

Family of the Year - Art and Frances Dunn, Father Patrick McAlpine Council 9094, D'Iberville, MS

Our Council's nominee for Family of the Year is one of those rare situations where the individual achievements of each member are only surpassed by the accomplishments of the family unit as a whole. The Knight the Ladies Auxiliary member and the Squire are very much active in council, church, community, family and youth activities - each in their own special way and together as a close knit, contemporary household. He serves as Financial Secretary for the council and Faithful Comptroller for the assembly. This hard working Knight and his lady in shining armor are class leaders to our parish's high school Confirmation class (he is her assistant). They are primary examples of a married couple living the teachings of Christian values, and therefore it can be said this dynamic couple lends a positive influence to the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) program. They are exemplary role models for the youth of our parish to follow.

In addition to time and effort he gives of himself to the religious education program, this KC even found time to organize and prepare the food during the class retreat. The inspirational father serves as Eucharistic minister, usher, and Sunday collections counter. He and his lovely wife are Core team members of our Parish Life Teen Program and support the organization's social events by preparing the food and refreshments after their Sunday evening meetings. He plays an integral role as a member of our annual parish bazaar organizational committee, ensuring the facilities are built, grounds prepared and critical steps are planned. He co-chairs the fried fish booth as well. This Knights is actively involved in the Boy Scouts serving as a member of the Troop Committee. The wife is the proactive leader serving as a Assistant Scout Master in the troop. As with other activities and events, he organized the food preparations for the Annual Blue and Gold Scout Banquet. Both parents also assist with their son's Squires Circle activities.

The Knight's lovely wife is an extremely active member of the Ladies Auxiliary who helps organize most of the social events they host and assists in each and every way to ensure these activities are a warm success. Everyone in the auxiliary and the council had a memorable time at this year's Mardi Gras booth where she had a hand in organizing the foodstuffs for the day's activities. As youth liaison for the Auxiliary, this lady provides monthly reports on the many youth activities in and around our church parish and community. She is also a Eucharistic minister. Their only child is an active Columbian Squire and is very involved with many circle activities and scores of services they perform. The son was named Squire of the Month for September 2001 for his "dedication and enthusiastic participation in his circle." This young man is an active member in the parish Life Teen Program and the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). He is a high school freshman actively involved in many activities, including member of the school's basketball team. His annual participation in our Council's Free Throw championships shows how much he enjoys team sports and competition. This young Squire has been an altar server since the 4th grade and continues to serve at the weekly school mass. On any given Sunday, he can be seen assisting with mass and schooling less experienced altar servers when they need it. His method of coaching is not overbearing but done with the spirit of concern and teamwork. He assisted his Dad recently with a woodworking project to build shelving for the Saint Vincent DePaul Society and put forth great effort knowing the end result would be helping the needy of our community. As a member of the Boy Scouts, he holds the rank of Life and will soon begin working on a special project as part of his goal to achieve the

rank of Eagle Scout. The special project chosen is to construct a prayer garden in our church courtyard; he will raise the money, design the garden, secure the materials and perform the work. He believes very strongly in his faith and wants to do something that will help his church family share in that faith. We sincerely believe this very special family is more than just your average Catholic family. They foster love and respect; they share of themselves; and they live the virtues of our Order in real time.