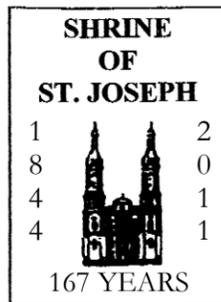




The Shrine of Saint Joseph's Friends, Inc.
1220 North 11th Street • St. Louis, MO 63106-4614

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The Shrine of Saint Joseph's Friends, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

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

SUMMER-FALL ISSUE 2011

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.
 Please clip this address panel and mail it to us noting your request.

Religious Services

Sunday Mass--11 a.m.

First Friday of each month--Mass at 12 Noon

Veneration of St. Peter Claver or St. Padre Pio Relic after Mass

Fr. Dale Wunderlich, rector, and recipient of an Aquinas Institute "Great Preacher" award.

Supporting the Shrine with Your Membership



Doris Kannady

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.

Remember the Shrine in your will or trust.

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

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 overall utilities expense in 2010 was approximately \$23,000. Your generous support of the Air & Steam Club brought in \$20,000 to apply to these utility costs.



Ralph Ellerbrock

Thank you, 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.

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, Donna Milligan, or Dianne Raney, who serve as co-chairpersons. Phone (314) 231-9407.

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

AIR AND 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 _____

The Remarkable Timeline

Consider the following set of events and time frame in which they occurred:

- In March, 1979--five businessmen along with a group of no more than perhaps two dozen others formed this not-for-profit corporation called the Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc. in hopes of saving the Shrine from the headache ball and restoring it to its former glory--these early pioneers were visionaries.
- In September, 1979, just six months later--Father Filipiak, the Shrine's pastor, is murdered in the rectory, which galvanized support for saving the Shrine.
- In March, 1980, just six months after the murder-Archbishop May newly arrives in St. Louis and begins to take a fresh look at the issue of whether to save the Shrine.
- On Oct 1 of 1980, just six months after May's arrival, the new archbishop gives to the Friends organization the first 5-year lease in which the Friends would be entirely responsible for overseeing the financial management not only of both maintaining and restoring the Shrine, but also for raising all the funds needed for the entire effort. And, for 32 years, this is exactly what our organization has been doing.

Some folks believe that everything happens for a reason. The above time line of events that were put into motion could make one wonder if there wasn't indeed some kind of divine intervention which permitted this historically significant Shrine to be saved.

The result has been nothing short of a modern-day miracle considering how far we had to come. And just remember this: when you see the accomplishments of our organization's efforts all these years and you look at the Shrine's widely-acclaimed original restoration with exposure around the world--every single dime has come from donations either in the form of financial gifts, material, labor, or volunteers. It all adds up to hundreds and hundreds of wonderful people who decided that this magnificent Shrine with its religious history and beauty was worth saving.



Shrine's historic "Altar of Answered Prayers"

Down the 150 ft. long aisle, in the Shrine's sanctuary stands the enormous 60 ft. high altar of answered prayers. With a flurry of contrasting colors, endless stencils, colossal murals, and sublime statuary, this historic altar is a visually overwhelming masterpiece, and was meticulously restored in 1990.

Ellerbrock Nearing Two-thirds of a Century of Service

It is difficult to fathom--it is nearly impossible to believe. But, yes, it is true. Ralph Ellerbrock will have completed 66 years here at the Shrine in a few months. Sure, Ralph is the organist and choir director; but this is only one part of his many contributions. Ralph is currently taking a leave-of-absence from these other activities, but he plans to continue as usual playing at Sunday Mass.

Ellerbrock has developed a loyal following over the years stemming from the fact that people love his musical selections. Many regulars feel he chooses music that remind them that they are truly in church-- "that we are hearing music the way it is supposed to be at Mass," said one long-time worshipper.

Ralph was called upon to play the big Pfeiffer pipe organ at age 14 in 1946 and has been playing here ever since. Having lived in the neighborhood, he has seen it all. (Con't on bottom of p.2)



The Missing Bell Clapper

When the Friends began restoration, nowhere was the church in more disrepair than in its bell tower with its several feet of pigeon droppings layered on the platforms holding the bells. It was a sad picture of severe neglect. Furthermore, the clapper that should have hung from the huge 6,000 pound "St. Joseph" bell had been lost, preventing the bell from being able to be rung for perhaps 10 years.

It so happened that in the winter of 1985 a group of seminarians from Cardinal Glennon undertook a volunteer project on Saturday afternoons to



Original missing clapper



The huge 6000 lb. "St Joseph" bell

clean the bells and rid the surrounding area of pigeon droppings. The following are more memoirs from Father Eftink, who was one of those seminarian volunteers: "In removing the pigeon droppings, we eventually came upon the bell clapper buried underneath. It had fallen out when the bolt holding it evidently broke many years before. The clapper was very heavy, and was about 4 ft. long. We then had to find a bolt long and thick enough to hold it in place. Once we got the clapper in place, we greased the harness and got the bell ready to be rung for the first time in many years." Said Fr. Eftink, "what an awesome feeling it was to hear the melodic peal of all the bells again. I felt I was a part of history." (Father Eftink is presently pastor of St. Francis Xavier in Sikeston, MO.)

Shortly after the seminarians diligently removed all the droppings and the large clapper was found and re-attached, from funds provided by the men's club, it was decided that the original clappers on all four bells would be converted to electronically-driven clappers. Thus, the original clappers were permanently removed. The clapper to the largest of the four bells that was lost and then found by the seminarians is now retired from duty and is standing next to this gigantic bell in the Shrine's west tower that it had proudly rung for over 90 years.

Ellerbrock *(Con't from front page)*

Taught by the Notre Dame School Sisters, he attended school at St. Joseph's before it closed. He watched the neighborhood go down whereupon the surrounding area became blighted. In the church's most deteriorated condition in the early 1970's, Ralph has interesting stories to tell from those days. For example, Ralph says, "I remember wearing gloves in the winter to play when we couldn't afford heat, or the number of times birds would fly out of the organ pipes when I started playing. And one Christmas Eve" says Ralph, "I turned on the lights to prepare for midnight Mass to discover hundreds of starlings flying all over the church." He reminds people that "folks who visit the Shrine today simply don't realize what we all went through in those years and how far we have come."

In 2006, Ralph was honored for his 60 years of service with a dinner party at Glen Echo Country Club with over 160 in attendance where he received accolades from Father Valentine and others, including the Pope and mayor of St. Louis. There were also two newspaper articles about him that year. As one article said, "this is the story of one man's profound love and devotion to the Shrine."

Through the good and the bad times at the Shrine, Ralph was always here. He is a true living legend--his longevity with so many uninterrupted years will not likely to be ever duplicated again. Thank you, Ralph, for 2/3 of a century of dedicated service.

Sister Teresa's 50th

Who leads the congregation in praying the rosary regularly before Mass? She is Sister Teresa Joseph Ganley, who celebrated on July 10th her Golden Jubilee as a Sister of the Most Precious Blood order. She also takes communion to the home bound along with Cheryl Williams, a lay person.



Sr. Teresa & Fr. Wunderlich

At the July 3rd Mass, Father Wunderlich, the Shrine's rector, presented Sister with flowers and a gift certificate, and he spoke of her 50 years of steadfast commitment and ministry to serving others.

For 25 years, Sister Teresa attended Mass at St. Patrick's with the late Father Valentine and the Capuchins. "When they left," she said, "I wanted to continue worshipping where the Capuchins had ministered. So I felt called to the Shrine for that reason, and when I first started attending Mass, I was overwhelmed by everyone's graciousness here."

Having been a parish elementary teacher for 17 years, she continued serving others in numerous capacities. Among the organizations with which she has recently volunteered are: Life Care Center, St. Anthony's Food Pantry, the Epilepsy Foundation of Southern Illinois, and Our Lady of the Snows. Thus, after 50 years, Sister still continues to serve the Lord by helping others.

Shrine's Geneology Link

For those who are into geneology, on the Shrine's website is a link that will take you to a list of the baptisms that occurred here from 1844 to 1864; the marriages performed from 1843 to 1930; and the deaths that occurred at St. Joseph's from 1846 to 1900. To access this information, go to the Shrine's website. On the homepage, click on "links" at the top. Then on the next screen click on the St. Louis Geneology web site. Once on that site, scroll about one-fourth of the way down to "Gloria's Dettleff's St. Joseph Church Transcriptions" and you will find this information.

"and the Winners Are..."

The winners of the annual spring membership fund-raiser were drawn on June 12th at the annual summerfest event, known as "hot dog day." 1st place winner was: L. Markovich; 2nd place: Jane Kiely; 3rd place: Betty Duff. Said Ralph Kannady, Board president, "we thank everyone for reaching into their pockets and participating--all for the Shrine's benefit."



Culmination of Shrine's spring fundraiser with food, fun, fellowship

Visit our website: www.shrineofstjoseph.org

Photos by Arteaga

Statue Restoration: RE-VISITED

Master artisan Michele Bowman DuMay returns to the Shrine

It has been 23 years since one of the Shrine's superb artisans, Michele Bowman DuMay, restored her first statue here--the very inspiring guardian angel statue. In May, she returned to this same statue to work again focusing her artistic talents on the faces of both the guardian angel and the young child located in front. "I had always wanted to enhance and embellish the faces a little more" said Michelle.

She began by giving the eyes "more life" by darkening the eyebrows, lips, as well as the eyes themselves. Then she subtly evened out the skin tones. Using airbrushing, Michelle commented that this technique produces a nice, even appearance.

"When I first worked on this statue in 1988," said Michele, "this statue, and nearly all the other statues, was so over-laid with at least 5 or 6 layers of paint, you could not see the fine detailing... and on this one the outer layer was loaded with a thick silver radiator paint. By using several types of acetones, I carefully removed all these layers, until I got down to the first layer of paint colors and these original colors I used for the final restorative painting process." It took a period of over six months for Michele to painstakingly bring back all the details which had been hidden including all the many feathers on both wings--the pair of wings she actually unbolted and took home with her to work on. Proceeding with the final restoration, she used eight layers of glazing which she says produces a deep velvet appearance. Today, that statue is considered to be a most exquisitely-detailed statue thanks to Michele's loving, skillful, and patient restoration.

Said Michele, "I really learned my craft from both Ted Wofford, the Shrine's architect, and Tom Sater, who was the owner of the company I first worked with. I got my start under the guidance of both these two men." In 1993, Michelle and her husband, Mike, formed their own company and named it Restoration Plus whose beautiful website is www.statuesplus.com. Located in south St. Louis on Virginia Ave., she and Mike specialize in all aspects of ecclesiastical art preservation which involves restoring and giving new life to religious art objects and also including paintings, clocks, bells, and art glass. In addition, they have many religious works of art for sale. While they have done much St. Louis-based work, they also receive items from around the country.

For ex., "we recently received a headless statue sent to us from Los Angeles along with an original photo of it before the head came off and was lost" said Michele. From that photo, she made a mould of the head, she and her husband re-constructed it, and secured it back onto the statue. "Another statue came to us from North Dakota," said Michele. "It was sent in several pieces due to vandalism--and we made it new again."

Here at the Shrine, Michele worked for a period of five years from 1988 to 1993. Both she and another excellent artisan, Diane Pappas, restored nearly every major Shrine statue including

Mother Cabrini, St. Peter Claver, St. Anthony, St. Cecilia, St. Agnes, as well as the four apostles, St. Ignatius, St. Xavier, and St. Joseph with boy Jesus up on the main altar. She returned several years later and restored the nativity figures, gold-plated the tabernacle, and in 1999, gold-plated the organ pipes to their dramatic and beautiful brilliance that you see today.



Michele detailing one of the faces

"But it all started for me with this guardian angel statue, and so it holds special meaning to me," said Michele. After finishing her work on the faces at that statue last May, Michele looked around the Shrine and said, "this really is a special place. There is no other church I know of where so much religious art work has remained intact and been preserved...I can see something new each time I come in."

It goes without saying that the Shrine will be forever indebted to these wonderful artisans like Michele whose high quality of workmanship in restoring our many religious art objects was never compromised.

Memorable Tours

Fall and the Christmas season is an ideal time of the year to get a group together to come to the Shrine for a pilgrimage and tour. There is nearly always a tour offered after Sunday 11 am Mass or after First Friday noon Mass. Tours during other times of the week should be pre-arranged by calling 231-9407.

Recent comments by visitors in the Shrine's guestbook include: "What a beautiful experience", "this church is a treasure", "thank you for an awesome tour", "your church and tour was the highlight of our trip to St. Louis", "blessed are the people who help maintain such a beautiful church" and this comment from a 6th grader on a tour with his school class: "it was cool, the wood is pretty; we were amazed by the church's beauty."

Incumbents Voted Back

At the annual business meeting in March of the Friends, Inc., five incumbents on the Friends 15-member Board of Directors were voted back by the active membership for another 3-year term. Following are their names and their primary responsibilities on the Board: Pauline Frost, treasurer; Ralph Ellerbrock (photo on p.1), grievances; Ralph Kannady, president; Donna Milligan, purchasing; and Gene Wetzel, building committee.



Pauline Frost



Ralph Kannady



Donna Milligan



Gene Wetzel