

**Vale Chevalier Barry Peter Strong KLJ CMLJ
1935-2011**

Barry Peter Strong at the time of his death had only recently been appointed Deputy Chancellor Emeritus when, due to his deteriorating health, he was forced to relinquish his position as Editor of the Grand Priory of Australia's widely read Lazarus Letter. Barry joined the Order in July 1997 as a member of the Victorian Commandery and it was not long before he showed a growing interest in the work of Green Cross Project Inc. in the western suburbs of Melbourne.

At that time Green Cross operated two mobile medical clinic buses, one in the Dandenong-Springvale area and the other in the Footscray region of Melbourne's western suburbs where the bus was housed at the Western Hospital. John Herbig was the Chairman of the western suburbs Green Cross Bus and on his retirement Barry was appointed Chairman to replace him. Barry held this position until the service in the western suburbs ceased due to the change in social conditions in the area.

Green Cross Project Inc. was at that time, in need of a secretary and after consideration and his agreement to take on the role Barry was appointed secretary, a position he held until 2007. He was again approached to accept the position of Deputy Chancellor during the National Chapter held in Melbourne in April of the same year to which he acquiesced.

Over the next four years Barry produced eight editions of the Lazarus Letter, the last two with the help of Barbara due to his failing health, never-the-less with his indomitable resolve he was determined to produce "one more edition." Both Barry and Barbara conceded that the October 2010 edition of the Lazarus Letter would be his last.

During the Chancellor's Promotions and Awards meeting in January 2011 the Committee unanimously agreed to request the Grand Master to award Barry as a Commander in the Order of Merit and Mrs. Barbara Strong with an award as a Member of Merit. Subsequently an Extraordinary Investiture was convened at Barry's bedside on 14 February 2011. Present were the Grand Prior, Chev. Barry O'Keefe AM KCHS GCLJ GCMLJ, the Chancellor, Chev. Willoughby Bailey AO KCLJ CMLJ, the Grand Master's Representative, Lady Primrose Potter AC DGCLJ DGCMLJ GCrLJ GMLJ, and the Deputy National Chaplain, Monsignor Anthony Toms JChLJ KMLJ.

Barry Peter Strong was endowed with many gifts and attributes. He had an exceedingly active mind, was quick on the uptake and possessed the gifts of discernment and logical process, all of which he exercised during his life in the legal profession. Throughout his life Barry stood staunchly by the two great laws, the law of God and the law of the land. He was, as I knew him, uncompromising with the values and standards of decency, gentleness and good taste. He enjoyed the finer niceties of life but never let them take hold of him. His devotion to Barbara, Victoria and Louise was ever that of a loving husband and father.

The words written by Paul to Timothy two thousand years ago mirror the humility and trust in his Divine Master particularly over the past months:

As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing. (2 Tim 4:6-8)

Monsignor Anthony K. Toms JChLJ KMLJ
Deputy National Chaplain
President of the Victorian Commandery