

An indelible mark

Br. Marvin Kluesner SDS

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In the early years the Society of the Divine Savior – Salvatorians was most recognized as a teaching Order. Therefore, it was logical that Br. Marvin Kluesner SDS would be drawn toward academics and a ministry amidst the shelves of books in public and private libraries, loving every moment.

Br. Marvin also had the flexibility to minister at a camp founded by the Society - Camp St. Charles in Rock Point, Maryland each summer and he was hooked. He worked in the kitchen, led hikes and ball games, and ran a night event called the “oddball Olympics” for 15 years. However, he had his sight set on the arts and crafts building and had a vision of what it could mean for the kids!



As director of arts and crafts activities at camp, Br. Marvin taught ceramics.

During the off season he would forage around to find ceramic molds and supplies at cost, which he would then haul cross-country, back to camp for many summers. “Working morning and evenings, it was a sort of baptism by fire,” said Br. Marvin. The program, originally Popsicle sticks, mosaics and Plaster of Paris was changed to ceramics and “gimp” to make key chains and lanyards.

“We had a team of counselors in the craft area so if a child was struggling with a project we could easily step in to help, making it a good experience for everyone no matter what their level of maturity or experience may have been,” said Br. Marvin. “We did a lot; and the ‘kids’ always came back long after they moved on from camp 10-20-40 years later, to visit and share memories. It was always neat to see how they grew up.”



Today – several years into retirement, it’s no surprise to still see the shelves of his retirement apartment lined with ceramics from his 48 years of ministry at camp. Each ceramic piece comes with a story as profound as a picture: He vividly recalls the child that made it, the story behind it and how relevant it was for that camper at the time. All these stories indelibly etched onto Br. Marvin’s heart and soul.

Working with "gimp" opened the door to even more opportunities for campers.

