



“The Lord is using the Shrine as a vessel for this group to study and search for more depth in their faith.”

Lance Brunswick

February 2021

Greetings,

Have you ever pondered the age at which your Faith life should be your central focus? Do you agree that the Sacraments are inseparable from and integral to our spiritual journey? We experience Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. Many of the faithful enter into the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony or Holy Orders. At our journey’s end, we hope to receive Anointing of the Sick, the last of the Sacraments.

However, life is unpredictable; only our saving Lord knows when our earthly journey will end. Therefore, if we understand the uncertainty of our physical existence, why wait to prepare our soul for eternal life? **Why not make it a priority now and continue to grow and nurture that faith throughout our lifetime?**

Lance Brunswick admits that he used to be concerned about how he would be perceived by his peers if he outwardly lived and expressed his faith, but now he is thankful that a growing number of young adults today are taking an active role in making faith the center of their lives. **They appreciate the Maria Stein Shrine to gather and grow spiritually. As you take in this story, I hope you realize how much your support means to those who come to the Shrine to be spiritually fed! You truly are appreciated and you truly are making a difference!**

Lance grew up just down the road from the Shrine. He made occasional visits here with his family and attended the annual Countryfest. He understood that this was once the Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Precious Blood and the historic building was the home of a large collection of relics. Then, in his college years, he experienced a deeper faith conversion on a retreat. This was a **turning point and he no longer had fears or concerns about being an active Catholic at a young age.** He realized it was ok for young adults to attend Bible studies and daily Mass because they desired to do so; weekly Mass was not just a check box on his TO-DO list. **It is a time for praise and thanksgiving to God for all that He provides!**



(Over)

*Thank you to Lance for sharing his Shrine Story.
Thank you also, for your service to our Country!
Lance is shown here center, while on duty
with the National Guard in Washington D.C. >*

I want to make this Holy Place available for all ages to be Spiritually fed.

\$5000 \$2500 \$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____

Check enclosed payable to: Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics

Name: _____

Charge my gift to: VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

Address: _____

Exp. Date _____ CVC (3 digits from back of card) _____

Phone: _____

Acct. _____

Email: _____

Signature _____

GIFT IN HONOR OF: _____

Birthdays: ____/____/____ and ____/____/____

GIFT IN MEMORY OF: _____

Ordination or Wedding Anniversary: ____/____/____

Lance's faith realization led him to become involved with the local Quo Vadis group who met at various locations for meals, games and to share their faith. These inspiring young adults always end their evening in prayer. What a blessing to find a group of young adults whose faith is the center of their lives; **they just needed a place to gather . . . The Maria Stein Shrine met all of their needs!**

Lance shared how as his faith life grew, his appreciation for the Shrine had grown too. He appreciates the richness of the Shrine as he fathomed the beauty of the Sisters in perpetual adoration for over 100 years. **He believes, "The Lord is using the Shrine as a vessel for this group to study and search for more depth in their faith.** What a blessing to be where there is a relic of the True Cross and over 1,200 relics of Saints who can intercede for your needs. Where Christ is present in the tabernacle, and where there is such warmth and hospitality for the group."

When these young adults come together at the Shrine, all three floors are a buzz! Some gather in small group bible studies; some spend time in chapel; others prepare the Upper Room for the main meeting and welcome the evening's guest speaker. How inspiring and reassuring! Their desire to learn and grow spiritually is supported by a strong community and a holy location.

Seeing and hearing them interacting with each other is such a joy! That experience was thanksgiving enough, but as the evening came to a close, Lance came running up the steps to make sure he said, **"Thank you for being here so that we can have the time and place to be spiritually fed!"** If only his words and his smile could have been recorded for you to see today! **The Holy Spirit is alive in this group and all of you who support the Shrine are to be thanked for making that possible!**

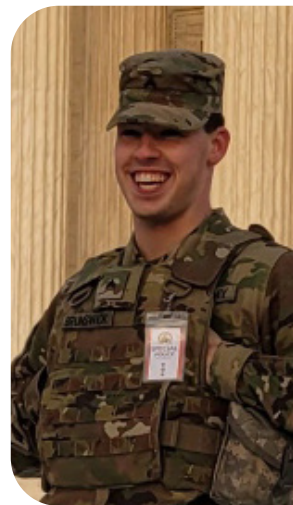
Your generosity will help to provide spiritual nourishment for all ages! God is calling you to change the world one life at a time and one small step at a time. Begin today where you are. We have an obligation to preserve and support this Holy place for generations to come. Can we depend on you for your support? You may use the enclosed envelope for your convenience or donate online at mariasteinshrine.org

Praying your Lenten Journey is fruitful,



Don Rosenbeck
President

Diana Russell
Director of Fund Development



That Lance Smile

P.S. The Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) extends the charitable donation deduction for non-itemizers to 2021 and gives married couples filing jointly a bonus. For this year, each spouse is entitled to a deduction of up to \$300, for a maximum of \$600.

Your special intentions will be prayed for at the Maria Stein Shrine mid-day prayer:

*Know that you are being prayed for at the Shrine.
God has plans for YOU! May your heart and mind be open to His will.*