

Knightly News

Marian Council 9522

Serving St. Joseph Parish

Manchester, MO

March 2011



The *Knightly News* for a designated month is published in the last week of the preceding month. Articles and event information must be received no later than the 22nd of the preceding month. Please send all materials via e-mail to Gerry Wilkes at: mailto:glwilkes1@sbcglobal.net

Marian Council 9522

Monthly Planning Meetings:

generally scheduled on the 4th Thursday of each month in the Emmaus House at 7:00 p.m.

Monthly Council Meetings:

second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are currently held at the Emmaus House and are preceded by a Rosary at 6:20 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS



- **4th Degree** **Mar. 5**
- **Ash Wednesday** **Mar. 9**
- **Business Mtg.** **Mar.10**
- **Planning Mtg.** **Mar.24**



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



- ❖ Craig Basler
- ❖ Bill Besch
- ❖ Jim Boever
- ❖ Stephen Buss
- ❖ Phil Desloge
- ❖ Art DeVillar
- ❖ Bill Geiler
- ❖ Greg Hoffman
- ❖ James Kelp
- ❖ Paul Listenberger
- ❖ Joseph O'Daniel
- ❖ Harold Sharpmack
- ❖ Ray Shaw
- ❖ Jim Wall
- ❖ Jeff Wissman

Congratulations to the following Brothers who took their 2nd & 3rd degree at Incarnate Word on 20 February:

Jack Burke
John Kaestner
Brian Kriegsies

2011 Degree Dates

FIRST DEGREE INITIATIONS

- March 1 St. Alban Roe 7:00 p.m.
- April 6 St. Clare 7:00 p.m.
- May 17 Christ Pr. Peace 7:30 p.m.

Note: There are no additional 2nd/3rd degree initiations scheduled in the St. Louis area through June. For other locations, consult the Knights of Columbus state [website](#) -- or contact [Larry Moore](#).

Council Activities

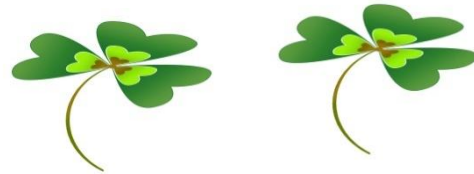


Soup Kitchen

Jim Schuessler reports that on the January 31 visit to the Soup Kitchen only he and Larry Moore braved the ominous weather forecast and helped to serve 44 guests. In addition they delivered all the leftovers from the Boy Scout Spaghetti Supper as well as the monthly donation of canned staples from the Ladies Auxiliary. On February 14, Phil Desloge, John Kaestner, and Jim Schuessler along with six St. Joseph eighth grade students and two of their moms served a

Bill Lukas sends word that the February Valentine Party was "... another event concluded in great style. Lots of red stuff present in clothes, hearts and several roses... We had 229 guests and I think a new record of 49 volunteers (Tom Brown says the number should be 50 volunteers because he forgot to sign in). Thanks again for all you do to make these parties so special."

Felice Cuores



Golf Tournament

Dave Shaw reports that the Golf Tournament will take place on June 17 at Crescent Farms. This year's event will be a joint venture with the Holy Infant Council #10794. The goal is one hundred participants.



ROSARY

Mike Bick reports that the Rosary prior to the Feb. 10 meeting was once again well attended. The Knights prayed both for our Brothers in need and for departed Brothers Villaire and Viazanko who were both such exemplary sources of energy and leadership



Handi-Helpers

Jim Schuessler fixed a front door threshold and repaired a gas stove oven in support of a St. Vincent de Paul client in need. Thanks to Jim and to his occasional helpers for outstanding service to the community.

Trivia Night



Trivia Night



■ PHOTOS BY LARRY MOORE

Kudos to Joe and Stephanie Caratenuto for once again organizing an extremely successful and entertaining Trivia Night! Persuading Joe Holleman, the “Life Sherpa” columnist of the Post-Dispatch and trivia enthusiast, to serve as the Master of Ceremonies proved to be a brilliant piece of recruiting: his skill and wit added a new dimension to the event. Thanks to all who helped make the evening memorable.

Service Opportunities

**“...here on earth God’s work
must truly be our own.”**

John F. Kennedy Inaugural Address

Felice Cuores

Gary Smith

Phone: (636) 256-6786

Soup Kitchen and Handy Helpers

Jim Schuessler

Phone: (636) 527-1934

St. Joseph’s Dinner

Paul Listenberger

Phone (636) 527-3887

Golf Tournament

Dave Shaw Phone: (636) 386-8613

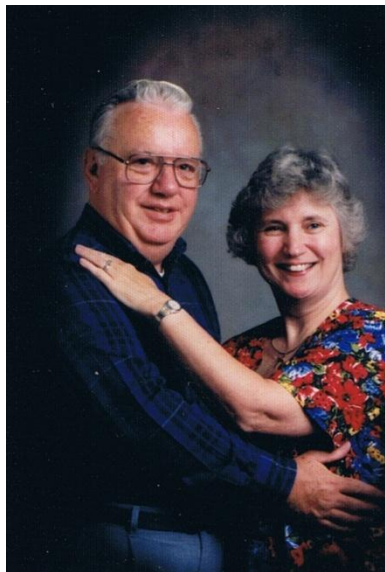
For a complete list of contact information for officers and committee chairmen, click [here](#).

THE GIFT

PART TWO

Opening the Present – A Perfect Gift

The story of Marian Council's affiliation with the Gift of Mary Center begins with the efforts of Bill Lynn; and no one knows his part of the story as well as Barbara Lynn who alone knew all of those who were part of Bill's story: Knights, Ladies, nuns, as well as the thousands of needy and homeless whose lives they touched. We are forever in her debt for sharing some of her memories with us.



In the beginning, Bill went by himself to the Soup Kitchen (or I would tag along). Over the years though a group of dedicated Knights from Marian Council joined him as volunteers. Here are some of the names of men who spent many hours going to the Soup Kitchen: Ken Bushmann, Tony Centunzi, Bob Funk, Dave Tschannen, Walt Viazanko, Bob Villaire, Bill Hardin, and Roy Schlumpberger. (*Bob Funk adds the name of Don Reitmeyer*). [Many others came when they were able]. Bill sent out postcards every month as reminders.

Tom Brown occasionally went down to help on Sundays. From the Ladies Auxiliary, Pat Viazanko and Gerry Villaire often volunteered at the Soup Kitchen. Also Andy Villaire. I [went with the Knights] for years...and still shop for Christmas, Easter, and the kids' summer camp with money donated by the Ladies Auxiliary. The Ladies Auxiliary (working for the Knights) received many "thank-you" notes from the Soup Kitchen. These were put into our yearly albums.

THE GIFT

When the nuns [still] collected clothes for the people of the [northside] community, Bill took it upon himself to be the drop-off point for the Knights and Ladies –and anyone we knew—[who wished to donate clothing]. We went through the donations every month and discarded those items we would not wear ourselves. The nuns stopped giving out clothes years ago.

Even in the early years, the Ladies Auxiliary was dedicated to helping Bill get food for the Soup Kitchen by donating money from its fund raisers. Every year, the Ladies voted to help the Missionaries of Charity for the [special] Christmas and Easter programs and for the children’s summer camp. God bless them all, they never turned down a request.

Whenever the Ladies Auxiliary gave Bill money for the Soup Kitchen, Gary Smith would take Bill in his truck to Sams, and then they took the food to the Soup Kitchen.

Bill was not one who liked to be in the spot light or take credit for the things he did, but he was very faithful to Mother Teresa and to the Missionaries of Charity. He [persuaded the folks] at Rombach’s Farm to donate their leftover vegetables to the Soup Kitchen. He even found someone with a truck who volunteered to pick up the produce.

Along with his fellow “Soup Knights,” he was able to get all of the left over food from every St. Joseph Parish function.

Bill was instrumental in getting Confirmation classes at St. Joseph’s to go to the Soup Kitchen for service credits. The teachers contacted him and he put them in touch with ... the Missionaries of Charity Convent. [The 8th Grade Service Project at the Soup Kitchen has become a tradition], and I’m sure people don’t know it started with Bill.

Barbara Lynn recalls that the nuns came to rely heavily on Bill and were not reluctant to ask for the Lynn family’s assistance in a variety of projects.

One day Sister called Bill and wanted to know if he could come up with a craft that the kids could work on at the Soup Kitchen. She wanted it to be made out of wood and of course she had old doors that she thought he could use. He told her he would get the wood. He was still working part time at the Hardware Store so was able to get the wood cheaper. He got the wood to make cutting boards for the mothers and toolboxes for the fathers. He cut the pieces of wood, sanded them and put them into kits with instructions. The kids enjoyed making them and Sister was happy.

Some of the nuns’ requests tested the normal boundaries of resourcefulness:

Sister called three days before Christmas and wanted corn muffins to feed 150-200 people on Christmas morning. [She wanted them] to be delivered on Christmas morning at 9:00 a.m. – **delivered warm!** All the Ladies baked the corn muffins and dropped them off at our house; they were delivered on time Christmas morning.

THE GIFT

The nuns had several chalices that were old and beat up. [In spite of their disrepair, priests who came to celebrate Mass for the nuns at the convent still used them]... The nuns wanted to know if Bill had any way to repair or replace them. At the time Bill was an officer in the Fourth Degree Assembly. He got in touch with the gentleman (I think his name is Bill Chrenka.) who was in charge of purchasing chalices for churches in memory of deceased [Fourth Degree] Knights. He got in touch with the Company that supplied the chalices. They suggested that Bill send the chalices to them and they would make a decision on what could be done. Bill sent them off and got an estimate on repairing the chalices. The Knights of Marian Council agreed to cover the cost. The chalices were replated and the engraving [was actually restored] in the process. They did a beautiful job and the sisters were very pleased.

The nuns had old sewing machines that they needed repaired. They gave Bill that job, too. When Bill told the repair man [that the machines were for Mother Teresa's nuns], he made sure he rigged up something – the machines were old [and replacement parts were impossible to find]. Of course they were repaired at a reasonable price.

The Knights did many things for the Missionaries of Charity other than preparing or serving food. They replaced folding chairs with monetary help from the [council] and from the Ladies Auxiliary. We...brought down plastic rosary beads for the nuns to take to the prisons. There was the mowing of the grass, weeding gardens, repairing statues, re-laminating tables, painting, and a variety of minor repairs...Walt Viazanko brought his tool box with him on every trip to the Soup Kitchen...just in case.

Bill appreciated every Knight and Ladies Auxiliary member who did anything for the Soup Kitchen... and always thanked in his prayers those who could help.

There are so many great stories which Barbara and the “Soup Knights” treasure from their years at the Gift of Mary Center. A favorite shared by Bob Funk and Barbara is that of the barely 4-foot nun chasing a misbehaving 6-foot (plus) guest out of the dining hall.

Another favorite involves the grey November morning when, during the meal, there was a total power failure. Incredibly, despite very limited visibility (There are only a few small windows at one end of the dining area.), no one missed a beat. Those eating continued eating, servers kept on serving, the cafeteria line kept moving. It was almost like a well-choreographed dance wherein everyone knew his part so well that he could perform in the dark. No one even acted surprised.

Bill loved working with the nuns. There were so many stories: one involved a nun from India whose brother was very wealthy. He couldn't deal with being around the poor but donated tons of food to feed them.

THE GIFT

We would often try to guess what sister was going to put into the cooking pots to make the [available food stretch]. On one occasion, they had only one pan of stuffing to add to the meal to feed all the people. Guess what – every guest got some. Sister said we made like “the fishes and the loaves.”

[One day the nuns] had no food to give to the people until our Knights [arrived] with left-over food [from a parish function]. Sister said she knew God would provide.



“...he was very faithful to Mother Teresa and to the Missionaries of Charity...”

Bill went to the Soup Kitchen faithfully from 1989 until his death in 2003. Before February 2003, he missed going maybe once – when he had surgery on his arm for malignant melanoma. He still went to the Soup Kitchen although he wasn’t much help with one arm – but he had made a commitment.

Even between his quadruple bypass in February 2003 and his diagnosis of colon cancer in August – and surgery in September 2003 – he made it to the Soup Kitchen until his death in November 2003.

Some of the Missionaries of Charity attended Bill’s Funeral Mass. Many donations were made to the Gift of Mary Center in Bill’s name.

■ Barbara Lynn

In the next issue, the final installment of

THE GIFT

Part Three

“ONE SIZE FITS ALL”

A KNIGHT OF NOTE



Each day at the Soup Kitchen, after the preparation of the meal is almost complete and before the guests arrive, the volunteers are called to the small chapel where they pray this prayer composed by Blessed Teresa of Calcutta:

Dear Lord, the Great Healer,
I kneel before You,
Since every **perfect gift** must come from You.
I pray, give skill to my hands,
clear vision to my mind,
kindness and meekness to my heart.
Give me singleness of purpose,
strength to lift up part of the burden
of my suffering fellow man,
and a true realization of the privilege that is mine....

-- Mother Theresa's "Meditations from A Simple Path"

Blessed Teresa defines for us the perfect healing gift from God: the ability, the strength, and the opportunity to serve our fellow men; but the true Grace of His gift is the capacity to realize **how great a privilege it is** to be called to serve.

Sir Knight William J. (Bill) Lynn said this prayer for thirteen years and who can doubt that his prayer was answered. In analyzing a life of such remarkable charitable service, where personal agenda does not exist, where motive is totally selfless, it is sometimes impossible to separate the giver from the gift inasmuch as the giver in a very real way becomes the gift itself. He was blessed with the perfect gift, but strove valiantly to share that perfect gift with all of us.

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--Barbara Lynn

In an attempt to tailor a mantle of praise, one is often prone to use words like *compassion*, *dedication*, and *devotion* – words which have become frayed through overuse and exaggeration. In the case of Bill Lynn, perhaps the only appropriate way to pay him tribute is to avoid any litany of clichés and merely stand both in respectful admiration of his legacy of example and in awe of the glorious God who blessed us with the perfect gift.

Grand Knight's Column

Brother Knights,

The past couple of months have been busy for our council. Completed activities include the Free Throw Contest, Essay Contest, Trivia Night, and the Bishop's Blast. None of these could have been accomplished by one person alone. The cumulative effort of many members giving a little of their time allows our council to achieve what it does. I'd like to thank each and every member for his efforts. Over the past few weeks, I've heard from people saying how impressed they are with our presence and contributions to our parish community. We tend not to think of our efforts as extraordinary, but rather as simple acts of giving. Many people giving a little bit can and does make a big difference.

Two fundraisers coming up are the St. Joseph Italian Dinner (Sunday, April 3) and the Annual Golf Tournament (Friday, June 17). These don't have to be overwhelming efforts if we can each just give a little. Some volunteers will obviously be needed to organize and run each event. However, your participation in the events themselves is equally important. Consider attending the dinner and encouraging others to do so as well. Consider getting a foursome together to play in the golf tournament. Take the opportunity to treat yourself while giving to others. The success of these fundraisers will allow us to keep doing the good we do. Your contributions to make these events successful can take many forms. Again, thanks to all of you for making our council what it is.

Phil Desloge