

Messages received from Fr. Charlie's Family...

Steve and I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the members of Fr. Charlie's Our Lady of the Rosary family for all that you did to make us comfortable and comforted during our time with you.

From the sweet note and the welcome and delicious "goodie bag" in our room when we arrived, through the delicious lunch following the burial, you thought of everything. Your warm welcome when we arrived at the church on Thursday for the Reception of the Body and your thoughtfulness in providing us with a room where we could grieve in private made this most difficult time so much easier than it would otherwise have been. The flowers, coffee, fruit and cookies as well as the obvious thought that went into preparing the room was so appreciated (and enjoyed).

Our special thanks to all who were involved in the preparation and serving of the lovely dinner on Thursday evening. It was a beautiful table and all the food was so delicious. I know Charlie would have been pleased. It was especially appreciated since we knew that all of you were taking time during a busy season and a time when you were all grieving too, to do this for us.

The Mass of Christian Burial was beautiful and the turnout of parishioners, clergy and Knights of Columbus was unprecedented in our experience. Our special thanks to the Knights for their elegant and respectful presence during the entire vigil, especially with the wet and cold weather. You added a high degree of respect to all the services.

And to all the members of OLR who came out to honor and say Goodbye to Fr. Charlie, bringing your children – who were so special to him - out in the raw weather, there are no words to tell you how much that comforted and strengthened us. We knew that Fr. Charlie was loved but we had no idea how very much he meant to all of you. Our prayers remain with you all during this time of sorrow.

To those who prepared and served the delicious food at the reception following the burial, a very special thank you. We were all sad and tired (and cold) and the warmth, delicious good food smell and love we found when we entered the building was so welcome and comforting.

You found us when we came in the wrong door, took our coats for us, directed us to a special place to be served immediately and even had a special table for us. And made it possible to laugh and work through our grief in your good company. And again, you were all grieving.

Finally, we want to thank you all for your prayers, love, visits and all that you all did during Fr. Charlie's illness. We could not be there for him and you filled that special need with love and kindness. For that we will always be grateful. Our thanks and our love to you all.

I wish we could thank each of you individually for the thoughtfulness and love that were so apparent to us. Please know that it was appreciated more than you can know. On behalf of our entire family, Thank You.

With love and gratitude.

Liz and Steve Bowes

Dear members of Our Lady of the Rosary parish,

Thank you for your outpouring of sympathy and support following the passing of my Uncle Charlie. Your kindness and generosity touched my heart. The thoughtful goodie bag waiting in my hotel room, the delicious meals prepared according to Uncle Charlie's recipes, and the many kind words of condolence all meant so much to me and my family. We were all overwhelmed by the love of your community.

One of the most difficult aspects of the last 4 months was knowing that Uncle Charlie was far, far away and that there was nothing I could physically do to comfort him. However, the few days I spent with you made it clear that Uncle Charlie received all the love and support he needed. Our Lady of the Rosary was his home and you were his family. I am so grateful for the care and support you gave Uncle Charlie while he was with you.

Thank you for the thoughtfulness you showed my family and me while we were in Cincinnati. You were a blessing to my family during a very difficult time.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Jenny Bowes Johnson