

The Shrine of Saint Joseph's Friends, Inc. NEWSLETTER

1220 N. 11th Street • St. Louis, Missouri 63106-4614 • Rectory Phone (314) 231-9407
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SUMMER - FALL ISSUE 2024

Father Dale Wunderlich Reaches Major Milestone-- Celebrating 50 years of Ordination

On Sunday, August 4, at the 11 am Mass Father Wunderlich, the Shrine's Rector will be celebrating his 50h year of ordination as a priest in the St. Louis Archdiocese. All are invited to the Mass. Following the Mass will be a reception at the Phyllis Wheatley Heritage Center in the YWCA Building at 2711 Locust Street—about two miles west of the Shrine. Father Dale emphasized that he wanted this to be a celebration of thanksgiving to all who have been a part of his last 50 years and he absolutely does not wish to receive any gifts. Reception information is at the bottom of this page.

Washington, Missouri, was Father's hometown. He still humbly refers to himself as "just a hometown boy." He has a very large extended family--his father, Walter, was one of 11 children and his mother, Florentine, had six other siblings. His close-knit family, his home town upbringing and values, as well as the School Sisters of Notre Dame and the Franciscans certainly must have had a significantly positive effect on influencing Father Dale to consider priesthood.

After 8th grade in 1962, Dale, along with three other 8th grade boys, left Washington, Missouri, took the train to Chicago, and attended high school at St. Joseph's Franciscan Seminary High School in Oakbrook, Illinois. Said Father Dale, "it wasn't too unusual in those days to do that...and we also had upperclassmen on the train with us as well...there had to have been a dozen of us at the train station that day."

After high school graduation, Father entered the Seminary. Before his ordination from the seminary he attended the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome for four years; later, he earned a PhD from St. Louis University in educational administration along with becoming certified to teach the German language; and, furthermore, he took a sabbatical to Tantur Ecumenical Scriptural Institute in Jerusalem in 1992.

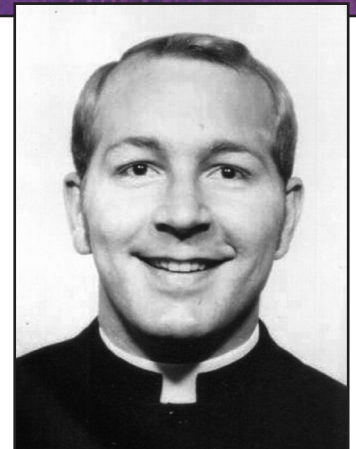
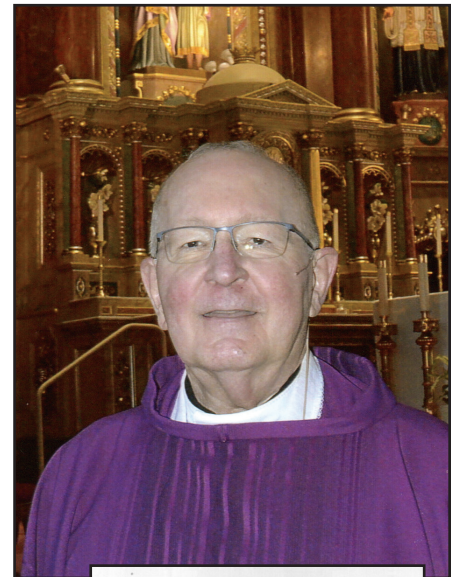
After his first assignment as assistant pastor at Church of the Magdalen, most of the next 25 years of Father's career involved serving young people in various aspects of education including that of principal of Valle High School and Chief Executive of Duchesne High School. Then he was assigned to Kenrick Seminary as its Spiritual Director and Director of Spiritual Life. To make a point in a homily, Father sometimes refers back to those days when he was involved with educating students.

During the next 13 years he was assigned as pastor of two large parishes: Epiphany of Our Lord (1995-2004) and Prince of Peace in Manchester, MO (2004-2008). Father Wunderlich has always been an advocate of "good liturgy well done." His homilies were and are so well received that requests for them kept coming forth. Recordings of his homilies led to the selection of 35 homilies which resulted in his book entitled *Manna: Preaching Reflections to Explore Your Spirituality*. In 2006, he was honored with and received the Great Preacher Award from the Aquinas Institute. In a letter nominating him, Tom and Lisa Marshall wrote, "Father Dale is truly an agent of Christ in all that he does and all that he preaches. He is gifted in incorporating humor, firmness, and Biblical history. As a listener, you are challenged, inspired, and even entertained."

But then, a year later, Father Dale was diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome which appreciably slowed down the busy schedule he had been maintaining and Father feared it could curtail his ministry altogether. However, two occurrences took place simultaneously. It just so happened that there was an opening here at the Shrine. At the same time, Father Dale was looking for an assignment that wouldn't have as many responsibilities as a large parish has. He met here with the Board of Directors, and he felt that the position of rector at the Shrine would be a good fit. The Friends of the Shrine were totally thrilled having already learned of Father's extraordinary reputation---it was an absolute blessing. He would be in charge of the liturgical and sacramental ministry at the Shrine while our organization would continue with building restoration, maintenance, finances, and fund raising. He began his assignment here on June 21, 2009.

Now in his 15th year as rector of the Shrine of St. Joseph, with permission from the Archdiocese to remain past the nominal retirement age, his retirement has been extended. Once again, our organization was absolutely elated. His assignment represents the second longest pastorship during the church's 180-year history.

As previously mentioned, when Father started his ministry at the Shrine, we were already made aware of his great reputation. What we didn't initially realize was just what a wonderful, personable, humble, unpretentious person he was—and we discovered another gift—he has an amazingly good singing voice. In everyone's lifetime, we meet up with special people who have had a very positive impact on us. Father Dale would certainly be one of these "special people." The Shrine volunteers and worshippers thank God for Father Dale.



Father Dale-- ordination day

Reception

The Friends will be holding a reception after Mass on Aug. 4th in celebration of Father Wunderlich's 50th year of ordination.

If you have an interest in attending (due to limited seating) please e mail your name, address, telephone number, and number of attendees to: joe.finazzo.shrineofstjoseph@gmail.com Please respond no later than July 14th.

We abundantly and enthusiastically congratulate Father Wunderlich for 50 years of remarkable and dedicated service to the Lord.

Father Dale Wunderlich Through the Years:

Education

St Francis Borgia Parish Grade School, Washington, MO	until 1959
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Grade School Washington, MO	1959-1962
St. Joseph's Franciscan Seminary High School, Oakbrook, IL	1962-1966
Cardinal Glennon College, St. Louis, MO	1966-1970
Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome	1970-1974
St. Louis University -- earning PhD	1985
Tantur Ecumenical Spiritual Institute, Jerusalem	1992
Ordination into the Priesthood	Aug. 3, 1974

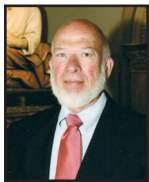
Priest Assignments

Pastor, Church of the Magdalen, St. Louis, MO	1974-1979
Principal of Valle High School, St. Genevieve, MO	1981-1983
Assoc. Pastor, St. Cletus Parish, St. Charles, MO	1983-1992
Chief Executive, Duchesne High School, St. Charles, MO	1983-1992
Senior Associate at the Old Cathedral	Jan-June 1993
Director of Spiritual Life & Worship, Kenrick Seminary	1993-1995
Spiritual Director of Kenrick Seminary	1993-2005
Pastor of Epiphany of Our Lord Parish, St. Louis, MO	1995-2004
Pastor of Prince of Peace Parish, Manchester, MO	2004-2008
Rector, Shrine of St. Joseph, St. Louis, MO	2009-present

Father Wunderlich's celebration of the 50-year anniversary of his Ordination on Aug. 4, 2024

Friends, Inc. Yearly Meeting—April 14th

All paid members were invited to the annual public meeting and to vote in the Board election. The following incumbents on the Board of Directors ran and were re-elected to another 3 year term : Jim Blum, has been a Board member since 1993 and its president since 2015; Kevin Finazzo, became the Board's treasurer in 2013; Frank Fessler, has been a Board member since 1994 and handles the by-laws and elections; and Sherry Chibnall joined the Board in 2015 and deals with all matters related to Membership. There were no other people on the ballot. The Board of Directors usually meets monthly and is the official governing body of the Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends , Inc, a not-for-profit 501C3 Corporation. Highlights of the meeting also included yearly financial income and expenditures, the up coming newsletter, and the spring fund raiser. Frank Fessler thanked Jo Ann Geisz --who resigned from the Board-- for her years of dedicated service.



Jim Blum



Sue Chibnall



Frank Fessler



Kevin Finazzo

Sue Luepker Appointed to the Board

At the regular May monthly meeting, Sue Luepker was appointed to the Shrine's Board of Directors. She and Marty, her late husband, owned and managed the Feasting Fox Restaurant for several years and ran some other businesses as well. She brings to the Board a great deal of business savvy and common sense. Sue has helped out in the Shrine Shoppe, and for weddings, but also has willingly pitched in wherever there is a need. We welcome her to the Board.



Sue Luepker

Spring BBQ and Raffle Drawing

On a beautiful spring day on June 2nd, the annual spring fest which we call "Appreciation Day" was held, with lots of food, fun, and fellowship.

This day marked the end of the Shrine's spring fund raiser. Once again, we are humbled by the high level of participation exhibited in this fund raiser, especially during a time when we are all experiencing inflationary pressures. Those of us who are directly responsible for maintaining the Shrine are extraordinarily grateful for your prayers and contributions to our efforts.

The winners in the drawing were: 1st place: Virginia Russell, Florissant, MO; 2nd place: Joe Ginnever, O'Fallon, MO; 3rd place: Alma Pryor, Hazel Green, Alabama; and 4th place: J.B. Postell, Lake Charles, Louisiana. May God bless all of you from around St. Louis and across the country.



10 priests concelebrating on Feast of St. Joseph

Feast of St. Joseph Was a Memorable Liturgical Event

It is not too unusual for generations of worshipers and their families to make attendance at various religious events here at the Shrine a tradition. One such religious event is the Feast of St. Joseph. It was truly amazing to see over 350 in attendance (given that March 19th was a week-day) to honor St. Joseph including Robert Carlson, Archbishop Emeritus of St. Louis, an auxiliary Bishop visiting from the Netherlands, 10 other priests concelebrating the Mass, and a number of nuns representing various Orders. It was inspiring to have the presence so many clergy. Sixteen members of the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard embraced the center aisle as the statue of St. Joseph was brought forward in the processional with music sung by Carmelite nuns from St. Agnes Home in Kirkwood.

The fact that we frequently hear from first-time worshipers that "we had no idea that such wonderful religiously significant events take place here" attests to the rich liturgical experiences under Father Wunderlich's guidance that occur at our magnificent Shrine.



Shrine's New Coffee Mugs

Here is an opportunity to purchase a handsome, tall coffee mug with an Arteaga photo of the Main Altar and a Ted Wofford rendering of the Shrine's exterior-- a nice keepsake or gift. Available in the Shrine Shoppe at \$18.

Healing Miracle of Jim Fesler at the Shrine

My name is Jim Fesler and in Dec. 2011 I was diagnosed with stage four squamous cell carcinoma cancer. The cancer tumor was on the right tonsil and the back of my tongue large enough to start closing my throat and making it difficult to swallow. I was 54 yrs. old, healthy, played racquet ball twice a week—so I was in shock.

In Jan. of 2012 I began chemotherapy with a high dosage of radiation at Siteman. The side effects were very painful—unable to swallow or speak and I was very weak. I lost 25 lbs. over 3 months. The pain was so unbearable I was given oxycodone and fentanyl patches to help me cope.

I was so blessed—I had a large number of family, friends, prayer groups at Assumption Parish praying for me during this entire journey. This gave me hope and peace. Get well cards and Mass intentions were received in the mail almost daily.

In June 2012, we found our way to the Shrine of St. Joseph through a dream my wife, Karen, had. In this dream, a friend of hers, Peggy Baines, invited her there to attend First Friday Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass and pray at the Shrine's Altar of Answered Prayers. Even though I wasn't feeling well I really wanted to attend also. After Mass, Karen told Peggy about my cancer and they went back to the sacristy and asked Fr. Dale Wunderlich to bless me and lay healing hands on me along with Karen, Peggy, her sons and a son's friend. What a moving and uplifting experience to feel the love and compassion of the Lord all around me. From that day forward I knew that the Shrine was a special place for me and I began attending every First Friday, and I started helping out with the Shrine maintaining the facilities when I began to feel better and eventually I began presenting the St. Peter Claver relic which is contained in a beautiful gold cross reliquary for the faithful to venerate after Mass.

In July 2012 came good and bad news: the CT scan of my head and neck was clean but the cancer had metastasized to my left lung. In Oct. 2012 I had surgery to remove the lower lobe of my left lung.



Jim Fesler

Success again, CT Scan was clean. Praise the Lord.

In March 2013 a scan showed cancer metastasized a 3rd time to the Aorta Pulmonary lymph nodes. It was too dangerous to surgically remove due to the location on the aorta. At this point, Siteman doctors told me there was nothing more they could do for me-- they gave me about 2 yrs. to live and they wanted to start palliative chemotherapy. I never returned to Siteman because I wanted to live what life I had remaining without any terrible side effects of palliative chemotherapy.

Throughout my fight with cancer, I had several wonderful priests that laid healing hands on me and provided spiritual guidance and peace. The best advice was to put my life in God's hands by praying the full Serenity prayer which I prayed every day.

I was at my lowest when I decided to go to St. Louis University where the compassionate doctors there encouraged me and expressed their willingness to treat to heal me. To ease my mind, they even further obtained referrals from other experts from two other renowned cancer centers. In April 2014, I started chemotherapy and directed radiation treatment to my aorta pulmonary lymph nodes.

On May 2, 2014, I attended Sacred Heart Mass at the Shrine of St. Joseph. After Mass as usual I held the gold cross containing the relic of St. Peter Claver for all to venerate. People kissed, touched, or just prayed in front of it. On this day, something very different happened. A young Asian nun dressed in all gray came through the line and embraced my hands while I was holding the cross. As soon as her hands touched mine, I felt a warmth that came through the white gloves I was using as I held the relic. This warmth went throughout my entire body. I stood there in amazement and couldn't believe it, but I knew that a miracle had just happened. I knew at that very moment that I was cured of cancer. I had never seen this nun before and haven't seen her since this day.

During my years battling cancer the resounding six "F" were my saving grace of Faith, Family, Friends, Physicians, Healthy Food, and Fitness. I am now 64 and I have been blessed to be able to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary with my wife Karen, witness both our children graduate college, get married and become a grandfather to four wonderful grandchildren—my cancer has not returned. Every day when I awake, I say "Thank Jesus for another day."

Number of Tours Breaks Another Record

Jim Allen, our very knowledgeable and interesting lead docent, does most of the tours at the Shrine. In fact, he has conducted over 100 record-breaking week-day tours for each of the last several years in addition to his tours he normally does after Sunday and also First Friday Masses. Jim has been doing these tours for over 10 years and he said that the tours are all types and sizes from a whole bus load of folks to school groups, clergy, or just single families and other smaller groups.

If you are looking for an interesting place to visit in St. Louis--some place you haven't been--something inspiring that you don't have to drive a long distance to reach—the answer may very well be a visit and tour of this historic Shrine. On a tour you will see the Shrine's highly acclaimed restoration, its stunning altars, and you will hear how this historic architecturally and religiously significant landmark through "grass-roots" efforts was saved, and why it is referred to as the "Church of Miracles."

There are three different ways to request a tour: you can go to info@shrineofstjoseph.org and make a request. Or you can call the main telephone line at 314 231- 9407 and leave a message—either way someone will return your message. Or you can call the ever-helpful Mary Ann Wetzel at that number on Tuesday morning and she'll help you set up a day and time. It's just that easy.

In memory of Conrad Philipp

On March 23, 2024, long time veteran volunteer, Conrad Philipp, received his eternal reward and is at home with the Lord. Conrad was sometimes lovingly referred to and was eulogized as the "energizer bunny" because, with his abundant energy, he just kept going. Conrad was a Board member since 1991--after retiring from the heating and AC industry, he handled issues related to all the Shrine maintenance and was continually on the look-out for areas that needed attention. He devoted over 30 years to this historic landmark. The success of saving and then maintaining this Shrine can be attributed to long-time veteran volunteers like Conrad. May he rest in peace.



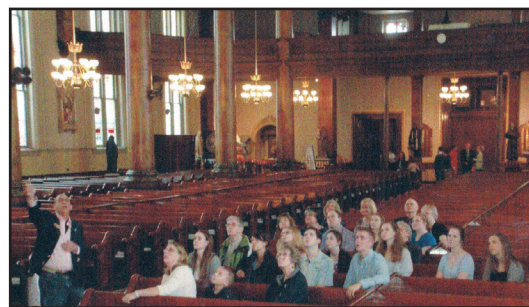
Conrad Philipp

Our newer volunteer: Theresa Horn

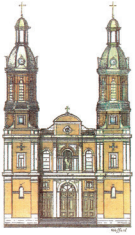
For the last three years, the Shrine's organization has benefited from a newer volunteer-- Theresa Horn, who began in February 2021. Theresa is now a eucharistic minister, a member of the lector group, and takes care of various aspects of the sacristy. Theresa also helps out during the week at St. Anthony's Parish by serving as lector in the early morning Mass before going to her day job--obviously she has a busy schedule. We thank Joe Stuckey, another volunteer, who encouraged her to become a volunteer here.



Theresa Horn



Jim Allen giving a tour



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 1220 North 11th Street
 St. Louis, MO 63106-4614



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Check if appropriate:

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I received more than one (1) copy

I no longer wish to receive the Newsletter

Please clip the address panel and mail it to us noting your correction or request.

Mass Times

Sundays: 11:00am

First Friday of each Month: 12:00pm (Noon)

Holy Days of Obligation:

See Website www.shrineofstjoseph.org for details

Veneration of St. Peter Claver Relic or St. Padre Pio Relic following Mass
 Fr. Dale Wunderlich, Rector and Recipient
 of the Aquinas Institute "Great Preacher" Award.

Staying in touch with the Shrine:

www.shrineofstjoseph.org



facebook.com/shrineofstjoseph



YouTube StJoseph Shrine

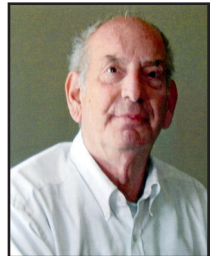
Supporting the Shrine with Your Membership



Sherry Chibnall

Restoration and conservation of the historic Shrine relies solely on private contributions. In 1980 membership was \$10 per person per year. Now, in the 21st century, we would like to encourage you to be a **St. Ignatius Companion** member at \$20 or more per person per year. One can still be a basic member. However, if you can help a little more, please consider the St. Ignatius Companion level member. Please check one of the boxes below & include a check in the proper amount.

Air & Steam Club



John Colao

Members of the Air & Steam Club have, for many years, helped to cover utility costs. Your donations have contributed greatly toward the Shrine's heating and AC bills. If you aren't currently a Member, please consider joining now. Your help is needed! There are monthly drawings for prizes totaling \$200. Tickets are \$12 each, and 1 ticket gives you 1 chance to win each month and there's no limit on the number of tickets you can purchase.

Simply complete the form below and mail it together with your check payable to:

"Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc."
 1220 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106-4614.

For more information, please contact **John Colao**, Chairperson at (314) 231-9407.

Please Remember the Shrine in your Will or Trust.

Application for Membership & **Renewal Form**
 Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc.

Basic membership \$10 per person per year
 St. Ignatius Companion \$20 per person per year

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Check \$ _____ Check Number _____

Date _____ Cash \$ _____

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

Special Notice: Please be aware that the Shrine has not and does not give or sell names and addresses on our mailing list to any other groups or organizations.

Air and Steam Club

Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc.
 1220 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106-4614

1st Prize \$100
 2nd Prize \$50
 3rd Prize \$50

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please enter my name. I do not wish to make a donation at this time.