


SHRINE
OF
ST. JOSEPH

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161 YEARS

The Shrine of Saint Joseph's Friends, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

1220 N. 11th Street ♦ St. Louis, Missouri 63106-4614 ♦ Rectory Telephone (314) 231-9407

WINTER - SPRING ISSUE 2005

Thank You For Making These Restoration Accomplishments Possible



Historic Altar of Answered Prayers with new lighting

It took a long time to happen, but with the door restoration and the new steps in place this past year, the exterior central façade area between the towers from the top of the Shrine all the way down is now completed, thanks to your wonderful support. Of course, much still remains to be done. But, having finished this entire area gives us faith that, in due time, the remaining exterior restoration is achievable. Thus, it was a busy 2004 with the completion of these projects:

Front Doors (\$49,000) Restoration of all six 13-foot tall doors occurred with little hindrance to church activities. The doors had been poorly patched up many times over the years but this time each was taken down, given a major over-haul and re-installed, primed and painted. At least 10 of the 24 huge hinges required re-manufacturing. Panic bars were added on all the church doors allowing for easy access for exiting. Gene Wetzel, our volunteer carpenter, spent many hours carefully applying slider bolts on the interior side of the doors which, when painted blended in very well.

New Front Steps (\$63,000) Because of the weathering of the 124 year-old steps, there was always a safety concern. The five front steps each spanning 40 feet in length were replaced with new steps designed to duplicate as much as possible the old Carthage stone that was removed. All four hand-rails were stripped and repainted.

Up-dated Altar Lighting (\$22,085) was done in five stages beginning with work on the 1000-watt floodlights way up in the ceiling. All other new lighting comes from two different locations on each side of the main altar. Each light was individually focused on a given section for even distribution throughout the altar. It is now possible to see more subtle nuances of the altar beginning with the murals on top of the nave dome plus there is an increase in the richness of color.

The Link (\$12,026) The two-story high area between the rectory and the church was deteriorating. All of this wood was removed, replaced and painted. Both side windows were re-built and the roof above was replaced.



Roof Repair

Roofing Problems: A Top Concern

First of all, as your Board's president, I am extremely gratified when an occasion occurs such as happened on Dec. 18th when we asked for help in decorating the church for Christmas, whereby twenty-four adults and eight young folks enthusiastically showed up. To me, it is just this kind of a day that drives home the age-old notion that "many hands make light work." We finished by 12:30, had the church ready for a beautiful wedding and enjoyed a great lunch together. Thank you again to everyone who helped. However, as I have said before, we could use volunteers in our day-to-day operations-please see or call me if you would like more information on how you could help out. In addition to the intrinsic joy I believe you would get out of helping at the Shrine is the fact that we also have fun doing it.



Ralph Kannady
President

Your Board of Directors approved \$6,246 to take immediate corrective action to make repairs on our roof especially in known areas where problems of leaking were occurring. Kirberg Roofing Co. did the job at the end of December of replacing a number of broken and missing slate and applying a clear-coat sealer over the sky-lights, a few of which were also leaking. In addition, the roofers cleared out all the debris build-up in the eaves and along the gutters. We are obviously hoping that this corrective action will solve our leaking problems, and now we will need to carefully and vigilantly monitor these areas.

I am deeply grateful for your contributions you have entrusted us with and I value your suggestions. Donations received from all of you have permitted us to not only continue our restoration, but also to pay for ever-increasing operating expenses. Over the last 25 years of restoration, every single donation, large or small, has truly symbolized people simply wishing to save and restore our holy and magnificent historic Shrine. During those early years when we were not given much hope it could be done, your donations made it happen and now allow us to continue in this effort. Much work still remains, but if you have not been to the Shrine recently, please worship with us and see the new work that has been completed. May all of you have a blessed new year.

Photos by Arteaga Studios



From the Pastor

I am writing this at the time of the catastrophic earthquake that took the lives of over 150,000 unsuspecting people. This was more than any other disaster of war in the history of mankind. We were stunned and concerned and gave our offerings and support.

*Father
Valentine Young*

Now, here we are, sometime later and have put that happening away in our minds. We forget about that, to some extent and that is what we do with much of the happenings in our lives. But, if we are wise, we will follow the wisdom of Hard Gnuoy who said, "look back on the past and be concerned still, for what happened there may well be your turn in the near future." That means not to live with dangerous thoughts, but thoughts of trust in God. I think he also said it wisely too: "I do not know what the future holds for me but I do know who holds my future."

Christmas at the Shrine



Shrine Nativity Scene

While the Shrine is a special place to go to Mass anytime, it would be difficult to find anyone in attendance on Christmas Eve who would not have felt that the Shrine was an especially holy and blessed place of worship that night. Despite a windy, frigid night, nonetheless, about 350 people were in attendance.

The altars were decorated with 22 lit trees along with dozens of red and white poinsettias. The Nativity stable (hand-made by the late Richard Geisz, a dedicated Shrine volunteer woodworker) was completely surrounded with lit trees along with lights streaming down from the star of Bethlehem high above it all.

With the beautiful, seasonal music of organist, Ralph Ellerbrock, the choir, and the visual aura of the magnificently-decorated altars, along with Father Valentine's inspiring words of peace and hope, as one person put it, "it was a glimpse of heaven-on-earth."

Restoration Projects Slated for 2005



Church and Rectory steps to be replaced

After having replaced the front steps last year, similar restoration will move around to the 11th Street side-entrances to both the church and the rectory for stone steps replacement. As in the front of the church, with the deterioration of the steps in these two areas, they are also presenting a safety concern. The eleven six-foot sidesteps will be removed and replaced; the top landing at the church side-doors will be restored by cutting out badly weathered areas and epoxying them in stone to match the existing area. The rectory stair restoration will involve removing and replacing eight six-foot wide steps, repairing the stone caps, the walls and plumbing up the two stone columns.

The Board has set aside \$47,000 for both projects and has awarded St. Genevieve Building Stone Co. with the contract. Both of these projects will begin in March and when completed, will provide a much safer access to all entries for many years to come.

While stairs at both locations are being done, Artist and Architectural Blacksmiths of House Springs have been given the contract of \$9,350 to remove all wrought iron railing at both locations in order to sandblast, prime, paint and re-install back on the newly-finished steps. Rusted areas will be corrected along with re-casting of one newel.

On the inside of the Shrine, three projects are planned which will be done by Pico Painting Co. for \$5,930. (1) All of the original pews from the 1860's measuring a combined total of 1700 ft in length, will be refurbished, which will include restaining all scratches, nicks and other indentations. (2) The elevated floor under the pews are scuffed and the risers at the aisles are worn. These areas will all be sanded and a coat of floor enamel put down over the entire elevated floor. (3) Vestibule paneling and interior doors also have scratches and gouges which will be restained.



Come Visit Our Web Site:

www.shrineofstjoseph.org



Photos by Arteaga Studios



Jo Ann Geisz

Shrine Weddings Continue To Be Popular

Wedding bells kept ringing a happy tune during this past year. A report recently from Kathie Schmid, one of our wedding coordinators, is that there are currently 50 weddings contracted for and scheduled during 2005, with just a very few openings remaining. Wedding contracts for 2006 are now beginning to come in.

For information about weddings, please call wedding coordinators, Kathie Schmid or JoAnn Geisz at (314) 231-0869. These ladies will be most happy to assist with any inquiries you might have.



Kathie Schmid

Board Appointment



Howard Matthews

The Board appointed Howard Matthews to fill out the remaining two years on Tony Condellire's term of office and he will also assist with the newsletter and public relations. Initially, he and his wife, Mary, started volunteering with the wedding group. "Then," he said, "it seemed there was never an occasion they didn't have painting projects for me to do."

When asked why they got involved, Matthews said that he and Mary met some wonderful, dedicated volunteers, but "we also saw there was a pressing need for more volunteers to help out. In addition, Mary and I were utterly in awe and profoundly moved by the sacredness of the Shrine and how through grass-roots efforts it had been saved and restored. We felt like surely we could 'pitch in' and help".

Feast of St. Joseph March 19

Most anyone who has attended the Mass on the day of the Feast of St. Joseph here at our Shrine will likely feel truly blessed and inspired. This year promises to be an even more special occasion as Archbishop Raymond Burke will be the main Celebrant. Mass is at 12:00 noon.

Since this day is on a Saturday, it would be a great time for anyone who has not been to the Shrine recently to come and worship with us.

This would also give you an opportunity to see for yourself the restoration work completed last year.

Please try to join us on that day to honor St. Joseph. Bring a friend.

ITE AD JOSEPH (go to Joseph)

Air and Steam Club Gift

Thanks to the members of the Air and Steam Club, who were sent Thanksgiving Day raffles sponsored by the Men's Club, the Shrine received the sum of \$6,465. These proceeds were turned over to the Shrine's fund for continuing the restoration. "On behalf of the Men's Club, my thanks to the members of the Air and Steam Club who, once again, faithfully contributed so generously", said Ralph Ellerbrock, Men's Club president.

There is an application on the back page for membership to the Air and Steam Club, which has been vital to off-setting the cost of rising utilities.

Thanks To Tony

On Nov. 14th, the Board held a farewell reception for Tony Condellire for the many years of his work with the thrift shop. In fact, his length of service was so long, hardly anyone could remember just how long it was; it turned out that he gave 21 years of volunteering at the Shrine and the last 6 years he was also on the Board. For health reasons, Tony now resides in California with his daughter's family.



Tony Condellire

Condellire became very adept at determining the saleable value of an item and with his staff of volunteers brought in much needed revenue for the restoration. His contributions, however, were more than just about revenue. There was a welcoming, inviting atmosphere that Tony and his fellow volunteers provided (and continue to do so) that is truly an intangible element that cannot be equated to dollars and cents.

Who will ever be able to forget that contagious, warm smile of Tony's when visitors passed by him at the cash register? To be sure, Tony is a gentleman with a kind heart and it was this attitude that transcended throughout the entire thrift shop when folks visited after Mass.

We wish him well. Taking over for Tony will be Jim Blum, another long-time volunteer and Board Member.

The Thrift Shop Volunteer Staff

Jim Blum, Chair	Vito Buzzeta
Geraldine Allen	Dolly Randazzo
Rose Barranco	Agnes Renda
Bernice Brunner	Madonna Titone
Joe Komadina	Lou Turnbeaugh
Tom Hyland	

Shrine Tours

Requests for tours at the Shrine are on the increase. Les McLaughlin, the Shrine's historian, says that he is seeing more interest every time the Shrine's video is run on the EWTN world-wide television network. He frequently asks visitors on his tours how they heard about the Shrine and he reports that more people are also indicating that they learned about it on our web-site. He conducts tours after 11:00 Mass on Sunday and also can do scheduled tours on Monday and Friday.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Ralph Ellerbrock, the Shrine's organist and choir director, also conducts scheduled tours. Individuals up to an entire bus-load are welcome to arrange a tour during the week simply by calling the rectory at (314) 231-9407.

Check if appropriate:
 My name is misspelled.
 My address is incorrect.
 I received more than one copy.
 I no longer wish to receive the Newsletter.
 I no longer wish to receive the Newsletter.
 Please clip this address panel and mail it to us noting your request.

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The Shrine of Saint Joseph's Friends, Inc.
 1220 North 11th Street • St. Louis, MO 63106-4614



Special Services
 On First Fridays of Each Month - *Mass at 12:00 Noon*
 Every Second Sunday of Each Month - St. Padre Pio Devotion and Rosary recited before Mass
 Every Third Sunday of Each Month - Choir Sings Mass in Latin

Supporting the Shrine with Your Membership



On reviewing our membership files, we find some people have fallen behind on their annual dues, which are only \$10 a year or \$20 for both husband and wife. Filling out the application form below renews your membership for the year. Remember that all membership revenues are used to preserve and restore the Shrine. **All donations are tax deductible**, so encourage your friends. Please send donations by check. Any questions contact Doris Kannady, your Membership Committee Chair at (314) 231-9407 or see her or Ralph Kannady after Mass on Sunday.

Doris Kannady

Air & Steam Club

Those of you who are members of the Air & Steam Club have, since its beginning, provided utility costs. We need your continued support as dues-paying members.



Our over-all utilities expense in 2004 was approximately \$22,000. Your generous support of the Air & Steam Club brought in \$20,000 to apply to these utility costs.

Thank you! Please continue this level of support for the Shrine. If you are not currently a member, please join now. Your help is needed. Dues are just \$12 per year and all members participate in the monthly drawings for prizes totaling \$200.

Ralph Ellerbrock

Fill out the box below and mail to 1220 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106. If you need additional information, please contact Ralph Ellerbrock, Leo or Pauline Frost, who serve as co-chairpersons. Phone (314) 231-9407.

Remember the Shrine in your will.

Application for Membership
 Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc.
Dues are \$10.00 per person, per year

Mr. _____
 Mrs. _____
 Miss _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone _____

Check \$ _____ Check No. _____

Date _____ Cash \$ _____

Make checks payable to:
 "Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc.
 1220 N. 11th Street • St. Louis, MO 63106-4614

Renewal # _____ New Member

The Shrine of St. Joseph
 1220 North 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106-4614

STEAM CLUB

Monthly Dues: \$1.00
 President Receives: \$100.00
 Vice President Receives: \$50.00
 Secretary Receives: \$50.00
1st Sunday of Each Month - Annual Dues \$12.00

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone _____