

RECEPTION CENTRE SJA FOUNDATION

SJA FOUNDATION
Reception Centre
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Monthly Newsletter – Issue No. 2 August 2007

ST. JEANNE ANTIDE, THE APOSTOLIC WOMAN



“The Sister of Charity is ready to go to the ends of the earth. When God calls and we answer Him, He gives us all that we need.” (Letters and Documents, SJA, Letter 2/28/1813). Witnesses called and sent on mission is the underpinning of the apostolic nature of Church (New Catechism of the Catholic Church, 857) and the life of St. Jeanne Antide. Hers was a story of an apostle par excellence. It had all of the apostolic dimensions that created a life lived for others, spurred on by a love of Jesus Christ in service of the poor and his Church. Her life was the unfolding of the journey of a true messenger of Jesus.

The premise on which the apostolic foundation of the Church is built is a deep personal relationship with Jesus Christ who was sent by the Father for the salvation of the world. In the writings and story of Jeanne Antide her knowledge of Jesus is continually evident. Jesus was the axis around which her life and ministry turned. It is easy to find proof of her love for Jesus and her tireless dedication to serving him through the poor. Jeanne Antide wrote, “To teach the poor to know, love and serve God is to do in part what the Savior of the world came to do on earth; it is to work to bring about the Kingdom of God. (Letters and Documents, SJA-P.D., p 151).

The events and actions of her life are a road map of a person **guided by the Spirit of God** in service of him. Reading her biography one is immediately struck by the searching Jeanne Antide went through. Her willingness to listen to the advise of others, to be sent in service of the poor was evident in the decisions she made as she remained faithful to her quest. Her openness to the situation at hand gave clarity to the ways in which her apostolic life evolved. Even though she was a fiercely independent woman, Jeanne Antide sought guidance in discerning where and to what God was calling her. The most obvious were the many instances in which Church or government authorities called upon her to address the specific needs of the poor. Her willingness to recognize the hand of God in these requests shaped and gave direction to the mission of the original sisters.

There are countless examples of the apostolic life of Jeanne Antide. Four highlights from her life serve as powerful examples. As her life unfolded and her understanding of her call to serve “God Alone” developed Jeanne Antide left the security of her home in Sancey, France to join the Daughters of Charity. Circumstances of the French Revolution forced her to return home to Sancey for a time. The drive to be faithful to her calling to love and serve Jesus Christ took Switzerland and Germany in the company Father Antoine Receveur and a religious group called the Solitaires. Jeanne Antide confided to her niece, Rosalie that she was seeking God’s will of that moment. The desire “to be sent” kept her in Sancey for a year and then set her on the road with Father Receveur. It was in that company that she for a time had pledged her life to the love of Jesus in the sick in the traveling hospital she was in charge of. (Rey-Mermet p. 106)

The ministry of Jeanne Antide and her early followers was often **in response to the needs of the poor** as Church authorities identified them. The prefect of Besancon, deeply trouble by the deplorable situation in the prison of Bellevaux sent Jeanne Antide and her sisters with the task of establishing some order there. Through the example and dedication of the sisters, a remarkable transformation took place. Herein lies yet another example of how she has answered the call to bring the gospel message of hope to the poor. It was in that same apostolic spirit that she sustained the call she received throughout her life.

Jeanne Antide's longing to go to the ends of the earth if necessary, to offer **her life in the service of Jesus Christ**, his Church and the poor spurred her on to respond to the call of Madame Letizia, Napoleon Bonaparte's mother to serve the poor in Naples, Italy. While the community she had founded continued to flourish in France, she like the apostles before her went out to bring the message of Jesus, to teach and to heal the poor in southern Italy.

*The details of the events in the life of this remarkable woman are recounted in her biographies. Another valuable source for more information are The Letters and Documents that contain her writings, the *Memoirs of Pure Truth*, *Sr. Rosalie's manuscript* (biography by her niece and secretary) and other correspondence. These resources shed further light on the events that serve as examples of the apostolic dimension of the life of Jeanne Antide.*

More than two hundred years later the Sisters of Charity of St. Jeanne Antide continue to serve in the apostolic spirit of Jeanne Antide. Hers is a story that transcends time and place. It touches our current days through the presence of a band of women who have followed her example and continue to carry on her mission of apostolic service to the poor. The Rule of Life of the Sisters of Charity of St. Jeanne Antide opens with the statement, "To love Christ Jesus, to love and serve the poor who are His members, to show them the love of the Father, this is the charisma and mission which St. Vincent de Paul and St. Jeanne Antide received from God." (RoL 1.1.1) The Sisters of Charity of St. Jeanne Antide Thouret today are present on four continents and in 27 countries throughout the world. They continue to be called and sent by the Church to serve the poor in today's world.

For Further Information — References can be obtained through the Sisters of Charity of St. Jeanne Antide

RoL—Rule of Life: Constitutions of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joan Antida.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2nd Ed. Washington, D.C., United States Catholic Conference, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1997.
Lubich, Gino, and Piero Lazzarin. Joan Antida Thouret: When God Hears the Voice of the Poor, English Edition. New York, New City Press, 1985.

Rey-Mermet, Théodule. Saint Jeanne-Antide Thouret: 'We have heard the cry of the poor'. London, New City, Cromwell Press, 1998.

Sisters of Charity of St. Jeanne Antide. Letters and Documents: St. Jeanne-Antides Thouret-Foundress of the Sisters of Charity, 1765-1826 (English Edition), London, Burleigh Press, 1977.

Sisters of Charity of St. Jeanne Antide. A Life of Love: St. Jeanne Antide Thouret-Outlines of a Meeting. Rome, Edizioni Piemme Spa, 1994.

Trochu, Francis. Saint Jeanne Antide Thouret (1765-1826: Foundress of the Sisters of Charity. English translation, John Joyce, S.J. London, Sands & Co. (Publishers) LTD., 1966



Sr. Jennifer

Sr. Jennifer is an American Sister of Charity. She has served her province as a Provincial Superior for the last ten years. She finished her mandate last May.



NEWS UPDATE AUGUST 2007

Teams of the Reception Centre Projects

Adult Education & Community Team Work:

- ✚ The group met to discuss its strategy and approach. Given that two of the three members indicated availability after July 2007, work could not start in earnest.

So far, the group has organised a Course on Self-Esteem for clients of the social worker.

- ✚ A meeting was recently held with a representative of the Employment Services Division of the ETC. The aim of the meeting was to determine how the St Jeanne Antide Foundation and the ETC could collaborate on the provision of training to vulnerable groups and those inactive from the labour market.

During the meeting, it was agreed that since the ETC itself already offers a wide range of training opportunities to those registering for work, the St Jeanne Antide Foundation would identify clients who are inactive and not registering for work and those who wish to improve their job prospects through upskilling training opportunities. St Jeanne Antide Foundation can identify groups of 5 to 10 persons to participate in Job Clubs that run for 13 weeks. These could be held at the Centre with an ETC remunerated experienced Job Club Leader.



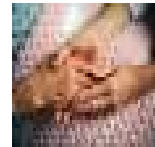
The Centre could tap into a number of ETC schemes, some of which will become operational next October. Once these schemes become operational, the Centre could engage scheme members remunerated by ETC for 20 weeks (20 hours a week) to undertake outreach work, research, maintenance work, data-imputing, interviewing, and other tasks that would enable the Centre to become more visible in the community.

Of course, for this to happen, we would require a highly efficient and competent mentor and supervisor.

Nora

Social Work Team:

- On Wednesday 1st August, Sr. Rose was invited by Appoġġ to a case conference at Mt. Carmel Hospital re services to be offered to a family who lives at Paola. They have involved our organization because it is a case in our area. This is an opportunity to work jointly with other organizations and also to make known our services in the community.
- On the 28th of June, Sr. Rose attended a one day seminar at SVDP on the subject of abused elderly. The subject was timely and pertinent because we have come across this problem in our area. During the seminar, this abuse was described as 'the silent crime' and the 'unspoken problem'. Seminars like these are a great asset and a source of ongoing formation to us all.



- There were no meetings of the social work group but supervision sessions between Sr. Rose and Andreana continued more or less once a week, excluding some days taken for holidays.

Sr. Rose

Friendship Services Team:

Since the majority of the Sisters were and possibly still are on their summer break, it was suggested that during the period mid-July up to the end of August, no meetings or visits be held. A meeting is however to be scheduled towards end of August/beginning of September, which hopefully will serve to initiate the proper functioning of this Team.

Caroline



Administrator Reception Centre:

1. **Reception Centre Opening Hours** - During the month of August the Reception Centre was open on a regular basis for 2 hours in the morning and a further 2 hours in the afternoon every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for any person who felt the need for the services offered by the Centre's Social Workers. Once the word spreads around that the Centre is open for the public on a routine basis and at fixed hours, one hopes that in the near future those members of the public who feel they need to discuss their personal or family problems with someone, will be encouraged to just walk in and have their details taken for subsequent appointments with the Centre's Social workers.
2. **Training Course for the Centre's Staff** - During a meeting of the Foundation's Steering Committee on 20/07/07, the possibility was discussed and agreement reached on organising a basic training course aimed mainly at our members performing duties at the Centre's Reception Desk. This training course is to be organised with the assistance of Dr. Adrian Gellel from the Pastoral Training Programme of the Curia. Following a meeting between Sister Rose, Paul Barbara, Dr. Adrian Gellel and Mrs. Adreana Gellel on 6th August, a training programme on the lines indicated below was drawn up.

The course will be made up of four sessions, each of about 2 hours, to be spread over four weeks, that is, with one session per week over four consecutive weeks and it is proposed that the training sessions will take place between 17th September and 12th October 2007. Each session will commence late in the afternoon.

COURSE TRAINING TOPICS

Session I Personal Formation – vocation, evangelisation, Christian love and service.

Session II Knowledge and Attitudes – Charisma of the Order of the Sisters of Charity, scope of the Foundation, Services offered by other Church Institutes and NGO's. Commitment, care, non-paternalistic attitude, boundaries.

Session III Skills (1) – Welcoming attitude, referrals, basic computer skills, filling of forms.

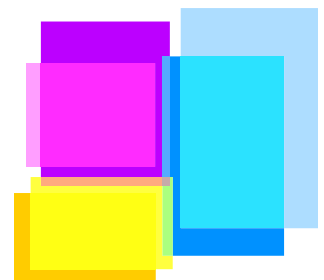
Session IV Skills (2) - Phone answering skills, inter-personal skills, dealing with emergencies.

A meeting for those interested in attending the above training sessions is being held on Tuesday 4th September at SJA Centre at 6.00 pm. The actual dates and time for each session will be decided following suggestions made at this meeting.

3. **Trace 99 Publication up-date** - The task of amending with the latest information the publication Trace 99 was undertaken by the Reception Staff. Up-dating is proceeding at a fairly good pace and hopefully most of the task will be complete by mid-September. Having such a publication with the latest information on the entities included could hardly be emphasised enough. This publication will be made available for accession in electronic format by Reception Staff as a reference index whenever they need to check for information on services offered by Church, Government or other non-Government organisations. The up-dated information on each entity will include addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and, where available, names of contact persons, as well as a short description of services offered by that particular entity.

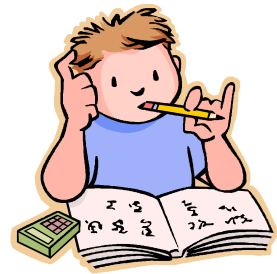
The availability of an up-dated version will prevent stale information, like old telephone numbers, or names of contact persons no longer with the relative entity from being given to members of the public. It will also enable staff to avoid unnecessary phone calls and loss of time in trying to contact entities with changed telephone lines or persons no longer involved with these entities.

Paul Barbara



Homework Services Team:

1. A pattern has been set and is being followed. Each session starts with a meeting of the volunteers, absences (if any) are noted and new adjustments made in order to be able to care for the children present.
2. Issues (if any) that crop up are, discussed and dealt with.
3. We have now a Tuesday session, (Rita) cannot keep Friday's so she has a session on Tuesday, Richard and Claire also come up on Tuesdays and again on Friday.
4. On the 25th. The volunteers, helped by the sisters had a special celebration session, they celebrate St. Jeanne Antide, by the feed back that I got (I did not attend the session) it was a success, both mothers and children enjoyed the programme, which without doubt was well prepared and presented with love. A child last Friday pointed Jeanne Antide's picture to me and proudly told me that he knows who she is.
5. One of the volunteers, Mary has dropped out we hope to find new comers.
6. The M.U.T. idea had to be shelved, but it will be taken up in the near future.
7. Thanks to Nora, a letter was penned (copy in H.C. Files) asking for any donations, that can be useful to us as a H.W. club. So far no replies.
8. Some more text books and reading books have come our way, thanks go to Sr. Teresa (Gudja) and Sister Geswina and Mary Rose, members of the St. Jeanne Antide group of friends.
9. Some furniture was donated as well, once again thanks to people who prompt others to make donations.
10. Finally on a personal note, I would like to apologize for not being able to attend this meeting. Also my family and I would like to say a big word of thanks, to all my friends on the steering committee, for their support, thoughts and prayers, in our hour of need. May God bless you all, we are forever grateful to all of you.

**Refreshments Group:**

The refreshment group did not meet.

Sr. Rose

SJA FOUNDATION CORNER

Fundraising Group

Dan il-grupp iltaqa' darbtejn s'issa u ġew diskussi diversi idejat sabiex jingabru fondi għall-Fondazzjoni St Jeanne Antide.

Fost il-ħafna idejat li ttelgħu, f'dan l-istadju qegħdin naħdmu fuq dawn li ġejjien:

1. **Pasta Night** – din tista' tiġi organnizzata minn żmien għal żmien u tkun ħaġa sabiħa li matul is-sena nagħmlu diversi re-unions ma' l-ex-studenti ta' snin differenti
2. **Serata għall-Familja** – din tista' tkun waħda mill-attivitajiet anwali fejn f'serata bħal din ikun hemm diversi talenti kemm lokali kif ukoll minn studenti – din l-attività tkun miftuħa għall-pubbliku u tingħata publicita' fuq slots televizzivi etc.
3. **Mugs** – hemm il-ħsieb li nordnaw dawn il-mugs fejn fuqhom ikollhom il-logo ta' St Jeanne Antide flimkien ma xi 'saying' ta' l-istess fondatrici – dawn jistgħu jinxtraw mill-pubbliku ġenerali u l-fondi kollha dejjem imorru għall-Fondazzjoni.

Hemm bosta proposti oħra li għad iridu jiġu diskussi sabiex naraw kif jistgħu jiġu mwettqa fil-ġejjieni qarib u fost dawn hemm is-Sostenituri.

Inħeggu lil voluntiera sabiex meta tkun ser tittella' xi attività jattendu għaliha. Din tkun okkażżjoni li fiha niltaqgħu biex nieħdu gost, nsiru nafu lil xulxin, ngħinu lil xulxin u fl-istess ħin niġbru fondi b'risq is-servizzi tal-Fondazzjoni St Jeanne Antide.

Ms Anna Micallef

NEW MEMBERS – SJA FOUNDATION

W
e
l
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o
m
e

Secretarial / Reception Group

Sr. Teresa M. Piscopo

&

Sr. Letizia Coreschi

Fundraising Group

Maria Magro, Anna Micallef
Sr. Doris McKay, Mary Magri

&

Vivienne Abela

Steering Committee Meeting

The provincial Council formed the Steering Committee in order to restructure The St. Jeanne Antide Welfare Campaign which was founded by Sr. Laura Tanti.

Dear Readers Best wishes for the Feast of Our Lady of Victories and for the Feast of St. Vincent Depaule, from me and from all Sisters of Charity.

Sr. Salvina



24th August 1826
death of
St. Jeanne Antide
in Naples



27th September
Feast of
St. Vincent De Paule

Quotes:

Interior silence is one of the most strengthening and affirming of human experiences. There is nothing more affirming, in fact, than the experience of God's presence. That revelation says as nothing else can, "You are a good person. I created you and I love you."

Fr Thomas Keating, ocsso. Open Mind Open Heart p. 66

The interior experience of God's presence activates our capacity to perceive Him in everything else - in people, in events, in nature.

Fr Thomas Keating, ocsso. Open Mind Open Heart p. 44

**EUCHARIST**

Digital art by tony macelli

SJA Foundation Reception Centre

Reception Centre Administrator: Paul Barbara
Reception Desk tel: 2767 2367
email

paul.j@maltanet.net

sjafoundation@onvol.net

• **Adult Education and Community Work Team**
Current contact: Nora Macelli

nora.macelli@gov.mt

• **Friendship Services Team**
Co-ordinator: Caroline Cortis

carol.cortis@global.net.mt

• **Social Work Team**
Co-ordinator; Sr. Rose Rizzo

sisterrosetk@yahoo.com

• **Homework Services Team**
Co-ordinator: Jessie Spiteri

marjespi@gmail.com

• **Reception and Secretarial Team**
Co-ordinators: Paul Barbara
Melanie Ferò
Information Officer: Joanne Ebejer

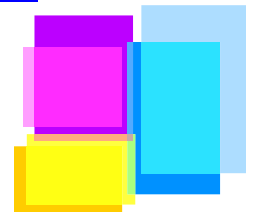
paul.j@maltanet.net
amfero@maltanet.net
joannee@maltanet.net

• **Refreshments Group**
Contact: Sr. Rose Rizzo

sisterrosetk@yahoo.com

Other SJA Foundation Teams and Steering Committee

- **Fundraising Team**
- **S.O.C. Steering committee for SJA Foundation**



Procedure for New Volunteers:

Do you know somebody who's interested?

Then you're the *Introducer!* If you come across somebody who wants to be a Worker (volunteer) or Sostenuitor or Associate of the St Jeanne Antide Foundation (including of course its Reception Centre project that encompasses most of the current groups) you need to know the current procedure for new members of the Foundation.

Your general role when you recruit: As an *introducer*, please give information and friendly encouragement to the potential new member. If the new person is already very interested in a particular group or kind of work, you may encourage them, but otherwise please don't influence recruits too much towards a particular Team. The Foundation has its own needs, so while a person is still flexible about which group to join, Foundation priorities can be made to fit with that person's potential.

1. The *introducer*, i.e. anybody who knows of a potential new volunteer, please phone or email one of the following *recruitment contact persons*: Sr Rose, Sr Salvina, Paul Barbara, to let them know of the new person's name and contact numbers,
2. Also please ask the new person to contact the same contact person.
3. New volunteer fills Participation Form & Interests Form,
4. The *recruitment contact person* sends electronic copies of the forms (which can be scanned as images) to Joanne, copied also to Tony Macelli and Sr Salvina
5. Paper forms will eventually be filed securely at the Reception Centre in the SJAF admin records with Paul Barbara
6. Joanne Ebejer will send the informative Welcome Pack to the new volunteer
7. Joanne will inform the Newsletter of any new persons being added to her database records.
8. What happens will vary depending on the new volunteer's needs and potentials and any expressed preferences in the Forms filled. There may in future be an interview.

Anger

If we take Saint Paul literally,
we are not allowed to cling to our
anger even for a day. [Eph 4:26]



I would like to make a comment

however, that many people are so embittered and furious when they are in a state of anger that they not only cling to their anger for a day but drag it out for weeks.

I am at a loss for words to explain those who [...] erect a barrier of sullen silence around them and distil the bitter poison of their hearts until it finally destroys them.

They could not have understood how important it is to avoid anger, not merely externally, but even in our thoughts, because it darkens our intellect with bitterness and cuts it off from the radiance of spiritual understanding and discernment by depriving it of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Fr John Cassian

360-c.430 AD

Founder of a monastery at Marseilles

Manifest

Watercolour and Digital art by Tony Macelli

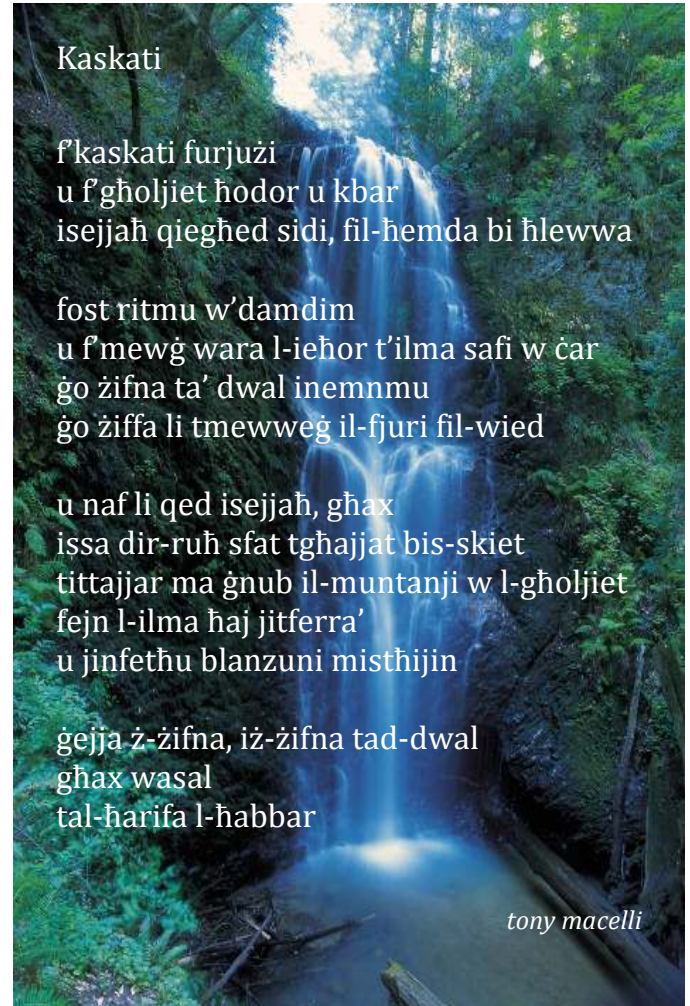


LOGO COMPETITION – closing date extended

A logo is needed for the Reception Centre and for the Foundation, and for the corresponding letterheads.

I am announcing a contest for the best logo submitted for the SJA Foundation and another logo for the Reception Centre of the SJA Foundation. There is no prize, unless some nice person donates something to be used as a prize.

- **Dates:** The contest starts from the 22nd July 2007, and closes in two months from now, on **30th September**. Winners and runners up will be announced in the newsletter.
- **Format Guidelines:** use colour, but make sure that the logo would still look good if it has to be photocopied or printed in black-gray-white. Please send an electronic file, JPG type, not larger than 300 KB, or paint the logo on paper and scan it, sending us the file. Use a virus checker before sending any file
- **Eligibility** – all are eligible; except that Contest entrants may not take part in the judging committee.”
- **Copyright** – You must submit only your own work. If you take a logo from another source, you'll get us into copyright trouble
- A judging committee for the competition will be created by a member of the Steering Committee.
- Address your email with 1 or 2 or more logos as JPG attachments, to the email address of the Reception Centre: sjafoundation@onvol.net. Please indicate which logo is for the Centre and which is for the parent SJA Foundation. No single message should exceed 300K. Please ensure you have a good virus checker on your computer that checks your outgoing emails. Submissions by snail mail may be made on paper & posted to:- LOGO COMPETITION, St Jeanne Antide Foundation, 51, Tarxien Road, Tarxien PLA04

**Kaskati**

f'kaskati furjużi
u f'għoljiet ħodor u kbar
isejjaħ qiegħed sidi, fil-hemda bi hlewwa

fost ritmu w'damdim
u f'mewg wara l-ieħor t'ilma safi w'ċar
go żifna ta' dwal inemmu
go żiffa li tmewweg il-fjuri fil-wied

u naf li qed isejjaħ, għax
issa dir-ruħ sfat tghajjat bis-skiet
tittajjar ma għnub il-muntanji w l-għoljiet
fejn l-ilma ħaj jiferra'
u jinfethu blanzuni misthijin

gejja ż-żifna, iż-żifna tad-dwal
għax wasal
tal-harifa l-habbar

tony macelli

Reception Centre Opening Hours

The current opening timetable applies from now until 30th September 2007:

| | | |
|------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Monday: | 9:30am to 11:30am | 5:00pm to 7:00pm |
| Tuesday: | 9:30am to 11:30am | 5:00pm to 7:00pm |
| Wednesday: | 9:30am to 11:30am | 5:00pm to 7:00pm |

NOTICE BOARD

Meeting re Training Course – Tuesday, 4th September @ 6:00pm @ Tarxien
14th Steering Committee Meeting – 10th September @ 6:00pm @ Tarxien
Fundraising Committee Meeting - 18th September 2007 @ 6:00pm @ Tarxien

**Correspondence Address**

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