

*„God has entrusted us  
to care about one another”*



*Thousands moving through the country  
were accompanied by relief service*

— 25 years of the Charity Service in homeless care

— Ambulance purchased out of donations

— Workplaces for the disabled



# Meeting homeless people



The Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta organised food distributions many times over the year, handing out thousand meals at one occasion. Direct aid was not the only purpose to do so, it was also to take up contact with those homeless people who never turn up in the institutions. The Charity Service has a list of more than thousand persons in Budapest only, who don't use, not even in the chilliest weather, the facilities available for the homeless. Social workers meet these people in the shadows of doorways, in urban forests, in outbuildings.



# Message in the underpass



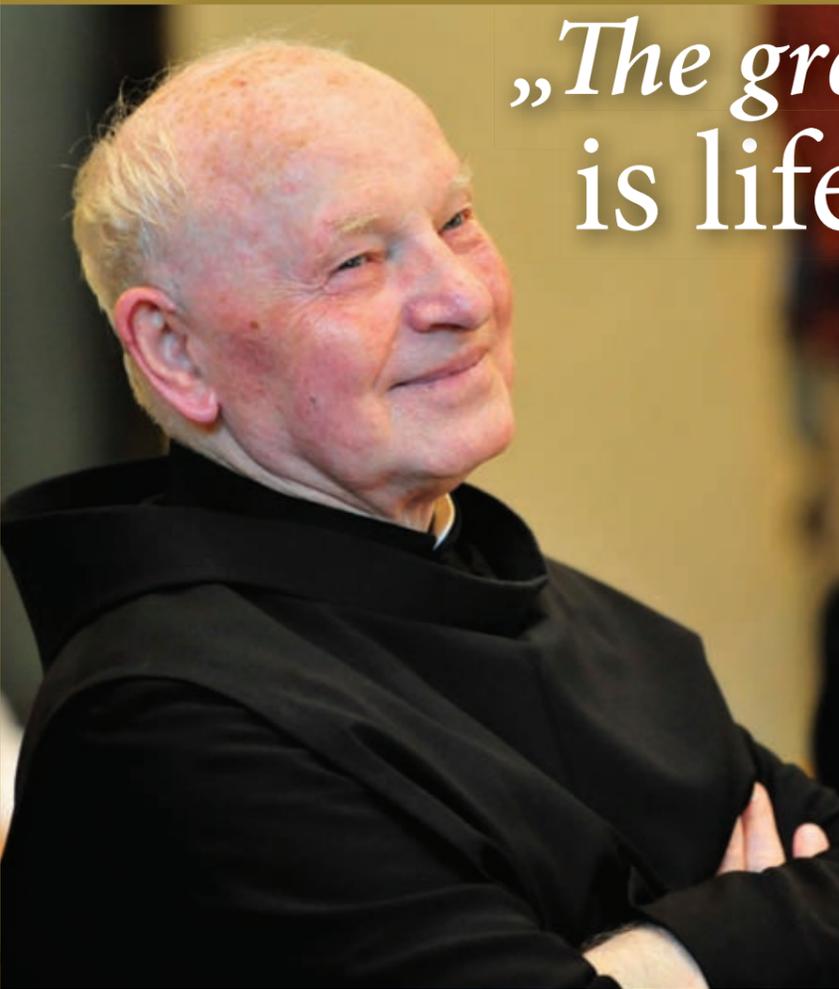
A second frequented underpass is used by the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta to advertise its messages addressed to the society. To utilise the free of charge received advertising space a competition was launched to find the appropriate message. The winner was a young student with the sentence "The next step in the evolution is assistance". In the underpass a separate spot serves the collection of clothing that turned to be very popular among those who wish to donate.





## Aid to Transcarpathia

To help native Hungarian families, who due to the monetary depreciation in the country suddenly got in trouble in the wartime heartland of Ukraine, the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta has launched a long-term aid programme. Donations collected were transported to Transcarpathia a number of times over the year. The first step of the campaign was when 500 food packages were distributed by the Charity Service followed by similar actions later. Prior to the school start last autumn two thousand first grade school children received school supplies donated by the Malteser organisation.



*„The greatest chance is life itself”*

The greatest chance is life itself, and those who realise the challenge hidden in life, that God entrusted us to care about each other, have a wonderful life – said Father Imre Kozma, Founding President of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta on his 75th birthday on 4th June 2015 in an interview with the national news agency. „Those, who serve others, live a more perfect life, those who do good, get themselves better, those who please others, are more happy and the shine on the face of those who were pleased is gilding life.”

## Archbishop honoured by the Order of Malta

The Grand Master of the Order of Malta, Fra' Matthew Festing, conferred the insignia of Bailiff Grand Cross of Honour and Devotion on Cardinal Péter Erdő, Archbishop of Hungary in Rome and so he has become member of the Order.





## Workplaces for people with physical or mental impairment



A new electronic waste disassembling unit was established in Pécs, while in Keszthely a laundry employing autistic people was opened by the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta in 2015. Including these new workplaces more than hundred people of reduced working capacity or persons with disabilities work for the charity organisation and so have a useful, valuable activity.



## Female ambassadors' visit

Seven female ambassadors to Hungary accompanied by Human Resources Minister Zoltán Balog visited the Roma settlement in Monor to get information on the eleven year integration programme of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta. The greatest success of the programme entitled "Presence" is that children living in the settlement perform better in school, there are no more failures and children go on with their studies.



# Aid service also in Serbia



The Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta provided aid to the victims of the flood in Obrenovac, Serbia. For more than a year the Charity Service assisted 138 families to start a new life. Following the withdrawal of the flood dehumidifiers were used to dry wet walls reducing the time for families to return to their homes. To replace lost household stuff valuable donations were provided, too. The local municipality awarded honorary citizenship of Obrenovac to members of the Hungarian charity organisation.



# Twenty-five years of homeless care



On 15th October 2015 the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta celebrated the 25th anniversary of its first institution for the homeless which was established in a former barrack. In a short time the night shelter turned into an active workshop visited by leading personalities of social care. Before the 1990's homeless care was unknown in Hungary, there were neither existing legal regulations nor literature available in Hungarian relating to the field. In twenty-five years the Malteser organisation, with its 200 institutions, out of which 63 serve the homeless, is one of the most reputed social care providers of the country.



# Ambulance out of donations



Smaller contributions of many private persons and generous donations of companies, institutions made up the money for a new Malteser ambulance within six months. This was the very first on-line donation collection programme of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta and at the end this enabled us to buy a fully equipped first-class quality emergency car. Solely volunteers are delivering service at the Ambulance and Emergency Service of the Charity Service which receives the calls of the National Centre 1500 times a year.



## Giving is a joy!



Before Christmas more than thirty-five thousand gift packages were distributed by the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta to poor families and people in need. The "Giving is a joy" six days food collection programme was organised in one hundred and sixty supermarkets this year with the participation of two thousand volunteers. The gift packages contained the 257 tons of durable food collected in 2016.



