



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES NEWS

Acts of the Apostles Assembly #2411
Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus
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Over 100 years of Patriotic Service

August 2006

The Sleeping Saint of Nevers

Since the Blessed Virgin Mary graced the grotto of Lourdes with Her presence in 1858, it has been one of the most popular of the worlds' Marian shrines. Many people have knelt at the famous rock and prayed to Saint Bernadette, who saw the Immaculate Virgin on eighteen occasions. And yet many people do not know that the body of Saint Bernadette lies incorrupt in the chapel of the convent of Saint-Gildard at Nevers, and that this convent is open to the public.

Today, the Convent of Saint Gildard carries on the message of Lourdes, praying for poor sinners and bringing God to mankind in the same way He Himself chose - through His Immaculate Mother, Mary. Many pilgrims visit the convent on their return from Lourdes, others come out of curiosity, perhaps disbelieving that Bernadette's body is indeed perfectly preserved. The air of reverence and silence follows closely on the realisation that this is fact rather than fantasy.

Bernadette died on 16th April 1879. Her body was buried in the small chapel dedicated to St. Joseph, within the convent grounds. In September of 1909, Bernadette's body was exhumed, as part of the process leading to her eventual canonisation. The hollowed-out tomb was extremely humid - her habit was very damp, the rosary held in her hands was rusted and her crucifix had turned green. Yet despite this, the body itself was perfectly preserved. Two further exhumations (in April 1919 and April 1925) were carried out. At the third, the skin was found to have discoloured slightly in places, due probably to exposure to the air following the forty-six years of burial. Because of this, the firm of Pierre Imans in Paris made light wax coverings for the face and hands. By June of 1925, the Cateland workshop in Lyon had finished the gilt and crystal reliquary which was to be the final resting place of the saint; the light wax masks were placed on the face and hands and the body was placed in the shrine. The same month, Pope Pius XI beatified Bernadette - she could now be called "Blessed" and her remains could be publicly venerated.

In August, the shrine was ceremonially placed in the main chapel of the convent, and the long line of pilgrims began to visit the convent. In 1933 Bernadette was

declared a Saint - appropriately, this took place on December 8th, feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The Lady of Lourdes had kept the promise She made to Bernadette in 1858 - "I do not promise to make you happy in this world, but in the next".

The warm, dry weather makes long walks in the grounds very pleasant. Its very easy to imagine Bernadette herself walking here, especially as there have been few changes since that time. Behind the convent, at the end of an avenue of chestnut trees, is the tiny chapel dedicated to St. Joseph.

This was one of Bernadette's favourite places for quiet prayer, as she had a fond love of the Spouse of Mary. It was later to become her resting place during the forty-six years of her burial. It is very plain and simple, with a stained-glass window of Our Lady above the small altar. Inset into the wall is the tombstone from Bernadette's original grave.

At the bottom of the garden is the statue of Our Lady of the Waters - this was Bernadette's favourite statue; "It has something of the beauty I saw" she used to say about it. It was placed here following the discovery of a spring nearby, hence the name.

Upstairs in the convent is the Sante Croix (Holy Cross) Infirmary. This is the room in which Bernadette died in April 1879, having entered the "white chapel" of her sickbed the previous December.

It is now a chapel proper, used by the Sisters themselves for quiet prayer. Although not generally opened to members of the public, I was graciously allowed to pray there quietly for a while. There is an inspirational atmosphere in this room, stemming from the knowledge that this is where the thirty-five year old sister spent the last months of her life before once more seeing the heavenly smile of her Beautiful Lady.

Bernadette's long periods of illness were never wasted on self-pity or bitterness - each became for her an opportunity of self-knowledge and personal and spiritual growth. For her, illness was not a burden but a special gift from her loving God, whose supreme gift was the Cross.

It is almost one hundred and sixteen years since Sister Marie-Bernarde died, but her presence is everywhere in Saint-Gildards convent. And from June 1995, the civil authorities in Nevers will stage a daily pageant in the town (with a cast of four hundred) to celebrate her life and message. The spirituality and holiness of this humble servant of God remain a focus and an inspiration for many..

FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR'S MESSAGE

Sir Knights, I was pleasantly surprised that the Annual Father Nudd Memorial Color Guard effort was 12 in regalia, and the bigger surprise was that the weather held for the eighteenth year in a row. A good beginning for the Color Corps for the Fraternal Year.

Please mark high on your calendar on the 22nd of August that the Installation of officers of the Acts of the Apostles Assembly will take place at our regular meeting. The Master will be in attendance, and will officiate the installation.

Ladies are invited.

In the event you are an officer elected for the 2006-2007 Fraternal year and are unable to attend, it will be your responsibility to arrange for a stand-in at the Installation. In the event this occurs, please inform me of it and who the stand-in will be.

Additionally, that evening will be the Past Faithful Navigator Dinner, so please make a special effort to be in attendance to honor the Immediate Past Faithful Navigator, Michael Sheil, for his year as our Navigator during the 2005-2006 Fraternal Year.

Our Navigators:	
1996-1996	Richard G. Head, Sr, PSD, CFN
1996-1997	Richard G. Head, Sr, PSD, CFN
1997-1998	Ronald J. Savage, PFN
1998-1999	Anthony J. Ascone, PFN
1999-2000	Michael J. Diewald, PFN
2000-2001	James L. Adams, PFN
2001-2002	Thomas A. Trudeau, PFN
2002-2003	Paul T. Hannan, PFN
2003-2004	Alvin E. Grimmig, Jr., PFN
2004-2005	Paul St. Laurent, PFN
2005-2006	Michael Sheil, PFN
2006-	Richard (Skip) Coffman

CAPTAIN'S LOG

On Tuesday August 22 we will be having our annual installation of officers. Please note that wives and other guests are invited to this formal affair. Our social will start at 6:30 PM, with dinner planned for 7:00PM. The menu will be teriyaki chicken and shrimp, rice, veggies, and dessert.

Please RSVP to me at 703-631-4174 or at beresjg@verizon.net with reservations WHETHER YOU ARE ON THE REGULAR ATTENDEE LIST OR NOT by noon on Sunday August 20.

I look forward to seeing you and your guest on August 20.

Vivat Jesus!
Joe Beres
Captain

Commander'Swords

Thanks to all who have supported the Color Corps this past year. I'd like to see even better participation in our events this coming fraternal year. We plan to resume Color Corps practice in September. The assembly has loaner regalia for you to try. Lately, Color Corps' participation is down. Please join us and show your true colors as a Patriotic Catholic Gentleman.

Vivat Jesus!!!
Michael J. Diewald, PFN

Third Degree Liaisons	
The Assembly maintains communication with its assigned Councils via liaisons appointed by the Faithful Navigator. Our liaisons are as follows:	
Fr. Robert E. Nudd	Jim Frazer, PGK
Fr. Julius J. Cilinski	Joe Beres, PGK
St. Chung Hasang	Bok Hwang, GK
St. Veronica	Mike Diewald, PGK
St. Clare of Assisi	Jason Seiler, PGK

Office	Name	Spouse	E-mail	Phone
Friar	The Rev. Christopher Buckner		bucknercm@earthlink.net	(703) 689-4409
Navigator	Richard (Skip) Coffman	J'Neane	scoffman@moneymailer.com	(703) 631-9405
Captain	Joseph Beres	Gerri	beresig@verizon.net	(703) 631-4174
Pilot	Jason Seiler	Galena	jseiler@sejcorp.com	(703) 304-6393
Admiral	Michael J. Diewald, PFN	Peggy	Michael@thediewalds.net	(703) 709-9318
Scribe	James Frazer	Linda	jbfraser@verizon.net	(703) 802-6905
Purser	Kevin Craddock	Kathy	kevin.craddock@dc.gov	(703) 830-1752
Comptroller	Tom Wiedemer	Anne Marie	tom.wiedemer@cgi-ams.com	(703) 818-2761
Inner Sentinel	Joseph Choi		josephdchoi54@yahoo.com	(703) 821-0861
Outer Sentinel	James Beers	Kathleen	jimbeers7@verizon.net	(703) 830-7229
Trustee	Paul T. Hannan, PFN		pthannan@netzero.com	(703) 620-4033
Trustee	Alvin E. Grimmig, Jr., PFN	Debbie	grizzwald1@cox.net	(703) 502-0830
Trustee	Paul St. Laurent, PFN		Stlaurentp@aol.com	(703) 322-9199
Commander	Michael J. Diewald, PFN	Peggy	Michael@thediewalds.net	(703) 709-9318

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES ASSEMBLY 2411
2006-2007 FRATERNAL YEAR BUDGET
PROPOSED

LINE ITEM	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET
1	DUES	170@20	3400		3400
2	RAFFLES	MANASSAS AUTO	2400	2400	0
3		MANASSAS AUTO REBATE	1440		1440
4		50/50 MEEETING	440	220	220
5		50/50 SPECIAL	180	90	90
6	MEALS	10X25@\$8	2000	2000	0
7	SPECIAL EVENTS	INSTALLATION	400	400	0
8		PAST NAVIGATOR DINNER	750	750	0
9		CHRISTMAS PARTY	250	250	0
10		RENEWAL OF VOWS			0
11		PICNIC	250	250	0
12		PASS THE GAVEL	400	400	0
13		PARADE CORPS CELEBRATION		150	-150
14	RECRUITMENT	OPEN HOUSE		100	-100
15		POSTAGE		25	-25
16	EXEMPLIFICATION	NEW MEMBERS (10X\$105)	1050	1050	0
17		SK'S (8X\$78)	624	624	0
18		FRIAR (FEE AND ROOM)		200	-200
19		CLERGY FEE (2X45)		100	-100
20		HOSPITALITY ROOM		700	-700
21		HOSPITALITY SUPPLIES		300	-300
22	DINNER THEATRE	PASS THROUGH (45X40)	300	300	0
23	NEWSLETTER	ADVERTISEMENTS	50		50
24		PRINTING	900	900	0
25		POSTAGE		500	-500
27	Fraternal	AWARDS		400	-400
28		ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM		50	-50
29		FRATERNAL/MEMORIAL		200	-200
30		CHALICE FUND	175	325	-150
31		DONATIONS		300	-300
32		RELIEF FUND		100	-100
33		FN CONTINGENCY FUND		200	-200
34	COMPTRROLLER EXPENSE	SUPPLIES		100	-100
35		SALARY		164	-164
36		POSTAGE		80	-80
37	COLOR CORPS	REGALIA MAINTENANCE		100	-100
38		EVENT SUPPORT		200	-200
39	ESSAY CONTEST	SAVINGS BOND PRIZE		200	-200
40	FN REGALIA			250	-250
41	OPERATIONS	POSTAL BOX		20	-20
42		MEETING EQUIPMENT		100	-100
43		COOKING EQUIPMENT		100	-100
44		PURSAR SALARY		25	-25
45					
46	TOTAL		15009	14473	386