



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

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 2026

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRIOR

Dear Confrères,

I trust that you had a joyous and blessed Christmas with your family and loved ones.

Thank you, thank you to all who contributed to the Advent matching appeal. I am very pleased to report that we met our \$250,000 goal and therefore the generous matching gift doubled the funds to \$500,000. This will enable the very successful St. John Eye Hospital Group (SJEHG) Pediatric Screening Program to continue through 2026.

I recently met with St. John Eye Hospital Group Chairman Sir Andrew Cash and CEO Dr. Ahmad Ma'ali and together with the report from David Pyott, U.S. Priory Hospitalier, I summarize the latest from SJEHG:

The St. John Eye Hospital Group treated 232,000 patients in 2025, an increase of 33% versus 2024. The child vision screening program, majorly supported by the U.S. Priory served 56,000 children. Even excluding the screening program, growth was still an impressive 23%. Four outreach vans also covered 56,000 patients, again a fabulous increase of 42% year-over-year, one sponsored by the U.S. Priory, and one by the Scottish Priory. Even in Gaza we managed to treat 274 outreach patients. Our strategy to bring our services to the people is working. Patients seen in Jerusalem had the lowest growth rate across the group—only 6.5%. An expanded Kufor Aqab center saw 12,000 patients, an increase of 15%. Nablus, having opened in March, grew 69% vs. those seen in the old facility in Anabta, covering 14,500 patients. Hebron expanded 10%.

Major surgeries increased 11% with Jerusalem again growing modestly at 2.2%. Hebron increased 24% and Nablus contributed 229 surgeries since May. Over time, more and more surgeries will be conducted in the West Bank and in Gaza, as we bring the two operating theaters back online.

It is commendable that we continue to see around about 900 patients per week in Gaza, with our local teams operating out of three locations. One is at a site near the Gaza hospital faculty, constructed by the Egyptian Red Crescent, with equipment having been transferred from Deir el Balah, just south of the Gaza facility. This field station continues in operation, and a third site provides service at Nuseirat Camp, also in the North. We treated 36,000 patients in Gaza, and a total of 62,000 since the commencement of the war. We are working on re-opening the operating theatres and are awaiting the Israeli Border Control authority permits for transportation of new equipment.

In 2025 we received JCI accreditation—re-accreditation for the fifth time for Jerusalem and a first for Hebron. In the future we will aim to accredit Nablus as well. Nablus received a license for a commercial pharmacy. In 2026 we will install solar panels in Jerusalem; in Hebron we will refurbish the operating theaters so we can offer anesthesia and therefore pediatric services. We plan to operate a commercial pharmacy in Jerusalem. Nablus will increase to three days of surgery per week.

Your Chapter held its first meeting of 2026 and, among other business, received a report and voted on the recommendation from the Priory Nominating Committee which conducted the search for the next Prior. This has been forwarded to the Grand Prior for his consideration, and we will announce the decision once received from the Grand Prior.

The Priory will hold its Leadership Retreat in April in Chicago. A major focus of the program is the transition from myself to the incoming Prior, who will assume the role on June 24, 2026—St. John's Day.

Thank you to each of you for all that you do to support the Priory's mission to serve *our Lords the sick and the poor*.

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

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SUCCESS STORY: AREF ABU JA'ES

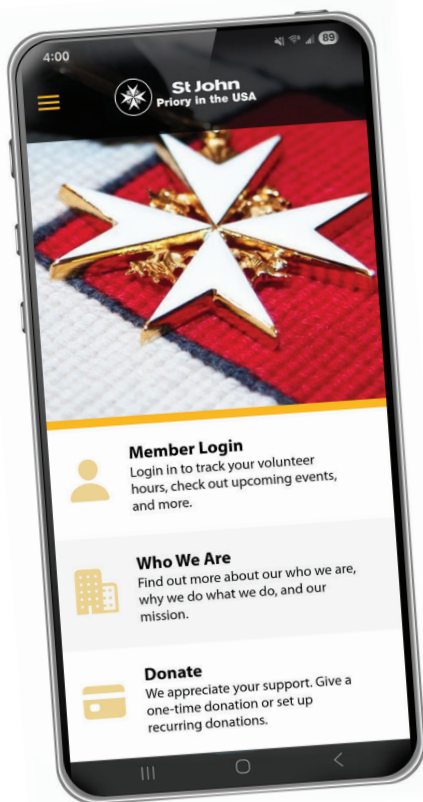
Aref is a septuagenarian refugee from Jenin Camp in the northern West Bank. He has been displaced for several months as a result of the Israel-Hamas War.

During this period, he began experiencing increasing difficulty with his vision, which affected his ability to manage everyday tasks and move around confidently. When he visited St John Eye Hospital in Nablus, he was diagnosed with age-related nuclear cataracts in both eyes. Nuclear cataracts affect the lens's center (nucleus) causing gradual yellowing and nearsightedness.

To address this, Aref underwent cataract surgery on his left eye in June, 2025. The procedure was successful and resulted in noticeable improvement in that eye. In September, he returned for surgery on his right eye.

With both eyes treated, his overall vision has improved significantly, allowing him to navigate his surroundings safely and comfortably.

Today, Aref says he can go out on his own again and handle routines that were previously challenging. He expressed appreciation for the help he needed to restore his sight. 🌟



MOBILE APP

Just a reminder that the U.S. Priory now has a mobile app available for download on both iOS and Android platforms. Key features of the Order of St John app include:

- Volunteer Portal: Easy access to log your volunteer hours
- Upcoming Events: Calendar for events
- Member Directory: Fast access to our Member directory
- Who we are: Quick access to information about the Order of St John and the U.S. Priory
- Priory Gift Shop: Fast access to order from the Priory's Gift Shop
- Donation hub: Seamless options for donation to the U.S. Priory

The Priory app (U.S. Priory – Order of St John) is free to download from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. 🌟



The Arms of the Priory of Singapore are charged with the Republic's lion head emblem; the five-part mane representing democracy, peace, progress, equality, and justice.

ST JOHN SINGAPORE: SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR MORE THAN 140 YEARS

St John is part of the everyday fabric of public life in Singapore, most often seen in first aid training, medical support at major events, and community-based care. Rooted in our Order's historic Christian traditions, the Priory of Singapore operates today as a secular, non-sectarian organization within Singapore's multi-religious civic framework.

Established in Singapore in 1885, the Priory is the oldest first aid charity in the

country. Today, as a registered charity with designation as an *Institution of a Public Character*, it is led by a governing council and supported by professional staff, volunteers, and uniformed members. The chairman of the council, Professor Sean Patrick Rozario, KStJ, serves as Prior of the Priory of Singapore.



Prof. Sean Patrick Rozario, KStJ, is invested as Prior by the British High Commissioner to Singapore, H.E. Kara Owen, CMG, CVO.

St John Singapore has trained more than 200,000 individuals in first aid and related life support skills. Its volunteer base numbers more than 10,000 active members who support training programs, public duties, ambulance services, and community activities across the island. Widely known for first aid education and public medical support, its training programs serve the public, and schools and workplaces, with instruction ranging from basic life support to advanced certification.



A first aid training session conducted by St John Singapore, focused on developing emergency response skills.

Youth development is another central focus of the Priory. Through its St John Brigade, cadets receive instruction in first aid, leadership, teamwork, and service. Brigade units operate in schools and community settings and work alongside other uniformed youth groups in Singapore. Brigade membership numbers in the thousands and includes both student cadets and adult volunteers.

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Annual inspection of the St John Brigade Singapore, with the Prior and Brigade leadership reviewing readiness, drills, and standards.



Priory of Singapore unit in the annual Purple Parade, affirming community support for people with disabilities.

St John Singapore is also a familiar presence at major national and community events. Its volunteers and medical teams provide medical support for large public occasions, such as the National Day Parade, *Chingay* street parade, and the Singapore Grand Prix. This work involves coordination with public agencies and event organizers and includes first aid posts, mobile response teams, and ambulance support. In addition

to event duties, the organization operates ambulance services, including non-emergency transport. These services support hospitals, care facilities, and individuals who require medically-supervised transport instead of emergency intervention.

In recent years, dementia care has become an important focus. Through its innovative Dementia Care Centre, St John Singapore provides day care and structured programs for elderly persons living with dementia in surrounding communities. The Centre supports daily activities and addresses challenging behavior, offering programs designed to slow the deterioration of physical and cognitive functions while encouraging personal engagement. Trained healthcare professionals work alongside volunteers and caregivers to support client quality of life.

Across all these areas, St John Singapore blends volunteer commitment and professional oversight. Its work reflects the Order of St John's longstanding emphasis on first aid and care for the sick, while responding to Singapore's evolving healthcare and community needs. ✱



St John Singapore headquarters on Beach Road, situated alongside the St John Dementia Centre, is a focal point for training, preparedness, and community care.

OUR WESTERN CAROLINAS PROVINCE

When the Order of St John began to formally organized in the United States in the 1950s, membership was concentrated in the New York City region, then slowly expanded to major cities on both the East and West Coasts. Now, almost 75 years later, Confrères can be found in cities across the country within 20 Regions created to facilitate increased local planning and communication.

However, even that division of geography creates several vast, multi-state areas, making it difficult for many Confrères to attend regional events and service opportunities.



Carolinas blood drive

Greenville and Spartanburg in South Carolina and Asheville and Charlotte in North Carolina. The area was already home to a core group of long-time Order of St John Members and also benefits from being the location of second homes for other Members. With the encouragement of Dr. Glenn Davis, KStJ, in Raleigh and Vic Brandt, KStJ, in Charleston, Baker Wyche, MStJ, took on the mission of forming the Province along with Susan Perkins, OStJ, who also volunteered to serve as Regional Co-Chair.

The first meeting was only a year ago, but the Province already has 28 Members. Wyche finds that the mission and purpose of the Order is an easy sell. The Greenville lawyer was initially called to action by a story in *Eyes on the Future* of a 9-year-old girl whose vision was restored at the St. John Eye Hospital in the Holy Land. He sees the work of the Order as a "Christ based mission, the outward manifestation of which is the Eye Hospital," and has found that the message resonates with many in the area. Having recently dealt with the devastating

To address this challenge, the Governance Committee of the U.S. Priory created a process for the formation of new, more geographically compact Regions in 2023; a process that begins with the creation of a Province. Chicago, a city in the vast 12-state St. Louis Region, was the first area to be approved for status as a Province and is on target with its plan to create a new standalone Region.

The Priory's newest Province is Western Carolinas, an area that includes the cities of



Western Carolinas Province Reception

effects of Hurricane Helene, residents of the Piedmont and Smoky Mountain area seemed ready to continue serving those in need.

With shorter distances to travel, Members in the Province are able to gather more easily, fostering connections and cohesion. Events are planned for St. John's Day in June and an Evensong in August. Opportunities for St John Volunteer Corps are also being explored, with the local Ronald McDonald House recently approved for service hours. And since several Members are physicians, the Province has also held vision screening clinics for residents in the area.

When asked what advice he would give to a group considering the Province formation process, Wyche enthusiastically replied, "Do it! You have a wonderful network of like-minded people who are interested in your success and are willing to help." He added, "After all, we are all working toward the common goal of helping that little 9-year-old girl see." ❄️



PRO FIDE

At the threshold of celebration and revelation, Twelfth Night becomes something of a spiritual allegory: desire floods the world, and everyone scrambles to find themselves, to claim love.

When I was little, I had a closet full of costumes to play dress up. I had a real police officer hat and a fireman's helmet. I had sailor, cowboy, explorer, and construction worker outfits. Even today, I am a fan of a good hat. To pretend, to try on, to identify is part of growing up, and growing old. We may think, as we get older, that we do not do this anymore, and that we put away such childish things. We would be wrong as Shakespeare teaches so well in his play: *Twelfth Night*.

Identity is presented as clothing throughout *Twelfth Night*, especially in the character of Illyria. We wear our names. We read them, we misread them, we lust for them. Clothes. Titles. Love stories. Roles that others require of us. Attachments happen fast and unravel just as quickly. The heartbreak is realizing that when we love where we cannot stay, we are not just being stupid, we're being hungry. We scratch at brick walls because we want relief, we clutch at images because we cannot locate something solid to hold onto. Which is why *Twelfth Night* slaloms beautifully into Epiphany, the season of showing forth.

For Christians in this season, such a veil is torn, that who God is has been

made manifest in the person of Jesus. At the threshold of celebration and revelation, *Twelfth Night* becomes something of a spiritual allegory: desire floods the world, and everyone scrambles to find themselves, to claim love. No one can hold onto it. Almost everyone confuses the sign for what it signifies.

Epiphany, the season (which begins on the 12th night after Christmas Day), invites the question of why. If we are so easily deceived by reflections, if we so readily attach ourselves to status and illusions, where do we find an anchor that will hold?

The Christian tradition answers with a counterintuitive truth: that God has entered into creation as a shining light in the

person of Jesus Christ. And this light tells us who we are more intimately than any role or any title we could conceive for ourselves. In the revelation of Epiphany, identity is not something we fashion for ourselves or something we seek from others. It is gift.

Contemplated before it was pursued or achieved, grounded not in our performance or even in what others project onto us but in God's unmoving attention.

When we refuse to rest in the heart of the divine, the heart will grab on to all kinds of costumes. It will attach to anything: approval, power, fantasy, accomplishment. Something to fill us up, to make us shine. That's the comedy of Illyria. But also the tragedy: bewildered hearts clinging to anything shimmering, only to realize it's a reflection. But by God's grace there is a reflection that is not a reflection. A light that will not disappoint or change when we do. A light that seeks us, and wants us to let our souls rest.

When we begin to rest in that light, mirrors start to crack. If our deepest identity is secured by divine love, we don't need others' love to prove how much we matter. We can give of ourselves without keeping score. Listen to others without needing to have the final word. Love without needing to possess. The self is not a project to defend when the foundations shake. The self is a person open to be spent.

This, Confrère, is where I see our vocation as members of the Order of St John crystalizing. You and I are people who have been shaped by an astonishing conviction: that God's incarnate light is calling us out of our self-making projects and into the work of mercy, healing, and service.

Our identities as stewards aren't found in the badge on our chests or the good we do. Our identity is found in that divine life to which we lean and to which we are told to lean, which shapes us from the inside out to look like its author: the Lord's poor.

Because the show-forth of Epiphany doesn't just reveal who you are. It also reveals who's standing around you. Wounded. Invisible. God's beloved shining in the unmistakable signs of abandonment. Letting us off the hook of self-definition long enough to glimpse something more: where Christ was promised to be with those who suffer—The Lord's poor.

The Rt. Rev. C Andrew Doyle, D.D., OStJ
Sub Prelate