



## L-Onorevoli Dr Joseph Muscat izur ic-Centru Malti tal-Victoria

*minn Paul Vella*

Nhar is-Sibt, 29 ta' Meju 2010, l-Onor. Dr Joseph Muscat, Kap tal-Oppozizzjoni u Kap tal-Partit Laburista Malti, flimkien mas-Sinjura Michelle Muscat, ghamel zjara fic-Centru Malti ta' Parkville biex jiltaqa' mall-Komunita' Maltija tal-Victoria.

Miegħu kien hemm ukoll l-Onor. Dr George Vella, Kelliemi Laburista għall-Affarijiet Barranin u s-Sinjura tiegħu, Miriam Vella; l-Onor. Charles Buhagiar, Kelliemi Laburista għall-Infrastruttura u Xogħolijiet Pubblici, u s-Sinjura Simeona Buhagiar; kif ukoll is-Sur Charles Muscat, ir-Rapprezentant tal-Malta Labour Party fl-Awstralja u ko-ordinatur ta' din iz-zjara fl-Awstralja, flimkien mas-Sinjura tiegħu, Victoria Muscat.

Fost dawk prezenti kien hemm jirraprezentaw lill-Gvern tal-Victoria, is-Sur George Sietz, Membru għal Keilor u Ms Marlene Kairouz, Membru għal Kororoit.

Prezenti wkoll kien hemm il-Konslu Generali ta' Malta fil-Victoria, is-Sur Charles Mifsud u s-Sinjura tiegħu, Anna Maria Mifsud; membri tal-Ezekuttiva tal-Kunsill Malti tal-Victoria; Presidenti li servew fuq il-Kunsill Malti tal-Victoria, is-Sur Tony Bonnici, Prof. Maurice Cauchi, is-Sur Joe Borg u Ms Edwidge Borg. Fostna kien hemm ukoll is-Sur George Portelli, Chief Representative tal-Bank of Valletta fl-Awstralja u s-Sinjura Giacinta Portelli; is-Sur Eddie Micallef, ex Membru Parlamentari.

B'apologija għax ma setgħux jattendu kienu l-Isqof ta' Sandhurst, Mons. Joe Angelo Grech; l-Onor. Bill Shorten, Membru Federali; is-Sur George Zangalis, Segretarju, Radju 3ZZZ; u is-Sur George Lekakis, Chairperson, Victoria Multicultural Commission.

Il-media Maltija kienet rapprezentata mill-Maltese Herald, Radju 3ZZZ u r-Radju SBS, kif ukoll mis-Sur Joseph Montebello, reporter u cameraman ta' "Waltzing Matilda" li gibed xi filmati. Prezenti wkoll kien hemm patrijiet tas-Socjeta' Missjunarja ta' San Pawl, Sorijiet Dumnikani u ohrajn, kif ukoll presidenti, kumitati u membri ta' hafna għaqdiet Maltin.



L-Onor. Dr Joseph Muscat jindirizza l-gemgħa

L-MC tal-lejla kien is-Sur George Saliba li wara li ta merħba lil Dr Muscat u d-delegazzjoni tiegħu u merħba ohra lil dawk kollha prezenti, talab lil kulhadd iqumu bilwieqfa għall-Innu Malti u dak Awstraljan.

L-ewwel kelliem għal-lejla kien l-Avukat Victor Borg, President tal-MCCV li ta stampa cara tal-Komunita' Maltija fil-Victoria, ix-xogħol li jsir mill-għaqdiet religjużi u għaqdiet Maltin. Tkellem fuq kemm il-Malti hadem bi shih biex wasal fejn wasal u x'ghamel fil-Komunita' Awstraljana fejn hafna minnhom għandhom pozizzjonijiet għolja kemm fil-gvern, u professjonijiet ohra.

Warajh tkellem is-Sur Charles Mifsud li wkoll fahhar il-Komunita' Maltija fix-xogħol tagħha kemm fost il-Maltin kif ukoll biex hadmu għall-futur ta' din l-art.

Wara diskors qasir mis-Sur George Sietz, kien imiss lil Dr Joseph Muscat.

Dr Muscat ghamel diskors sabih fuq Malta prezenti u postha fl-Unjoni Ewropeja. Tkellem fuq l-edukazzjoni, is-sahha u affarijiet ohra li għandhom x'jaqsmu ma' Malta. Semma li hemm numru ta' tfal li

*Continued on p. 2*

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johorgu mill-iskola u ma jkomplux l-edukazzjoni taghhom. Tkellem ukoll fuq il-faqar li kien qisu qiegħed jerga' jidher dan l-ahhar. Huwa tkellem fuq servizz u assistenza lill-anzjani Maltin li jghixu wahedhom fl-Awstralja u li jixtiequ li jergghu izuru l-gzejjer Maltin fejn ma jkollhom lil hadd. Huwa komplax jghid li hemm lok għal proġett li jagħti cans lil Maltin, speċjalment anzjani, permezz ta' dan il-proġett li jzuru lil Malta għal darb'ohra. Li jonqos hu l-organizzazzjoni għax għad ma hemmx struttura li tiehu hsieb dan it-tip ta' "caring facility".

Dr Muscat appella għal process gdid fl-ghoti ta-Cittadinanza Maltija u dawk li japplikaw għaliha għandhom isibu f'it hin ta' xi tliet siegħat biex isiru jafu affarijiet fuq Malta, x'jagħmilna Maltin u l-Kultura Maltija.

Huwa spicca billi qal li seba' snin ohra Malta se jkollha għall-ewwel darba il-presidenza tagħha tal-Unjoni Ewropeja. "Din se tkun tieqa ta' opportunita' biex isem pajjizna ikun magħruf aktar minn qatt qabel mall-erba' rjehat tad-dinja, tieqa li permezz tagħha nistgħu nisfruttaw għal kemm mill-qasam politiku u kemm mill-qasam ekonomiku... minn kull qasam possibli... u dan m'għandux ikun proġett ta' nofs pajjiz, imam proġett ta' pajjiz kollu magħqud. Proġett li jkollu fih anki lilkom Maltin ta' barra. Dak hu l-appell tiegħi. Nagħmlu kuragg, nimxu 'l quddiem. Nuqqas ta' ftehim minn zmien għall-iehor se jibqa jkun hemm, imma ftakru li qabel kollox, intom m'intkomx Laburisti jew Nazzjonalisti, imma fl-ahhar mill-ahhar, anzi ngħid, qabel kollox, intom Maltin u Ghawdxin, u ahna poplu wieħed." Id-diskors tiegħu intlaqa' b'hafna capcip.



Il-gemgha prezenti fic-Centru Malti ta' Parkville għar-riceviment



L-Avukat Borg jipprezenta rigal ta' tifkira

Wara dan, l-Avukat Victor Borg, f'isem l-MCCV, ipprezenta rigal ta' tifkira lil Dr Muscat u s-Sinjura tiegħu kif ukoll lill-membri tad-delegazzjoni tiegħu. Mill-banda l-ohra, Dr Muscat ipprezenta rigal lill-Kunsill Malti wkoll.

Fl-ahhar nett, Dr Joseph Muscat iddikkjara miftuha esibizzjoni ta' fotografija tas-Sur Martin Bonnici.

Wara dan kollu sar riceviment għal dawk prezenti li n-numru tagħhom kien madwar 175.

Dr Joseph Muscat u s-Sinjura tiegħu baqqu fis-sala jiltaqqu u jittkellmu ma' dawk prezenti u ppuzaw magħhom għal hafna ritratti.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO MCCV NEWSLETTER

The MCCV Newsletter is published every two months to inform the Maltese community about activities, news and information from all affiliated associations, which would be of interest. Contributions are invited from affiliated associations and may include:

- Notices for forthcoming community events
- Brief reports and photos on community events that took place since the publication of the previous newsletter
- Short articles of interest to the Maltese community

Contributions should be forwarded to Carmen Mamo either by email at [mccv@alpalink.com.au](mailto:mccv@alpalink.com.au) or alternatively by post to:

The Editor  
MCCV Newsletter  
Maltese Community Council of Victoria  
477 Royal Parade  
PARKVILLE 3052

Contributions must be submitted by the following dates:-

- September-October Newsletter: **Friday 20 August 2010**
- November-December Newsletter: **Friday 22 October 2010**



## Malta Arts Festival 2010



<http://www.maltaculture.com/>



Back for another treat: Globe Theatre with their touring production of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

European Summer is back and each year many of our readers, their family and friends will be spending our winter days on the islands in the sun. Many of those who visit Malta regularly seem to have their itinerary set by visiting relatives and friends, go for a swim in their favourite beach and dine in some restaurant where rabbit stew a speciality. They seem to miss out on cultural activities which are new to us who left the islands many years ago.

Malta Arts Festival is summer at its best on the Islands. It's a concentrated three weeks of eclectic entertainment from the thought-provoking and classical to the light hearted and thoroughly contemporary. As usual,

it's a blend of home-grown and overseas cultural talent and this year's programme of Malta's premier summer cultural event has a very Mediterranean flavour. But there are Slavic and Swedish overtones too and a dash of science meets art as well.

Over the best part of three weeks, you can treat yourself to an exquisite melting pot of music, theatre, dance, visual arts and more. The last week

blends with that other international flavoured event, the Malta Jazz Festival, 15-17 July.

Malta Arts Festival is to Malta what the Avignon theatre festival is to Provence (indeed all France and the world of theatre) and the Edinburgh Festival is internationally to new talent and performance genres of the world. Our festival is becoming set in stone as 'the' event in our cultural calendar and there's no reason why it won't in time cut the mustard with Europe's renowned festivals.

Malta's private sector is fantastic at bringing in big name acts and cult DJs, but it falls to the Islands' public sector to pay the lion's share of funding the annual July Arts Festival.

And rightly so. We need Malta Arts each year because it opens our eyes and minds to cultures and cultural forms that we'd rarely get the chance to savour here – apart from online. Wayne Marshall conducting and the Shakespeare Globe Theatre's touring group are not to be missed. Some events in the programme are not big budget nor field big names, but they are no less inspiring.

The Malta Arts Festival is special for many reasons. World class artists, postcard settings, world heritage contexts, a journey for the heart, the head, the eyes, and sometimes, the feet.

## Affiliated Associations - Forthcoming Events

### Doing Business in Malta Info Night

Brought to you by the Maltese Consulate of Victoria & the Maltese Australian Business & Professional Association of Victoria

**Date: Wednesday 21 July 2010**

**Time: from 6.30pm for 7pm**  
(until 9pm)

**Venue: Mecure Caroline Springs, 234 Caroline Springs Blvd., Caroline Springs**

**Dress: Business Attire**

*Who should attend:* Any business owner looking for growth, professional service providers, business service providers or anyone interested in how the landscape for doing in Malta is changing

**RSVP:** 14 July 2010 by email: [mabpav@bigpond.com](mailto:mabpav@bigpond.com) or SMS/Phone: 0412-868-788



### Maltese Historical Association

will be holding their next monthly presentation on:

**Date: Sunday 18 July 2010**

**Time: 2:00 pm**

**Venue: Maltese Community Centre, Parkville**

**Speaker: Dr Brian Zammit**

**Topic: 'Sette Giugno – the Riots of 1919.'**

## Young Maltese-Australian tenor embarks on international career



Christopher Busietta

### FACT FILE

**Age:** 28 years  
**Height:** 171cm (5' 7")  
**Hair Colour:** Dark Brown  
**Eye Colour:** Dark Brown  
**Voice Type:** Light Lyric Tenor  
**E-Mail:** [chrisbusietta@bigpond.com](mailto:chrisbusietta@bigpond.com)  
**Website:** <http://www.christopherbusietta.com.au>

**Christopher Busietta**, a young lyric tenor of Maltese Australian, won the 2009 Opera German-Australian Operatic Grant, an increasingly prestigious contest considered as the gateway to an international career. To win the contest he had to sing *Le Chanson de Chaepou* from Adam; rarely performed opera *Le Postillon de Lonjumeau*, and *Il mio tesoro* from Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni*.

In front of a capacity audience, Christopher managed to beat three other finalists, being two sopranos, a baritone, for the top prize which included one-year contract with Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Germany.

Christopher completed his Bachelor of Music at the Melba Conservatorium of Music in 2006, studying with Peter Mander. Whilst at the Melba, he was the recipient of the Robert Salzer scholarship and Jean Robinson prize.

He has a passion for opera and music theatre. Since completing high school, he has performed principal roles in amateur companies around Melbourne, the highlight being nominated for a Lyrebird award in 2005 (Best supporting actor in a Musical).

Christopher made his professional singing debut in 2004 singing the tenor arias in Bach's St John's Passion with the Scots Church choir and orchestra to critical acclaim and performs regularly as a tenor soloist in concert and in oratorio.

He made his operatic debut in the role of Pedrillo for Lyrzic Opera of Melbourne's 2006 production of Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. Other professional operatic and theatrical roles include Don Ramiro in *La Cenerentola* (Rossini), Count Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville* (Rossini - OzOpera Schools Version). He has also been a member of the Melbourne chorus for several productions with Opera Australia.

He was the winner of the Waverley Aria in 2004. In 2005 he won the Australian Youth Aria, the Dandenong Festival's gold medal and was vocal champion in the Royal South Street Society Competitions. He has been a Liederfest finalist, a runner-up in the Singer of the Year Competition and a semi-finalist in the Herald-Sun aria.

## Affiliated Associations - Forthcoming Events (cont.)

### ST HELENA MALTESE / AUSTRALIAN S.C. INC

#### 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FEAST

**Friday 20 August 2010:** Mass at the Croatian Church, Fitzgerald Rd, Ardeer at 7pm, followed by refreshments and brass band performing lively marches (all free)

**Saturday 21 August 2010:** Dinner Dance at Melrose, Tullamarine  
Please note! Dinner dance is fully booked out.

**Sunday 22 August 2010:** Feast Mass at the Croatian Church at 3pm, followed by procession and fireworks.

After the fireworks we enter the hall for a huge concert with Adam Scicluna from Sydney.

Cost is only \$5 per person.

#### DIRECT FROM MALTA

**Mark Tonna & Debbie Scerri**

**Sunday 14 November 2010**

At the Croatian Hall, Ardeer

Cost is only \$20 per person

D J – Dominic --

Food & drinks can be bought at the hall.

For more information please ring :

Victor 0412 99 1325 or Mary :9370 5164

or any other committee members.

## The Maltese Diaspora

By Dr Edwin Borg-Manché

[From a paper delivered at the at the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad 2010 Valletta, Malta, 15-18 March 2010.]

### What is a Diaspora?

The term 'diaspora' is derived from the ancient Greek word *diaspeirein*, which means "to sow or scatter". In a research paper recently published, Dr Michael Fullilove, Director of the Global Issues Program at the Lowy Institute for International Policy in Sydney, Australia, reviews a range of definitions of the term as used in the literature and concludes that, "taken at its broadest, a diaspora is a self-identified cultural community which has been dispersed from, but maintains links with, its place of origin."

Dr Fullilove highlights two important elements of this definition:

"First, diasporas are **transnational**: as Samuel Huntington puts it, they 'cut across state boundaries'. ...

Second, **self-definition** is key. The existence of a diaspora requires more than a mere population of expatriates. It requires members of a community to continue to identify with their homeland, and to cultivate ties both between themselves and with the homeland."

He goes on to suggest that "diasporas should not be thought of in terms of citizenship or the number of generations since emigration, but rather in terms of *connectedness*."

The vastly improved means of communication over recent decades have facilitated the manner in which diasporas connect to their country of origin. As Fullilove observes, new means in the form of personal computers, satellite television, the internet, email, chat rooms, blogs, internet telephony such as *Skype*, video-sharing sites such as YouTube, and social networking communities such as *Facebook* and *MySpace* have replaced the traditional means of the telegraph, the print media, radio, television and international telephony. These new means have ensured instant information flows and more frequent 'virtual' interactions among members of a diaspora, who are physically distant from each other, contributing to the strengthening of diaspora communities.

British journalist John O'Sullivan observed that this kind of technological progress 'is not equal in its impact. It especially fosters cooperation among people who speak the same language and share the same cultural world... Its main international

impact... is to elevate the importance of culture and downgrade that of geographical proximity.' These new technologies are often used by expatriates to keep up-to-date with the news from home, keep their social networks current and engage in business deals long-distance. Maltese living abroad, for instance, often read Maltese media websites and watch 'vodcasts' of the latest Maltese News bulletins online every day to keep abreast with what is going on in their country of origin.

As well as connecting people living in distant lands, Fullilove observes that "new technologies are also narrowing their vision, herding like-minded individuals towards each other. Diasporas have been at the leading edge of technological adoption because of the particular challenges arising from their dispersed audiences. Ethnic newspapers, music videos and online magazines have helped diasporas to maintain their distinct identities."

### The Size of the Maltese Diaspora

Estimating the exact size of the Maltese Diaspora population spread around the world has always been a challenge. One approach to derive a credible figure for this population is based on the following simple logic:

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## Imnarja Celebrations at the Albion Cultural Centre

By Joe Zammit

The **Malta Rabat Senior Citizens** in conjunction with the **Maltese Cultural Association of Victoria** held the Imnarja celebrations at the Albion Cultural Centre on Sunday 13 June.

The produce and arts and crafts exhibition was organized by the Rabat Association in which Mr Paul Zahra excelled as usual by showing a large variety of garden products grown on

his own farm in Lara. Other people added an excellent variety of arts and handywork. There were also birds on show and, last but not least, some Maltese hunting dogs known in Malta as "klieb tal-fenek".

There were the traditional sections of 'ghana' provided by the 'ghannejja' and guitarist, who usually provide ghana at the Albion Centre every Thursday evening.

The Albion Centre Cafeteria provided typical Maltese dishes for sale, such

as, 'stuffat tal-fenek', 'ghagin fil-forn' and other dishes, so all the visitors to the exhibition enjoyed a typical imnarja lunch!

At the end of proceedings Mr Charles Vassallo, the Malta Rabat Association president, with the assistance of the master of ceremonies, Mr Manuel Brincat, presented certificates of appreciation to all those who had in some way contributed to making this year's Imnarja the success that it was.

## The Maltese Diaspora

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it would be a fair assumption to make that the proportion of second and third generation Maltese to first generation in the key host countries, namely, Australia, Canada, NZ, UK and USA, is likely to be similar.

Thus, if one were to apply the proportion of second and third generation Maltese to first generation living in Australia, as officially counted in the 2006 Census statistics, to the official census figures of Malta-born respondents in Canada, NZ, and UK and the figure for those of Maltese descent in the USA), one should be able to derive a realistic approximate figure of the total Maltese Diaspora.

The census form used in the 2006 Australian Census included an 'ancestries' question in addition to the usual 'country of birth' question. Respondents were asked to indicate up to two ancestries that they most closely identified with and to consider their ancestry as far back as two generations (i.e. parents and grand parents). According to the census results, 43,708 respondents chose Malta as their country of birth and 153,805 indicated their ancestry as 'Maltese', making a total of Maltese by birth and descent of around 200,000.

On a conservative estimate the size of the Maltese Diaspora would be at least equivalent to the size of the population of Malta (estimated at 411,452 in 2008), as in round figures there would be about 120,000 first generation and 300,000 second and third generation Maltese living overseas, making a total diaspora population of about 420,000.

### Role of Government in Diaspora Engagement

Upon reviewing the models that various countries have adopted to establish strong links and relationships with their diaspora, the common denominator that clearly emerges from all the models is the critical role that the government plays in institutionalising the diaspora engagement. Without buy-in and appropriate support from governments, any attempt at establishing an effective vehicle to establish and maintain robust links is destined to fail.

Governments that are seriously committed to effective diaspora engagement have elevated its status and importance by establishing diaspora portfolio responsibilities at Ministry or sub-Ministry level or by creating a statutory organisation through an Act

of Parliament.

### Institutionalising the Maltese Diaspora Engagement

On several occasions Malta Government leaders have rightly acknowledged the importance of establishing strong ties with the Maltese communities overseas. As the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon Dr Tonio Borg, states on the 2010 Convention website's welcome page: "Your presence as communities living outside our shores, can be a great opportunity to exploit and enhance links so crucial to consolidating, not only the relationship between us, but also between one State and another."

Opening the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad held in Malta last March, the Minister of Foreign Affairs announced "the establishment of an institution, agency Council—the name is not important—on which will be represented Maltese living in Malta as well as those living abroad and which on a regular basis will monitor progress of plans and initiatives in favour of the Maltese Diaspora".

## DISCOVERY TOUR OF MALTA AND VIENNA – 2010

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria is organising the 5<sup>th</sup> Discovery Tour of Malta and this year the European city being explored will be Vienna.

This is a unique experience for people of all ages to participate in a comprehensive historic tour of Malta accompanied by a guide and tour leader in Malta and Austria.

The MCCV organises these yearly tours to the opportunity to those older Maltese Australian who would like to visit Malta and Europe but are not so comfortable doing the long journey on their own. It is also a great way for the younger generation to learn and discover more about their Maltese identity.

Each person who has joined one of these tours has been pleasantly surprised at what is on offer and what can be learnt, enjoyed and discovered. One person said we left Melbourne as strangers and came back as a family. Friendships have been forged and loved ones have been traced.

In Malta accommodation is in a centrally located hotel in Sliema and breakfast is provided daily. Excursions to various sites on Malta and Gozo, both touristic and off the beaten track, depart from the hotel. Some excursions include lunch, a final dinner is also included. Weekends are free to discover Malta on your own or to catch up with family. There is also the opportunity to at-

tend performances at the Manoel Theatre if desired.

The cost includes the flight from Malta to Vienna, accommodation and daily breakfast in a centrally located hotel in the beautiful city of Vienna. Excursions to places of interest including a day in Salzburg form part of the tour.

The Discovery Tour to Malta and Vienna departs on 20 November and returns on 14 December in time to celebrate Christmas with your family in Australia. The tour is open to everyone and from any State in Australia.

**For further information please contact Carmen Mamo at the Maltese Centre on 93878922 or Edwina Mallia by email to [edwinamallia@optusnet.com.au](mailto:edwinamallia@optusnet.com.au)**



## OBITUARY

# Fr Stanley Tomlin, MSSP

On May 4, Fr Stanley Tomlin died at St Agatha's Motherhouse, Rabat, aged 83 years.

Fr Stanley was born at Floriana on October 17, 1926 and was given the name of Joseph at his baptism. He joined the Missionary Society of St Paul on July 3, 1936. He started his novitiate in 1944 and was ordained priest on December 22, 1951.

Fr Stanley was soon given the responsibility of the formation of novices and students of the Society.

For several years, he was the right hand of the first Superior General of the Society, Fr Michael Callus. The part he played in the building of St Agatha's Motherhouse in Rabat was very significant.

Fr Stanley was elected Superior General of the Missionary Society of St Paul in 1979, an office he held for 12 years.

During this period he worked extremely hard to promote vocations within the Society and contributed immensely to help spread the missionary work of the Society abroad.

In 1973, Fr Stanley was instrumental in obtaining the *Decretum Laudis*, whereby the MSSP become a pontifical institution.

When, in 1982, his term as Superior General came to an end, he was appointed director of St Joseph's Home, Santa Venera, an office he kept until 1988, when, for the second time, he was appointed Master of Novices and Superior of Stella Maris Home in Zebbug, Gozo.

Eventually, in 2001, he was appointed Superior of St Agatha's Motherhouse in Rabat, an office he occupied until the year 2008.

Fr Stanley was a learned and dedicated priest of great vision. During his tenure as Superior General he gave the go-ahead for the establishment of the Maltese community centre on the premises of the Missionary Society of ST Paul at Parkville, Victoria, Australia, which is the hub of Maltese community welfare and social activities in the state of Victoria.

**Victor Borg**

President, Maltese Community Council of Victoria



Missier Etern  
nitolbuk tilqa' fi h'danek  
lir-ruh ghażiża  
ta'

**Fr. Stanley Tomlin**

ex-Superjur Ġenerali  
tas-Socjetà Missjunarja  
ta' San Pawl,  
li miet  
fl-4 ta' Mejju, 2010  
fl-età ta' 83 sena.

Qatt minsi minn  
huh Harry u martu Barbara,  
hutu Celia Salisbury  
u Frizia Schembri,  
Lina armla ta' huh Edward,  
u l-familji tagħhom,  
kif ukoll mill-membri  
tas-Socjetà Missjunarja  
ta' San Pawl,  
bosta qraha u hbieb.