

## A brief report covering the year January to December 2014

A short while ago, during the coffee break after Mass, a visitor approached me and stated, among other things, that she was impressed with the closeness and warmth evident within our community. If this were just an isolated instance, it would scarcely be worthy of mention. Actually, words to that effect have been quite a regular feature during conversations with visitors attending our services while on the Island. This brings to mind something that has, since then, stuck firmly in my memory when we were described as “a family of faith”

Personally, a thing that really pleases is the collective effort of so many members of our community who, in one way or another, lend a helping hand that translates into the smooth, warm way our community is run. Here I would like to thank all the council members for their diligent work, and permit me to give special praise for the sterling work Tessa Bicker and Audrey Pace have performed for so many years. It is with great regret we are losing them as Council members but tempered with their resolve to keep on helping us behind scenes whenever the need arises.

We have been blessed with our dedicated Chaplains: Father Loreto Tabone, Canon Joseph Borg, Father Chris Farrugia and Canon George Debrincat. With Father Tabone being in his first full year in charge of our community. Their gifts over Easter and Christmas is a true reflection of the esteem and affection, all the congregation feels towards them. Whilst thanking our chaplains, I must not forget to also thank His Lordship, Bishop Mario Grech whom we found, is always disposed to listen and, where possible, to act upon any requests we may present to him.

On the purely religious side, we successfully organised the Lenten and Advent retreats as well as Penitential services. We also celebrated our patronal feast dedicated to St Thomas More with Holy Mass at Manresa, followed by an

enjoyable “Pot luck “ supper. And, as one bright spark remarked, no one missed the absence of fireworks!

Regrettably, although our Sunday Masses are regularly well attended, this is sadly not the case with the Wednesday and Friday Masses.

Moving on to the finances, we have adhered to our regular recipients, these being the Sacred Heart Seminary, Manresa Retreat House, The Poor Clare’s, Friends of the Sick and Elderly and Guatemala Missions. This year, we also gave a donation to a needy family which qualified for the Samaritan fund. The Christmas boxes were distributed to needy families identified by the Good Shepherd Church at Ta Cawla, Victoria. Other donations went to the Ursuline Sisters, the Franciscans at Mgarr, St Lazarus Charity, “Alive” charity and the persecuted Christians in Iraq. But the icing on the cake was surely, once again, a sponsorship to the Major Sacred Heart Seminary.

Before I conclude, this year, we received the news that a long time benefactor to our community, Albert Luczac, has passed away in Michigan, U.S.A. May he rest in peace..

Finally, we finish the year with a balance of Euro 4318.63, which includes the Euro 3235 held in our Curia account.

Thank You.

John Grech

Treasurer

## ESCC Financial Report for 2014

### Income in Euro

Cash in hand: (1.1.14)	717.27 +
Offertory:	6237.93
2 Easter collections ( inc.envelopes )	544.42
2 Christmas Collections (incl. envelopes)	618.34
Collection for Guatemala:	247.30
Collection for Iraq:	202.13
Collection for local charities:	205.00
Collection for "Peter's Pence":	123.77
Cake and Produce:	126.85
Sale of 2 Missals:	32.00
"Pot Luck Supper":	112.23
Over from 2 retreats:	50.00
St. Thomas More feast:	80.30
Cake sale for "Alive Charity":	93.00
Hymn Book dedication:	10.00
Total:	9400.54

## **Expenditure in Euro**

Stipends:	1870.00
Bulletins:	156.00
Stationery:	92.25
Hosts:	26.50
Candles:	16.36
African Palms:	13.00
Easter bread rings:	41.50
Towards Community meal:	5.00
Towards 2 retreats:	100.00
Chasuble:	49.50
Photocopying:	13.55
Flowers (inc. Christmas)	164.40
Notice board:	21.90
Purificators and Corporal:	45.00
Honoraria:	540.00
Peter's Pence:	120.00
Gifts (birthday cake, fruit, plant, biscuits)	66.08
Chaplains Easter/Christmas Gifts	1120.00
Donation Manresa:	290.00
Donation Seminary:	480.00
Donation Samaritan Fund:	240.00
Donation Guatemala:	1400.00
Donation Iraq:	202.00
Donation Franciscans:	250.00
Donation Ursuline Sisters:	300.00

**Expenditure continued:**

Donation FSEG:	300.00
Donation Poor Clare's:	300.00
Local Charities:	205.00
St Lazarus Charity:	150.00
Donation "Alive" Charity:	100.00
Total:	8678.64

Sponsorship at Major Seminary: (Taken from Curia account) 600.00

**Total Balance: as on 31/12/2014**

Cash in hand:	721.90
Curia Account:	3235.04
Curia Interest:	18.80
Coffee money:	42.89
Total:	4318.63

(Signed):

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John Grech

Treasurer

Date: