

Dale Hansen  
3171 County Road 3815  
Athens, Texas 75752

Dear Mr. Hansen,

Thank you for talking to me on the phone and agreeing to look over this information regarding Colonel Victor Bieberle. In the last two years of his life he has lived near us in a retirement center. Countless hours were spent in his living room sharing his life's stories. Despite being a very active and beloved priest in the Wichita dioceses for the past 60 years, his most fond memories were associated with his time in the service especially the Airborne. He truly felt a special connection with these men, and felt this is where he was called to be.

Fr. Victor Bieberle was my wife's uncle. My wife was his executor and because of this, all of his stored belongings recently came into our possession following his death Feb 2, 2015. This included letters, commendations and several photo albums he collected while in the reserves and on active duty, 1951 - 1985.

Fr. Vic always wore his Airborne (Jumping Mary) medal with pride and as a tribute to all those who served in the military. It was only after his death that an interesting question arose. A family friend's son heard about his death and reported that he recently contacted Fr. Vic to get another "Airborne service medal" like the one he wore in Viet Nam. He had heard that three service chaplains had created it and then handed them out to the paratroopers. He was under the impression Fr. Vic may have been one of these chaplains. He reports Fr. Vic was able to send him the medal he requested. Despite many hours enjoying his reminiscing about his time in the service, he only ever mentioned passing out some of these medals. He never mentioned any role in their design or production. It was not until we started to go through his stored items that this question resurfaced.

There appear to be two distinct paratrooper medals. The most common one listed is the 'St. Michael the Archangel Patron of Paratroopers'. This one depicts St. Michael with Parachutes in the back ground. The second medal is 'Our Lady Queen of Angels Defend Us in Combat'. This medal depicts the Virgin Mary superimposed over a single large parachute canopy. On the back is a copy of the Miraculous Medal (twelve stars, an image of the Scared Heart of Jesus and The immaculate Heart of Mary). I have heard this second medal referred to as the Jump Mary Medal. This Jump Mary Medal is the one in question. Please see enclosed pictures.

Enclosed you will find two pictures of what appears to be a crayon or colored pencil drawing depicting the front of the Jump Mary Medal. There is a second drawing that appears to be combination of the two above paratrooper medals. Where these drawings originated and why is not known. We also found a picture where he placed an actual Medal in the upper left corner of the picture before copying it. These are only loose pieces of information, but one can see why this question resurfaced. Whether he had a hand in the design or manufacture of these is unknown. We only know it had a very special place in his heart. He was able to complete 101 jumps with the 101<sup>st</sup> and was always very proud of that.

Toward the end of his career he turned down a commission to Brigadier General so he could stay on the ground so to speak with the people he loved the most.

I'm not sure if you will be able shed any light on this question or not. But any insight would be greatly appreciated. If you have any other questions we will be happy to help if we can.

Thanks Again,

Bart A. Grelinger