

## **THE AFTERMATH TO AN ALPS GRAND REUNION DINNER- TORONTO- CANADA 27TH AUGUST AND A MOST PLEASANT GARDEN PARTY BY MILO & RITA VASSALLO ON THE 28TH AUGUST.**

### ***The President of the Association of Lyceum Past Students writes:***

Words may not express well enough the enormous success of a recent ALPS trip to Canada & USA. A great Reunion Celebration was held on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at the Marriott Courtyard hotel in Toronto. The participants included members of ALPS who travelled from Malta for this special occasion and were joined by other ALPS members from Canada. It is very interesting to note that, one such member Alex Attard, travelled specially from Washington to attend for this Grand Reunion. Welcome drinks were followed by speeches from Milo Vassallo who represents ALPS in Canada. This was then followed by a main speech delivered by ALPS Malta President George Stagno Navarra. The full text of his speech may also be viewed and read in the latest edition of ALPS news Letter Sept 2016. Many hugs and kisses were exchanged throughout the evening. A sumptuous dinner was served that has been liked by all. The evening's surprise included a famous Maltese singer Enzo Guzman who, being a LICEO past student himself, had without anyone's knowledge arranged with Milo, to come and entertain the group during this Grand Reunion dinner dance. So much so, that after the main course many were those who took to the dance floor and enjoyed the popular tunes that were being sung whilst reminiscing from songs of younger years. Toasts were then made in honor of ALPS Founder President Dr. Guido Saliba and to other ALPS members and friends who could not be present in Canada for this occasion.

The next day Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2016, saw the ALPS group who travelled from Malta, to all congregate at the home of Rita & Milo Vassallo for a Garden Party. On arrival, the group were met by the hosts who ushered everyone into a large back garden where Holy Sunday Mass was celebrated (al-aperto) under a scorching sun. When mass was ended all participants were treated to some lovely buffet food specially prepared by Milo's wife Rita who, together with a number of lady friends presented a most pleasant meal. Drinks from an open bar added to the merriment throughout the whole afternoon. A presentation gift silver icon depicting the Holy Family was made to Milo & Rita to thank them for their kind generosity and hospitality throughout the ALPS visit to Toronto. More hugs and kisses and good byes saw the ALPS group from Malta leaving the Vassallo's home to return to the Sheraton Hotel for an early night and preparation of suitcases to leave in the early morning after breakfast, on the start of the coach tour to Ottawa, Quebec, Montreal, Boston and New York / USA.

This was indeed a very successful event that has seen a group of thirty one ALPS members and friends travelling together and having so much fun. We went, we enjoyed and we brought back some lovely memories, of a wonderful tour that shall continue to be remembered for many many more years. When ALPS organizes such travel journeys abroad, it is always a pleasure to see all its participants enjoying themselves to the full. Do come along and join us on our next planned trip for the coming year 2017.