

THE ALPS ANNUAL RETREAT AT MANRESA - GOZO 10TH to 12TH MAY 2019

Another year, another greater success. There was larger participation this year for the ALPS annual week-end of recollection / retreat at Manresa House in Gozo. Nearly 50 participants, have fully occupied all the vacant guest rooms that were booked for this event at the retreat home. Surrounded by gardens and fields, this location is the ideal place to get away from all the noise and daily problems, to really be reflecting on better things that can make our life much more tranquil and peaceful. The chirping of the birds, the sound of church bells from nearby parishes, the sound of agricultural machinery and implements, have certainly helped to make us think much better, of the many good things in our life that we seem to take for granted. Reflecting on what the Lord has in store for each and every one, was enough to create a wish to stay in such secluded surroundings that are good for body and soul.

For this year's retreat we have invited Fr. Dominic Sultana to guide The ALPS group into a rather different experience. The lectures that were delivered on various topics, truly enriched our minds with greater knowledge. Best of it all came on Saturday night. ***Ikla Tal-Ghid Bir Rit Ludi.*** HAGGADAH, included preparation of the room with a formation of tables / chairs specially arranged for the occasion. Dun Lawrenz Sciberras was the invited celebrant. He was assisted by Fr. Dominic. The food consisted of Mazzott, haxix morr dipped into salty water, specially prepared roasted lamb, and the washing of the feet/arms, drinking 4 glasses of wine or grape juice whilst reciting psalms, have enriched the evening of celebrating the pass-over supper.

For the closing of this year's annual retreat, the ALPS participants were invited to take part in the Sunday Holy Mass at Ta' Pinu Sanctuary. Fr. Dominic Sultana celebrated mass to a large congregation. The retreat came to a close with Sunday lunch at Manresa House.