



**Vol. 16, No. 4, April 2011
St. Augustine Council No. 11258
Central Point, OR**

**NOTE: Because of the April 5
Lenten Penance Service our April
Meeting has been postponed to the
SECOND TUESDAY, APRIL 12.**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 12: BUSINESS
MEETING**

Please plan to attend our monthly Council meeting in the Parish Center at 7 PM scheduled for this coming Tuesday, April 12. We will have as special guests, men from Shady Cove interested in forming a Round Table under Fr. Theo. The evening will feature the annual Parish Report to the Knights by our pastor, Fr. Mike Walker.

SIR KNIGHT GEORGE SHERBA

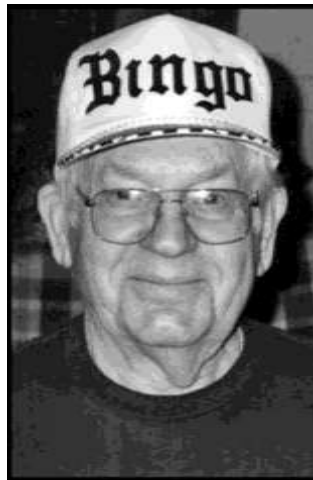
February 14, 1919 – March 6, 2011: May He Rest in Eternal Peace!

March is a cruel month, as it has taken so many from us. The losses are ours. Mark Twain commented about mourning at funerals, and whether the departed was as bereaved. He

was a bitter fellow, but realized that perhaps departing from this world of strife and pain was pleasant respite for the departed and a return home to the kinder gentler place of waiting.



Private George Sherba, 1944



George as we knew him.

The sorrow is for us because we feel the loss and miss the presence and counsel and unbridled love of those we have lost. Our lives are bigger than the corporal and temporal... We are spiritual and everlasting. So the veil of tears obscuring our gaze is like living behind a waterfall. We see but glimpses of what is behind the veil in the beauty, strength and love of those around us. Who are we to mourn their movement through the veil to the full joy on the other side. Celebrate the gifts they gave us and await a joyous reunion where there are no stresses, strains or limits on joy.

Brother George Sherba, long time member of St. Augustine Council #11258, passed away Sunday morning, March 6, at 5 A.M. at Providence Hospital. He was 92 years old. He was born February 14, 1919, in Lambertton, Pennsylvania. Drafted into the army in 1944, George received several medals during his tenure, including a purple heart. George Sherba became a Knight of Columbus on March 12, 1956, in Alhambra CA, took his Second and Third degree one month later, and later became a Fourth Degree member.

George was an animating presence within our Council and seldom missed a meeting or function. He served as a trustee for many years. He frequently made generous (and always anonymous!) donations to various Council events. George continued to work at our functions, dipping French Toast at our breakfasts until very recently.

The Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated for George Sherba at Shepherd of the Valley on Wednesday accompanied by Fourth Degree

and Military Honor Guards.

Please remember in your prayers, George, his daughter Valerie, and family members.

[Doug Smith/Larry Mullaly]

NEWS AND EVENTS

KC State Convention Slated for Medford

Honoring the hundredth anniversary of our sister Medford Council #1594, the annual state convention will take place at the Ramada Inn April 29-May 1. This gathering will see hundreds of knights and ladies present from throughout the state in attendance. Among the dignitaries attending the three-day event will be our Archbishop John Vlazny, State Deputies from Washington and Idaho, and a representative from the Supreme Council. Our Council will send two voting delegates, and all members of the council are invited to spend some time as observers at this imposing three-day event.

Work crews from Shepherd of the Valley Knights will also be formed to assist in set up on Thursday afternoon, April 28th and again on Saturday afternoon, April 30. Details will be announced at our April 12 meeting.

St. Patrick's Dinner and Bingo Report

Our annual gala St. Patrick's Day dinner place on Thursday, March 17 was the largest such event in recent years, with over 160 parishioners present. Special thanks to Bro. Chris Erno for coordinating the event that saw some 25 knights participating in various roles.



The "A Team" at work: a pause in the Bingo action at the St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

Shady Cove Round Table

Thanks to the initiative of Fr. Theo Lange and members of Our Lady of Fatima Parish Shady Cove, work is underway to form a Round Table at Shady Cove. Round Tables function as an action arm of the sponsoring council, and are often transitional structures leading to the formation of independent councils.

Exemplifications Scheduled

Exemplifications are induction ceremonies into the various ranks of our order. Each ceremony has its own catechesis reminding knight of the Catholic values that animate the spiritual and practical work of our Order.

On May 3, our council will celebrate a *First Degree Exemplification* at our regular business meeting. If you have prospective candidates in mind it is time to offer them an invitation and have them complete the Form-100 forms. For further information contact Financial Secretary Chris Erno at 541-261-1216.

Second and Third Degree Exemplifications are schedule for Brookings on Saturday, May 21 beginning with a luncheon at 12 noon. Members are encourage to attend and show their support and car pools will be arranged. This will be the first occasion that our newly formed District 9 Degree Team will be in action and should be an impressive event. For further information contact Bro. Ralph Browning at 541-531-1436.

A 4th Degree Exemplification will take place at Knights of Columbus Hall in Medford on June 18th, 2011. The Fourth Degree Assemblies represent the highest degree of the order. They seek to foster the spirit of patriotism and to encourage active Catholic citizenship. For more information, please contact Brother Joe Schudawa at 541-772-8506.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tues, April 5, Parish Penance Service
Tues. April 12, Business Meeting
Tuesday, April 26 Officers' Meeting,
Friday, April 29 State Convention begins
Tuesday, May 3 Business Meeting

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Anyone who knows of other brother knights or family members in need please contact Chancellor Bob Baehr at 541-826-3362.

ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Members: Ralph Browning, John Garner, David Knouff, Mike Masters, Ray Morin.

Wives: Heather Krupp, Alice Mullaly, Lynette Sekreta, Megan Stillwell, and Celina Tobias.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: Kristy and Mark Bodfield, Carmen and Frank Hernandez; Betty and Leon Stupfel, Ann and Carl Wieland.

PATTERNS OF FAITH:

What Does Mardi Gras Have To Do With Lent?

My neighbor could not wait to tell me about his fabulous trip to New Orleans and his wild experiences during Mardi Gras. Now, he said, he was ready for Lent. You probably have a similar character living on your street, one that cannot wait to make you aware of his various travels and all around good fortune. This year's weather made me especially envious of my traveling neighbor because there was no way that I could get out of the area to warmer climes or participate in lavish spectacles. Yet our exchange over the fence did nudge my curiosity. I asked myself, "Why on earth would there be a connection between a celebration such as Mardi Gras and Lent?"

I started by getting the terms straight—which immediately set me on a historical path. *Mardi Gras* is French for "Fat Tuesday." It is celebrated the day before Ash Wednesday, the

beginning of Lent. It is a single day celebrated as the last chance to kick up one's heels before entering the Lenten period. The day is also known as Shrove Tuesday (to "shrive," or hear confessions), Pancake Tuesday, and *fetter Dienstag* ("Fat Tuesday"). Yet, my neighbor's visit to New Orleans was more than a one-day celebration of Mardi Gras. Rather, he joined millions of tourists for Carnival, the name of the festival that begins with Epiphany (January 6, twelve



Mardi Gras, like the French Quarter of New Orleans where it is celebrated, is a curious mixture of the sacred and the profane.

days after Christmas), which commemorates the day the Wise Men brought gifts to the infant Jesus, and culminates on Fat Tuesday.

The connection between the wild partying in New Orleans and the more somber period of soul searching and repentance of Lent becomes less cloudy when one considers the development of Carnival within our religious tradition. The adaptation of Carnival from pagan to Christian practices followed a historical pattern similar to other Roman Catholic celebrations. Many historians believe Carnival, like most of our Catholic holidays and seasonal commemorations, emerged out of pre-Christian traditions based on the seasons. The timing of the festivities, during the transition from winter to spring, seems to confirm this interpretation.

Early Church history is replete with examples of the adaptation of cultural traditions from the three major components of the Roman Empire in our religious practices. Germanic, Egyptian, and Roman winter-to-spring festivals merged to form Carnival. One strand emerges from the Latin *carrus navalis* ("naval car" or ship), which carried the Celtic and Germanic sea-god from his northern home to winter festivals. Similarly, floats in Egypt honored Isis, the queen/goddess of life and earth, in celebration of the end of winter and the return of fertility. Finally, other elements of the celebration of Carnival can be traced to the Roman festival *Saturnalia*—including lots of food and drink, extravagant costumes, and parades, as well as societal role reversals (such as lower classes ruling for a day, masters waiting on slaves, and men dressing as women). Some etymologists

believe that the word *carnival* derives from the Latin *carne vale*, “farewell meat,” and others *carne levare*, “to remove meat.” But most scholars would maintain that these afterthoughts were imposed by Church writers and that *carrus navalis* is a more likely source.

The connection between the Lenten period and Carnival emerges in light of this historical background. Traditionally, Lent was a period of fasting and other penitential practices. It recalled the Gospel accounts of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness (and represented a time of the year when winter turns to spring). It was natural that the entire community would over-consume and party in anticipation of the strict times to come. This time of indulgence is thought to be the origins of Carnival. How to celebrate was well ingrained in the people from pre-Christian times. As Christianity spread, so did the importance of the Lenten season and the celebration of the period leading up to it, Carnival.

My neighbor was not too keen about the history lesson and wished to move on to informing me about his summer plans to visit southern France. Nor was he particularly interested in the reasons why I thought that as Carnival became more popular, the penitential practices of Christians during Lent had ebbed. Cicero is most likely correct in his comment, “*Historia magistra vitae et testis temporum*” (“History is the teacher and witness of times”).

[Gary M. Miller]

KNIGHTS IN ACTION: The Memorial Chalice

One of the time-honored traditions of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus is the Memorial Chalice and Chalice Ceremony. When a Fourth Degree member in good standing passes away, a chalice is donated in his memory to the religious order or organization of his choosing. The beautiful Chalice Ceremony is conducted as part of the deceased Sir Knight's funeral. A chalice, engraved with the Sir Knight's name, is presented to the family, and then delivered to the recipient (often a foreign mission parish) by representatives of the assembly according to the Sir Knight's wishes.

A Prayer for Our Priests

O Mary, Mother of Christ and our mother, guard with your maternal care those chosen ones, so dear to the Heart of your Son. Intercede for our priests that, offering the Sacrifice of your Son, they may be conformed more each day to the image of your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen



The chalice presented in honor of Sir Knight George Sherba by his Fourth Degree Brothers.



Brother Joe Schudawa extending condolences to the Sherba family at the presentation of the chalice.