

On Saturday, July 30th Minnesota Area Order of Malta Knights and Dames attended a mass celebrated by His Eminence Raymond Cardinal Burke at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The Cardinal Patron of the SMOM, Cardinal Burke is also the founder and patron of the Shrine and his high regard for beauty and tradition are evident in the edifices and liturgical celebrations therein.

Cardinal Burke invited the Minnesota Area Members of the Order to participate in the processional and recessional for the Saturday noon mass. In a brief message before beginning his homily, Cardinal Burke warmly welcomed the Knights and Dames of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta to the Shrine and proclaimed that this would be the first of many occasions for the Order to visit the Shrine.

The majesty and solemnity of the liturgy was deeply inspiring. When mass was concluded, His Eminence greeted each Knight and Dame personally after which his secretary presented each member of the Order with a rosary blessed by the Cardinal. Subsequently, Cardinal Burke proceeded tirelessly to greet every member of the attending congregation, issuing many kind words and blessings. His humility is exceeding.

Members of the order in attendance included Knights Steven Hawkins, Robert Hanten, Raymond de Souza, Britt Noser, and Chris Hipp and Dame Dorothy Guanella. Several auxiliaries of the Order were also present.