start with a preferred topic and seek the appropriate speaker for it or start with a preferred speaker and suggest a topic within the person's field of expertise. Key to choosing a topic is its relevance to the intended audience, and whether that audience will be members of the Order or the general public. What is the purpose of this event? Is it only to edify and educate members of the Order? Is it to call attention to a critical issue that threatens the Church or contradicts Catholic teachings or values? Some broad suggestions for topics:

- current events-driven topics
- life issues
- marriage
- sexual issues
- interplay of faith and reason (or science)
- religious liberty
- Catholic education
- general catechesis

## Venue Selection and Security

After selecting the topic and speaker, the next big step in program development is venue selection. Should you choose a secular or a religious venue such as a church? In making this decision, consider your audience. From a marketing standpoint, if the program is open to the public and has an ecumenical appeal (e.g. a program on Christian persecution in the Middle East, or a program on life issues), a secular venue such as a conference center is more likely to encourage non-Catholics to attend since it would be neutral territory. Securing the venue early is essential so it can be referred to in letters, draft posters and other materials as well as in conversation with interested or involved parties, and in planning the event budget.

In choosing a venue, consider the logistics.

- How accessible is the venue for those traveling to the event? Is it easy to find?
- What is the cost to use the venue?
- How much parking is available? Is it enough to accommodate the number of anticipated attendees?
- What audio/video resources are available on site and are they adequate for event?
- Can the venue provide hospitality? Or does it allow outside groups to bring in food and beverages?
- Does the venue require insurance? If so, regions can obtain special event riders from the Federal Association for their events. Also, event policies are offered at reasonable rates by the firm Event Helper: [www.theeventhelper.com](http://www.theeventhelper.com). Applications are handled online, with policies being issued online immediately for virtually any kind of event. There is a helpful, live customer service department.

### **Ticketing and Capacity Control**

If the event is open to the public, knowing how many attendees to expect may be a concern. If a venue only seats 300 but 360 people show up the day of the event, are you willing to turn people away? Do you roll the dice and see who shows up? Or do you require prospective attendees to register or be ticketed so you have a headcount? It is often better to have too many people at the event than too few. An overfull room has a more positive impact on attendees and press than seeing a large room with only a few people in it.

There are a number of ticketing sites out there, such as [www.ticketleap.com](http://www.ticketleap.com), that are user-friendly. You can limit the number of tickets per email registrant to avoid a prankster registering for an absurd number like 100. You can also cap ticket availability based on the capacity of your venue. These ticketing sites offer real-time data regarding tickets booked and also record the email address for use in sending out information on future events. As a technical fine point, if you are using online ticketing, it is important that the parish bulletin print information about the event with the web address so that any pulpit announcement can refer to the bulletin with the address. Although the vast majority of people will have no problem with online ticketing, some may need a point of personal contact to get questions answered or go online for them to obtain their ticket.

Of course, using ticketing software adds another layer of complexity to the program. Ticketing may deter people who are not sure they want to commit to attending but might show up at the last minute. If you ticket, do you charge for tickets? Or do you provide tickets for free, using ticketing as a way of getting a head count? If you do not charge for tickets, do you take a free-will offering? If so, to whom will the collected funds be distributed—to the region or some outside charitable cause?

### **Conference Promotion, Media Relations and Advertising**

If a program is open to the public, and if the hope is to draw a sizeable crowd, promoting the program is a serious challenge and is best directed by someone who has marketing experience, and who can write ads and copy. If there is no such person in the regional organization, consider reaching out to others in the Catholic community who might help. Keep in mind, however, that no one has the



authority to make an official statement or endorsement on behalf of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta without prior approval from the Federal Association. Any such statements should be submitted to the Federal Association executive director prior to publication.

Marketing the program has many facets.

- Posters to hang in the parishes (with the pastor's permission), universities, schools, and other public bulletin boards.
- Bulletin announcements and pulpit announcements for area parish churches. Press releases presented as news, not just as an ad for the event.
- Ads in the Catholic and secular press, including online ads. (Though online newspaper ads can be relatively cheap compared with print ads, they have not been found particularly effective.)
- News articles, preferably developed through personal contacts with Catholic and relevant secular press editors. (Experienced journalists suggest that you time your press releases to arrive on the editor's desk Monday morning when the editor is planning the week's paper.) Releases should be sent in Word format and NOT as a pdf because the pdf cannot be manipulated. Consider including photos for visual effect but discuss photo formats and procedures with the editor.
- Interviews with speakers. If you have one major newspaper, consider offering to arrange an exclusive interview there before making the speaker available to smaller or less important papers. The interview can take the form of email Q&A or telephone conversation. Follow-up interviews may be held at the time of the event itself for post-event coverage. Ask the journalist about the preferred interview format and subject matter, and whether you can assist in setting it up. Typically, providing the speaker's contact information is sufficient and the journalist will go from there. Be sure to ask if the speaker is willing to do interviews, though almost all are willing.
- If the event concerns public policy, personal letters can be written to all regional and county elected officials at the federal, state, and local levels inviting them to attend.
- Online community calendars.
- Secular and religious radio stations.
- Personal letters to every priest within the diocese or region. Note that it is much easier to prepare such a mailing if the addresses can be obtained in electronic form. If only static printed address lists are available, these can be scanned to be put in OCR (Optical Character Recognition) format so the OCR version can be used to automatically address envelopes using the "Mailings" function in standard MS Word software.
- Personal letters to Orthodox and Protestant pastors if the program has ecumenical appeal.
- Contact and send materials to Catholic bloggers and other websites that might post something.
- Ask every region member to communicate the program to potentially interested friends, acquaintances and organizations they belong to.
- Open a dedicated email account where people can send any questions.

Newspaper articles, individual Malta member promotion, and personal contact with other interested groups have been shown to be the most effective marketing steps.

## Written Program Materials

For many events, it is useful to hand out a program that covers information relevant to the event. If you incorporate prayer, especially a formal prayer, such as Mass or Compline, it is appropriate to include the readings and responses for the day in the handout so that the attendees can participate more fully. In addition to providing a timeline for the elements of the event, be sure to acknowledge any sponsors and note any forthcoming Malta programs.

Since one of the goals of defense of the faith events is to inspire attendees to act upon what they have learned, it is important to provide take-home material whenever possible. Such material might include suggestions for further reading, talking points, or references to other online resources or organizations they can donate to or for which they might volunteer. It is best to vet the materials to ensure they are consistent with Catholic teaching. Your speaker may have suggestions as well.

## Suggested Time Lines

The general timeline suggested below assumes you will set your program date based on the speaker's availability and work backwards to what should be done by when.

Start	Action
6-18 months prior	Book speaker and venue. This includes a walkthrough of the venue and inquiries into the AV capabilities of the potential venue. If letters of invitation must be issued to any participants by the local bishop, this must be done at this very earliest stage.
4 months prior	Solicitation of sponsors and contributors of goods and services in-kind.
3-4 months prior	Contact religious radio or TV station to get into their programming schedule.
3-4 months prior	Submit request for funding (Appendix 2) from the Federal Association Defense of the Faith Committee, if necessary.
3 months prior	Book lodging for the speaker, if necessary. Confirm travel plans of the speaker (booking flights if necessary). Book security if needed.
2-3 months prior	Send letter of invitation to clergy.
2 months prior	Finalize posters, flyers, and other marketing materials.
6 weeks prior	Issue initial press release on the event. Make personal contact with media editors and arrange interviews with the speaker.
2-4 weeks prior	Place any additional paid advertising.
2-4 weeks prior	Enlist member and other volunteer help for the day of the event to assist with welcoming guests, crowd control, parking, hospitality, etc.
2-3 weeks prior	Issue final press release and print advertisements with local media.
1-2 days prior	Final walkthrough of venue. Set up venue and stage. Test AV.
Event date	Arrive early, get people in place, set up, and test AV again.

**Appendix 1**  
**Project Proposal Form**

1. Short Name of Project:
2. Proposer(s):
3. Description of Project (use additional pages if necessary):
4. Name and Brief Description (including leadership of entity or group to be helped):
5. Level of Effort –
  - a) How many Order members and auxiliaries are needed:
  - b) How many hours per service day are required:
  - c) How many service man-days are needed a month:
  - d) What scheduled commitments are required of participants:
6. Financial Commitment and/or Material Resources Required (if any):
7. Names of Other Groups Offering Similar Programs/Events:
8. Names of Any Other Groups with Which the Order Might Cooperate:
9. Proposed Program Date:
10. Required Approvals or Notifications (by or to Federal Association, diocese, parishes, etc.):
11. Licenses, Police Checks or Other Governmental Requirements:
12. Required or Desirable Special Training or Experience (e.g., mandatory diocesan minor-interface training):
13. Liability or Insurance Considerations (if any):
14. Additional Comments (may be added on a separate page):

## Appendix 2

### Regional Defense of the Faith Programs

#### Request for Funding from the Federal Association

1. Short Name of Project:
2. Region Hosting the Event:
3. Date of Event:
4. Regional Contact Information:
  - a. Name:
  - b. Phone:
  - c. Email:
5. Funding Amount Requested:
6. Description of Project (use additional pages if necessary):
7. Level of Involvement and Program Reach
  - a) How many Order members and auxiliaries are participating in organizing the event:
  - b) Is the program for members only or open to the public?
  - c) Anticipated number of attendees:
8. Names of Other Groups Offering Similar Programs or Events within the Region:
9. Additional Comments (may be added on a separate page):

*Submit completed form to the chair of the Federal Association Defense of the Faith Committee*

**Appendix 3**  
**Project Summary**

1. Region: Atlanta
2. Short Name of Project: Beginning Apologetics 1
3. Date of Event or Project: First or third Wednesday of month – 7:30 p.m. conference call
4. Topic: Per table of contents, one chapter per month
5. Brief Description of Project: Beginning Apologetics 1 – “How to Defend and Explain the Catholic Faith,” led by Father Frank Chacon and Jim Burnham
6. Name and Brief Description (including leadership of entity or group to be helped):  
Retired Maj. Gen. Tom Wessels, KMOB and callers
7. Level of Effort:
  - a) How many Order members and auxiliaries were needed: 1
  - b) How many hours per service day were required: 1
  - c) How many service man-hours were needed in preparation of the event: 3
8. Financial Commitment and Material Resources Required (if any): Each member orders ISBN 1-930-08400-5 from [www.catholicapologetics.com](http://www.catholicapologetics.com) for \$5.95
9. Other Groups with Whom the Order Cooperated: Defense of the Faith Committee of Federal Association endorsed:
10. Required Approvals or Notifications (by/to Federal Association, diocese, parishes, etc.):  
Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. Dillon
11. Licenses, Police Checks or other Governmental Requirements: N/A
12. Approximate Number of Attendees: 5-30
13. How Was the Event Marketed and Promoted: Email one week before monthly call to those who purchase book and gave me their email

14. Additional Comments Regarding the Event (e.g., better than expected turnout due to timeliness of topic, poor AV support at venue, should have marketed in a different manner, etc.):

- Used conference line from parish.
- Discussion based on study guide and Catechism of the Catholic Church and Faith of Our Fathers Historical Readings.
- Members expected to read assigned chapters and Bible verses, and to visit certain websites in preparation.
- Be aware of potential scheduling conflicts with the parish for Wednesday nights.

## Appendix 4

### PROJECT PROPOSAL

1. Short Name of Project: Practical Apologetics
2. Proposer(s): Dan Krieger, Don Martin, Frank Orban, Paul Thibault, and Sarah Thibault
3. Description of Project (use additional pages if necessary): Utilizing local and regional speakers possessing the necessary skills and knowledge, a group of members would put together a series of “short courses” on Catholic apologetics that would be offered to parishes in the region. Courses would be presented twice during a month (the same course being presented twice) to provide options for attendees who may have scheduling conflicts. There would be 3-4 topics per “semester” with one group of topics in the fall and another in the spring. Each session would last 1.5-2 hours and would be a pointed examination of a specific area of Catholicism. The subject matter would focus particularly on: a) aspects of the Catholic faith which are often misunderstood or challenged by our non-Catholic brethren in our heavily Protestant/Evangelical environment; and b) aspects of the Catholic faith that Catholics frequently do not understand or otherwise question or misunderstand. Suggested topics would include the Real Presence, Confession, “myths” of Catholicism in history (e.g. Galileo, the Inquisition), teachings on sexuality.

The group would provide supplemental materials for attendees, including excerpts from books, articles, scripture, any necessary discussion questions, and a list of good resources such as books on apologetics, DVDs, website. The materials and lesson plans could be shared with other Malta regions for their use or adaptation. The project recognizes that our Catholic community lacks people familiar with Catholic apologetics, in contrast to the emphasis Evangelicals place on their apologetics.

4. Name and Brief Description (including leadership of entity or group to be helped): The Catholic laity in the region, but the program would be specifically marketed towards CCD and RCIA catechists to better equip them in carrying out their duties. The course is designed to train people who would present the faith to other individuals and groups both in and outside their parishes.
5. Level of Effort: It is estimated that course development should begin 4-5 months out. Initially a working group would meet to discuss a working list of topics and speakers. Speakers would be selected based on the skills as teachers/catechists and their expertise in the subject matter. As additional topics are identified, the working group would seek out speakers who are qualified and adept at teaching those topics. Each group member would be assigned particular topics to develop, using a common format. The working group would select 8-12 speakers or topics. The

day of each course/presentation would require 1-2 members to prepare the meeting space and be on site to address any logistical issues that might arise.

6. Financial Commitment and/or Material Resources Required (if any): Minimal. The duplication of written materials, course syllabus and other similar written materials.
7. Names of Other Groups Providing Similar Services: Smaller scale, more parish-centric offerings at specific parishes. Theology on Tap.
8. Names of Any Other Groups with Which the Order Might Cooperate: the Diocesan Institute, local Catholic schools, and the religious education personnel/committees at local parishes.
9. Suggested Start Date: End of August or early September.
10. Additional Notes: The Diocesan Institute is interested in partnering with us on this project to a limited extent. They will be providing a list of recommended speakers who are both knowledgeable in a specific area of Church teaching and are able to present in an engaging manner. Attendees of these courses would qualify for elective credits towards catechetical certificates undertaken at the Diocesan Institute. The Institute is requesting prior notification of the speakers and topics selected and, barring any concern over topics or speakers, they will advertise it through the diocese. They will have no decision-making or approval powers with this program; they will only have a say over whether the courses qualify for credit through the Institute.



## Appendix 5

### Project Summary

1. Region: Central North Carolina
2. Short Name of Project: Defense of the Faith Forum
3. Date of Event/Project: Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 7-9 p.m.
4. Topic: The Gift of Administration
5. Brief Description of Project: Following is an email that was distributed to promote the event:

Dear Confreres: On April 20, Mark Norcross will be hosting our first regional session of the Defense of the Faith Forum (DFF) from 7-9 p.m. DFF's mission will be learning about our faith and history so we can share and defend it with love and confidence. We plan to meet quarterly, and Mark has been so gracious to host our first gathering.

The topic for April 20 will be "The Gift of Administration." I believe that most if not all of you have this gift that St. Paul outlined in First Corinthians, Chapter 12. But what does the gift of administration encompass? Please come and find out. The conversation will be based upon the book that I have listed in the email below. If you would like, you can order it but that will not be necessary.

The format of our sessions will be discussion-driven, with a focus on how to make our Catholic faith our own. We must better understand Christ and His Church in order to share His Word with others. We must be able to share and defend our faith with love and confidence if we are going to be true knights and dames of the Order of Malta!

Some possible future topics:

- The Jubilee Year of Mercy (1/2 day retreat promoted by the Pontifical Council *Cor Unum*)
- Islam 101
- The Book of Tobit from a Dog's Perspective
- Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- Why Should I Care about the Crusades?
- Living the Beatitudes in the World of Me
- Other topics as suggested by each of you!

Please respond back to this email if you will be able to attend on April 20 at 7 p.m. Spouses are invited. All you need to bring is the beverage of your choice (wine, beer, etc.) and a willingness to learn more about our faith. As this will be our first forum, we will be seeking input afterwards on how we can continue to improve these sessions to best fit the needs of our region.

Vivat Jesus!

## Appendix 6

### Project Summary

1. Region: Central North Carolina
2. Short Name of Project: Defense of the Faith Forum
3. Date of Event/Project: Thursday, January 12, 2017, 7-9 p.m.
4. Topic: Render Unto Caesar
5. Brief Description of Project: Following is an email that was distributed to promote the event:

Dear Confreres: We will be discussing *Render Unto Caesar* by Archbishop Charles Chaput. It is not too late to order a book so I am including a link below. If you have a chance to read the book, wonderful. However, it is not necessary as we will have discussion questions that will engage you whether you have read it or not.

I am also including a link below to the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) "Living the Gospel of Life," which Archbishop Chaput refers to numerous times in his book. It is around 12 pages long. I would also encourage you to bring your Bible.

My fellow committee members (Deb, Sylvia, Jim, and Bill) will be table captains and will be facilitating small group discussions. To start getting your brain juices flowing, Bill asked me to send out a few potential questions.

- What does it mean to be truly Catholic in today's society?
- How do you practice and live your faith in today's secular society? What are the challenges? How do you overcome them? What are the rewards? What saints provide examples to us?
- Isn't it just easier to just get along and not rock the boat? (Read Revelation 3:16)
- What belongs to Caesar and what belongs to God? (Read Romans 13:1-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-3, and 1 Peter 2:13-17)

I look forward to getting to know each of you better as we share and grow in our faith!

*Render Unto Caesar:*

[www.amazon.com/Render-Unto-Caesar-Catholic-Political/dp/0385522290/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1483623143&sr=1-1&keywords=render+unto+caesar](http://www.amazon.com/Render-Unto-Caesar-Catholic-Political/dp/0385522290/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1483623143&sr=1-1&keywords=render+unto+caesar)

*Living the Gospel of Life:*

[www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/abortion/living-the-gospel-of-life.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/abortion/living-the-gospel-of-life.cfm)

6. Name and Brief Description (including leadership of entity or group to be helped): N/A

7. Level of Effort:

- a) How many Order members and auxiliaries were needed: Defense of the Faith team included Msgr. Marcaccio, Chuck Cornelio, Chris Parker, Jim Hoffman, Silvia Rodriguez, and Deb Ritzel.
- b) How many hours per service day were required:
- c) How many service man-hours were needed in preparation of the event:

8. Financial Commitment and/or Material Resources Required (if any): Those interested purchased a copy of *Render Unto Caesar* by Archbishop Charles Chaput for \$10.

9. Other Groups with Whom the Order Cooperated: Event was held at St. Pius

10. Required Approvals or Notifications (by/to Federal Association, diocese, parishes, etc.):

11. Licenses, Police Checks or Other Governmental Requirements: None

12. Approximate Number of Attendees: 18

13. How Was the Event Marketed and Promoted: Via email and announcement at monthly gathering

14. Additional Comments Regarding the Event (e.g., better than expected turnout due to timeliness of topic, poor AV support at venue, should have marketed in a different manner, etc.):

## Appendix 7

### Defense of the Faith Program: Persecuted Christians October 22-23, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

Dan Krieger and I have been trying to locate a speaker for a Defense of the Faith Program for October. The theme discussed earlier with Pete Scudner was Contemporary Catholic/Christian Persecution. This burning and tragic issue provides: 1) a subject that is of interest not only to Catholics but to individuals from other Christian denominations in our region; and 2) a topic which priests in the region should consider for sermons and homilies to cause Americans to reflect that people are actually dying at this moment for their faith while so relatively few demands are put on us by our faith. It also provides for other active steps that people can take if interested.

Consequently, here is the proposal, which consists of a two-day event, that could be limited to one day. But since there would already be key speakers here, an ecumenical follow-on day for “religious professionals,” students and academics, and any other interested individuals seemed worth trying to organize. Note the second-day colloquium would be seen as a smaller event (9 a.m. to noon), while the first day would be the major address and service. Note that because we would be addressing the plight of Catholics and other Christians who, as you read this, are dying, being tortured and being driven from their homes/countries, we felt a Vespers (or similar commemorative service) to commemorate the dead and suffering would be an appropriate closing to the evening rather than a pre-talk Mass. This also enables the Maronite Bishop to participate in the Vespers in a manner that he otherwise could not in a Mass because of liturgical differences between the Latin and Maronite Catholic rites. Because we want the program to have some lingering impact, not just a one-evening, “check-the-box” occasion, we would put together some basic take-home background materials, prayers, suggested talking points for homilies by priests and ministers, and a recommended list of organizations to contribute to. George Marlin’s book, *Christian Persecutions in the Middle East: A 21st Century Tragedy*, would also be available for sale and signing. All profits on this book go to The Church in Need organization.

#### **Part 1: October 22<sup>nd</sup> PM**

Proposal: Day One is open to any who wish to come, with no RSVP required. This defense of the faith project boils down to two goals.

1. It needs to awaken Christians to what it means to be a Christian - a commitment for which other Christians around the world are willing to die.
2. It needs to give the attendees something to go forth and do -See Cardinal Dolan on this: <http://hudson.org/research/11291-cardinal-timothy-dolan-s-seven-point-plan-to-end-persecution-of-christians#>).

The presentations should be educative, articulate, personal and gripping, and resulting in a lasting impact. There needs to be a defining moment that will capture people’s hearts and imaginations that will inspire people to want to do something.

Venue: Ideally, not in a Catholic Church but another secular space in order to encourage ecumenical attendance. Convention Center rooms are completely booked unfortunately.

### Speakers:

- George Marlin, Catholic, civic business leader and author. Most recent book (2015) *Christian Persecutions in the Middle East: A 21st Century Tragedy* – Lays the groundwork. Marlin has confirmed. F. Orban has 5 copies of this book for \$20/copy, which you can also get at Amazon. All profits on Marlin's book go to Aid to the Church in Need. He is chairman of its board. Please look at well-known Catholic commentator Fr. C.J. McCloskey's review of this book: <http://www.thecatholicthing.org/2015/05/24/a-21st-century-tragedy/>
- Maronite Bishop Most Reverend Gregory John Mansour, S.T.L. Eparchy of St. Maron (The jurisdiction of the eparchy extends to all the Maronite Catholics in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Delaware, Virginia, District of Columbia, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Maryland.) Provides personal accounts. Being approached through close friend of his.

### Agenda:

1. Introduction, brief: the Order of Malta and the topic
2. Marlin opens: background and the situation
3. Maronite Bishop Mansour presents Middle East church and personal experiences
4. Vespers and prayer for the dead
  - Bishop Gainer? Would need to coordinate with his office.

### Part 2: October 23<sup>rd</sup> AM, concluding with lunch (provided). RSVP by ?

Proposal: Day Two is intended to focus on helping clergy, professionals, and aid workers with more in-depth discussion, resources and information on how to best assist our suffering brothers in persecuted areas of the world, especially in the Middle East.

Venue: Ideally, the Lancaster Theological Seminary 9-12? Concluding with lunch at 12:00

- If lunch is provided provide online form for RSVPs? Link to be included in all marketing materials?

Agenda: Panel discussion with Q&A

Panelists (must be those able to address the below topics in the agenda):

- Those with firsthand experience: Bishop Mansour, Fr. Tariq Isaac, local Coptic priest(?)
- Those active in aid and policy work (representative of the following Vatican sponsored organizations: Aid to the Church in Need [www.churchinneed.org](http://www.churchinneed.org), Catholic Near East Welfare Association [www.cnewa.org](http://www.cnewa.org) and/or CRS. Another potential participant is Tom Farr who headed the State Department's Office of Religious Freedom and now at Georgetown University running its Berkley Center program on religious freedom. See <http://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/people/thomas-farr>
- Historical/Political Commentary: George Marlin

### Topics:

1. More detail on persecution country by country (Marlin) – (Starting speaker)
2. Fr. Isaac – what has he gone through, what would he ask of us? What hurdles has he dealt with?
3. Here is what people are saying and what can be done. What do people want and need?
4. Policy Issues – here is what is being done--policy initiatives, discussion, pros and cons of each.
5. Internally displaced people? What to do to help them when the crisis is over? microfinance?
6. What do we do to help those want to relocate out of the Middle East to the US or other safe-havens?
7. Organizations to support which are known as efficient, effective and reliable. (Ending)

Other specific points to cover: we cannot, at this time, get involved with the politics and military affairs. Goal is to keep Christianity in the region. How can we best secure their stay and minimize their suffering?

- There is nothing to be done right now politically or militarily.
- The goal is to keep Christians in the Middle East there because they SHOULD be there and the majority want to be there.
- We also need to open up to them here. What other support can we provide?

At the end of the seminar the following packets/resources will be provided:

- Bullet/talking points for homilies, sermons, bulletins, etc.
- Intercessory prayers to be prayed whenever possible
- Efficient and effective organizations to which money can be donated in confidence
  - We need two or three charities in addition to the Church in Need, perhaps Protestant organizations like Mennonite Central, to which to direct funds
- Information on the Order of Malta
- Information on participating organizations

### Planning:

Approvals and those to get involved for planning:

- Invitation to Bishop Gainer
- Permission from the bishop for visiting episcopate
- Fr. Wolfe for any liturgical issues
- Any other canonical issues

### Marketing:

- Lancaster Area newspaper(s)
- Catholic Witness
- Postcards in the hands of pastors
- Diocese of Harrisburg
- Other dioceses
- Other non-Catholic Christian churches, schools and organizations
- Universities/colleges

Promotion and Financial:

- Marketing
  - Printing posters, etc.
  - Newspaper
  - Mailings (?)
  - Non-Catholic Religious PR Resources
  - Personal Contact with Non-Catholic Christian leaders, major churches & institutions.
- Venue – room rental, AV equipment
- Transportation, food/ accommodations for guest speakers
- Lunch – pay your way or we cover? Depends on if we can get RSVPs
- Speaking stipends or donations to organizations

Those to invite:

- Bishop Gainer
- Priests and deacons from the deanery
- Representatives from any local aid organizations
- Personal contact with non-Catholic Christian leaders, major church & institutions
- Others from around the diocese and possibly beyond
  - priests
  - CRS
  - religious orders
- Others from the Order of Malta Federal Association and American Association
- Academic institutions.

Catholic High Presentation?

- If Marlin or another speaker works out to go there Thursday afternoon, great, otherwise let it go

Possible Venues for Thursday Night:

- Calvary Chapel
- Ware Center
- F&M
- Catholic Churches such as St John Neumann, St Leo's