

RECEPTION CENTRE SJA FOUNDATION

SJA FOUNDATION
Reception Centre
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Monthly Newsletter – Issue No. 6 December 2007



Happy New Year

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me:
A partridge in a pear tree.

On the second day of Christmas my true love sent to me:
Two turtle doves - And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the third day of Christmas my true love sent to me:
Three French Hens, Two turtle doves - And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the fourth day of Christmas my true love sent to me:
Four calling birds, Three French Hens, Two turtle doves -
And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the fifth day of Christmas my true love sent to me:
Five golden rings, Four calling birds, Three French Hens,
Two turtle doves - And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love sent to me:
Six geese a laying, Five golden rings, Four calling
birds, Three French Hens, Two turtle doves - And a
Partridge in a pear tree.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me:
Seven swans a swimming, Six geese a laying, Five golden
rings, Four calling birds, Three French Hens, Two turtle
doves - And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the eighth day of Christmas my true love sent to me:
Eight maids a milking, Seven swans a swimming, Six geese
a laying, Five golden rings, Four calling birds, Three
French Hens, Two turtle doves - And a Partridge in a pear
tree.

On the ninth day of Christmas my true love sent to me:
Nine ladies dancing, Eight maids a milking, Seven swans a
swimming, Six geese a laying, Five golden rings, Four
calling birds, Three French Hens, Two turtle doves And a
Partridge in a pear tree.

On the tenth day of Christmas my true love sent to me:
Ten lords a leaping, Nine ladies dancing, Eight maids a
milking, Seven swans a swimming,
Six geese a laying, Five golden rings, Four calling
birds, Two turtle doves - And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me:
Eleven pipers piping, Ten lords a leaping, Nine ladies
dancing, Eight maids a milking, Seven swans a swimming,
Six geese a laying, Five golden rings, Four calling
birds, Three French Hens,
Two turtle doves And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love sent to me:
Twelve drummers drumming, Eleven pipers piping, Ten lords
a leaping, Nine ladies dancing,
Eight maids a milking, Seven swans a swimming, Six geese
a laying, Five golden rings, Four calling birds, Three
French Hens, Two turtle doves - And a Partridge in a pear
tree.

THE ORIGIN OF THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

You are all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas." To most it is a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had quite a serious purpose when it was written.

It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts.

Catholics in England during the period of 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law, private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholic learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in "writing" indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged.

The songs gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song does not refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. To participate in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered you under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but you would not have it so..."

The other symbols mean the following:

2 Turtle Doves	The Old and New Testaments.
3 French Hens	Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues.
4 Calling Birds	The Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists.
5 Golden Rings	The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch," which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
6 Geese A-laying	The six days of creation.
7 Swan A-swimming	The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven Sacraments.
8 Maids A-milking	The eight beatitudes.
9 Ladies Dancing	The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
10 Lords A-leaping	The ten Commandments.
11 Pipers Piping	The eleven faithful apostles.
12 Drummers Drumming	The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

[Source: Pamphlet: Christmas, 2007, St. Paul's Cathedral Parish, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.]

NEWS UPDATE AUGUST 2007

Teams of the Reception Centre Projects

Friendship Team

On 26th November, we visit the Cordin Rehabilitation Centre for the third time. We were in six.

As we met near the Police Station, Paola, we rang the bell as usual but unfortunately we were not admitted. It was a blessing in disguise. The reason we could not know.

The inmates increased in number and there was no room for thirty women, so ten of them were moved to a new building and so we could go to visit at least ten of them. At this time we were only five as one of our friends, Mrs. Lolly Debono could not walk a long way because of her sore foot.

We were welcomed by the inmates who were delighted to see us. Mrs. Lolly Debono brought a bunch of bananas for one who was her neighbour. Fortunately the person for whom they were was in the place we visited and she was very happy when she saw us.

As we told her that her friend sent the fruit she uttered "Oh! Lolly sent me the bananas" because the bunch had reached her before we arrived. For your information one cannot give anything directly to them. Things have to be examined as a precaution for drugs.

The inmates are very happy at the new premises. It really looks like a hotel. Six of this group knows me very well so it was a special meeting for them. We were all greeted nicely and they showed us round the flat. They are living like a normal family. They have two airy big rooms and they sleep together, six in one room and four in another.

They live on the second floor. They told us, "Look we can see Rabat and many other beautiful views from the bedrooms." They can hang their washing on a small terrace. During the night they are allowed to go to the common room and make a cup of coffee in silence not to disturb the others. Each has her part to clean the premises.

I was really amazed with their behaviour and their affection towards us. Now they are about to decorate their flat for Christmas.

We hope that they finish building another section so that all the inmates will enjoy a better life.

We need to pray for them as they told me to remember them in my prayers.



Sr M Ignazia

Homework Services Team

The Homework club team met last Friday 22nd December.

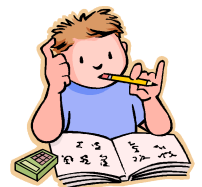
As we had proposed we made this session a "fun" one. Claire took care to organize games for the children. Each tutor was given the job of team leader. The children were grouped so that we had a mix of different age groups. The children enjoyed the interesting games and put heart and soul into each game.

The children were also given some props and with the help of their group leaders, were asked to improvise a Nativity scene. Again, it was a pleasure to watch them. They put so much enthusiasm in it. Mothers were invited too and they enjoyed watching. A little party was laid on for the children and the mothers.

Maria and Miriam together with the rest of us did our utmost to give the children a good time. The food for this party was provided through the generosity of the students of the Immaculate Conception School. The highlight of the evening came when Daniel doubled up as Father Christmas, handing the children their presents. The party broke up round eight. The atmosphere was simple but full of joy, and we tutors, promised ourselves a repeat next year. The Homework club will meet again on Friday 11th January 2008, for its first session for the New Year.

The Homework club team, would like to extend it's best wishes for the coming year, to all volunteers working with SJAF. May the Blessings of the Lord rest with us all, and may Mother Jeanne Anitde, be our guide during this year, and give us the courage to go forward and like her serve the Lord through our service users.

Jessie Spiteri





O wonder! He is born in my heart!
(digital art by t.m.)

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**NEW MEMBERS
SJA FOUNDATION**

Mrs. Maria Rizzo

Miss Carmen Bugeja

Mrs. Mary Vella

SJA Foundation Reception Centre

Reception Centre Administrator:
Reception Desk

Paul Barbara
tel: 2767 2367
email

paul.j@maltanet.net

sjafoundation@onvol.net

• **Adult Education and Community Work Team**

Current contact: Nora Macelli

nora.macelli@gov.mt

• **Friendship Services Team**

Co-ordinator: Caroline Cortis

carol.cortis@global.net.mt

• **Social Work Team**

Co-ordinator; Sr. Rose Rizzo

sisterrosetk@yahoo.com

• **Homework Services Team**

Co-ordinator: Jessie Spiteri

marjespi@gmail.com

• **Reception and Secretarial Team**

Co-ordinators: Paul Barbara
Melanie Ferò
Information Officer: Joanne Ebejer

paul.j@maltanet.net
amfero@maltanet.net
joanne@maltanet.net

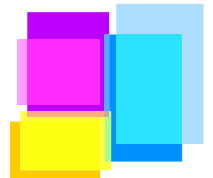
• **Refreshments Group**

Contact: Sr. Rose Rizzo

sisterrosetk@yahoo.com

Other SJA Foundation Teams and Steering Committee

- **Fundraising Team**
- **S.O.C. Steering committee for SJA Foundation**



Golden

golden boats upon a silver sea
accretions of barnacles, and wear
and tears and fear of a storm

brooding breezes from a hate-black sky
suck sighs from an anxious sea
while agitated waves hold sway

when tightened air uncoils the fierce winds
rumbling bellies of sky belch out cacophony...
sobriety panics, skies burst, boats groan

from here, from there, the currents rule, and drag
and catch on barnacles,
and carry away. You know such times, no time to pray

this boat a fragile shell in a roaring downhill furrow
orbits and spins a vertigo of alarm –
an orgy vortex of inevitable death

but still, so still, was the centre of the fury of foam
annihilation yielded, on the other side
of a black hole in space...

... a different ocean, a place of peace
but hey! It's still the silver sea
this boat was in before! See,

golden boats upon a silver sea
no tears, no fear of a storm.

Tony Macelli

Kmandamenti bis-sens (kellu bżonn kullhadd jimxi fuqhom)

Dawn veru bis sens u jggegħluk tirrifletti. kieku kellna niktbu l-Kmandamenti mill-ġdid, kif niktbuhom b'mod li japplikaw għal kulhadd u kulhadd jifihom.

1. Jiena hu l-imħabba. Tħalli lil ħadd u lil xejn jikkmandak
2. Sejjaħli biex ngħinek u mhux biex tizfoga fija bid-dagħa.
3. Il-Ħadd ħallieha ġurnata libera. Aħdem biex tgħix u mhux tgħix biex taħdem. U bilħaqq... nhar ta' Ħadd ejj' oqgħod!
4. Il-ġenituri la titlifhom, tapprezzahom. Tagħmlilhomx ħajjithom infern.
5. Ħares l-ambjent għax minnu trid tgħix. U tinfed lil ħadd bi lsienek, lanqas biċ-ċajt.
6. Mingħajr ir-rabta ta' l-imħabba vera, is-sess jiġi bla sens.
7. Dak li hu tiegħek gawdieh, dak li mhux tiegħek ħallieh.
8. Neħhi l-bluff u l-faċċolizmu. M'hawnx isbaħ mill-verita'.
9. Fedelta' fiż-żwieg ifisser ferħ fl-ulied.
10. Ifraħ bil-ġid ta' ħaddieħor, tkunx materjalist. L-aqwa mhux x'għandek, imma x'int.

Reception Centre Opening Hours**Opening timetable – January / February / March 2008**

Monday: 9:00am to 11:00am
5:00pm to 7:00pm

Wednesday: 9:00am to 11:00am
5:00pm to 7:00pm

Friday: 9:00am to 11:00am
5:00pm to 7:00pm

Tuesday: 9:00am to 11:00am

Thursday: 5:00pm to 7:00pm

NOTICE BOARD**Correspondence Address**

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