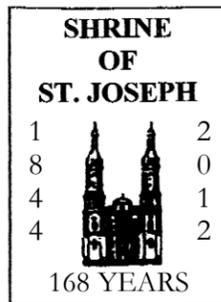




The Shrine of Saint Joseph's Friends, Inc.  
1220 North 11th Street • St. Louis, MO 63106-4614

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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

WINTER-SPRING ISSUE 2012

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 the beginning, provided utility costs. We need your continued support as dues-paying members.

Our overall utilities expense for 2011 was approximately \$23,000. Your generous support of the Air & Steam Club brought in \$20,000 to apply to these utility costs.

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

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### AIR AND STEAM CLUB

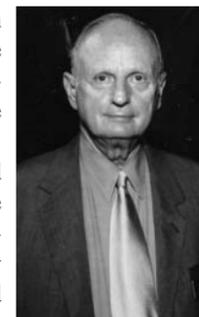
Monthly Dues: \$1.00  
 President Receives: \$100.00  
 Vice President Receives: \$50.00  
 Secretary Receives: \$50.00  
 1st Sunday of Each Month - Annual Dues \$12.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

If you could line up everyone who has been on one of Les's tours here at the Shrine over the last 25 years, it would indeed stretch a far distance. His tours have made a very memorable impression on a lot of folks, to say the least.

The impact that Les's contributions has had upon getting the Shrine story told cannot be overstated. Les is an extremely humble individual who has always avoided accepting any special recognition for his years of dedicated service to the Shrine and to our organization's efforts. However, there can be little doubt that Les has been a big part of this organization's ability to bring in new people and to keep them interested in this monumental restoration effort that has gone on. When Les started volunteering here and began giving tours, he quickly earned a reputation of being both knowledgeable and extremely professional in the manner in which he conducted tours. Like so many other volunteers, he came on the scene just when his talents and abilities were most needed because the serious restoration was just beginning. Les was thereby instrumental, as the Shrine's main spokesperson, in creating interest in the great history that exists at this religious landmark.

McLaughlin is an alum of CBC high school, joined the Marines, and went to Okinawa in World War II. After that, he graduated from St. Louis U. and then became a 2nd lieutenant in the Air Force in the Korean War. Les began working for American Airlines and then was hired by TWA as account manager up to his retirement in 1987. Said Les, "for years I drove past the Shrine going to work every morning and never even knew its name. Finally, my wife, Dorothy, and I decided to attend church here—it was on Easter of 1982." Les added, "when we saw the inside, it was filthy dirty and in bad shape...but it was really Dorothy who saw the underlying beauty here." They both came back periodically to Mass. Then, he started volunteering in 1986 on a regular, but limited basis. After retirement, he said, "I'll volunteer here one day a week." But he gradually became more and more involved as the interior restoration was going on and "pretty soon,"



Les McLaughlin

## a special tribute to LES McLAUGHLIN looking back on his 25 memorable years as Shrine's docent and historian

said Les, "I was down here a lot... I just fell in love with this place."

One of Les's early accomplishments was to convince the Shrine's Board that the organization needed to move into the computer age. Said Les, "in those days, that was not an easy sell." Eventually, one computer was purchased, and Les began building the Shrine's data base of visitors and donors.

"I had seen cathedrals throughout Europe," said Les, "but after restoration here inside was completed, the Shrine looked better to me than anything I had seen elsewhere." Therefore, in 1999, Les masterminded and convinced the Board of Directors on the idea of having a beautiful, professional video of the Shrine produced. When the video was finally completed, it won a Tilly award for excellence. And when it was first broadcast in 2001 on EWTN around the world, said Les, "the phones rang off the hook with requests for that video and inquiries about the Shrine during that entire next week." It was then that we realized through McLaughlin's steadfast guidance and determination, the playing of this wonderful video by EWTN had truly placed the Shrine's story on the world stage.



Les giving a tour.

In the more recent years, Les was here Monday, Friday, and Sunday conducting tours and handling phone inquiries. Realizing that for all of this to continue, Les very wisely began to encourage and train other volunteers to get up to "speed" on giving tours. As a result, Jim Allen is our Sunday docent when McLaughlin is unavailable, assisted by Vince DeBlaze once a month. Ray Brodzinski conducts tours on Mondays, and Howard Matthews assists during the week when needed.

McLaughlin's efforts has had a tremendous, positive impact through his masterful articulation of the Shrine story from its very beginnings to its re-birth and restoration. Utilizing his outstanding speaking skills, his professional, dignified demeanor, and his extensive knowledge, McLaughlin has helped a multitude of people to have a more profound appreciation of this Shrine, thereby enhancing our organization's membership and much-needed donors. We could not even begin to thank Les enough for these 25 years of his devoted, committed, and superb service--we hope he can continue as long as possible.

## Shrine's Award Winning Video

Now into its 3rd printing thanks to  
Les McLaughlin's visionary foresight.  
Narrated by Dan Gray,  
St. Louis's Channel 11 news anchor,  
the Shrine story is brilliantly  
and beautifully told.  
Available in DVD at \$19.95.



**In Memoriam: Ralph Ellerbrock (1931 - 2011)**  
*An entire lifetime totally dedicated to the Shrine*

For those who do not know, Ralph Ellerbrock's earthly life ended on Nov 7th followed by his Memorial Mass held here on Nov 19th concelebrated by Fr. Dale Wunderlich, Shrine's rector, and Msgr. Wojcicki, former long-time pastor at what was previously St. Stanislaus Catholic Church where Ralph also played.



Ralph Ellerbrock

Father Wunderlich, in eulogizing Ralph, said, "as a priest, what do you say about a legend?" Ralph was here for 66 years as the Shrine's only organist starting at age 14; was men's club pres-

ident, and served in many, many other capacities literally dedicating his entire life to the Shrine. In fact, Ralph and the Shrine were inseparable. Father Dale said, "there needs to be a musical tribute to him." Thus, interspersed in Father's eulogy, with his excellent singing voice, Father sang excerpts from several ballads containing words having to do with the themes of love, loyalty, devotion, and commitment-- all aspects of what Father referred to as Ralph's absolute and total love for this church. Furthermore, he said, "Ralph gave to brides, grooms, labor unions, and all of us his gift of total love through his organ playing. He left us with many memories of this remarkable love he had for the Shrine."

**from our Thrift Shop**

In addition to the popular items to be found every Sunday such as fresh bread, clothing, and kitchenware, Lou Toenjes, one of our nine veteran thrift shop volunteers, showed off some specialty or collectors items on sale—a virtual "antique road show." Among these items were: Anheuser-Busch beer steins, a Hallmark porcelain swallow and doves, a Wellington pair of doves, a 100 yr. old sewing machine in working condition, and an 1899 2-volume set of books entitled Our Islands and their People.

In the houseware area are two nice 56-piece sets of plates, bowls, cups, and saucers; four nice maple TV tables, an artist's table, an oak kitchen table with 4 chairs, and a drop-leaf maple table with extra leaf.

And, of course, there is a plentiful and varied amount of religious and inspirational items especially those devoted to St. Padre Pio and Peter Claver.

The hot coffee and doughnuts help make browsing around and shopping in the Shrine's thrift shop a pleasant experience before and after Sunday and First Friday Mass.

An addition to the thrift shop is the newly-refurbished and re-painted entry-way and visitors center. Placed attractively on frames and behind glass on the wall by volunteer carpenter Gene Wetzel and his son, Joe, are over 115 photos by Arteaga of the

Shrine's restoration work which allows visitors to visually experience the massive, painstaking effort this restoration required. Also are other memorabilia such as front page original newspaper articles of Fr. Filipiak's murder and other early photos of the Shrine and the former surrounding blighted area. On the opposite wall, all of the 11 historic photos on the Fr. Filipiak Memorial depicting his requiem Mass have been matted and framed to protect them from further deterioration.



Part of the new wall display on refurbished entry-way.

**Tom Milligan also known as Santa**



Tom Milligan as Santa.

Tom is a long-time member of the Shrine's family of volunteers. For 11 months of the year, he is our very own bearded and friendly Tom Milligan. But in December, he normally transforms himself into Santa Claus in which he has many Santa jobs that allow him to spread his cheer among hundreds of children. Unfortunately however, this year, surgery in mid-December from which Tom is recovering, curtailed his Santa routine.

Tom monitors and offers technical support to the Shrine's computer system—his knowledge in this area has been extremely beneficial to our organization. He also over-saw and coordinated the development of the Shrine's beautiful website. A long-time active men's club officer and usher group member, Tom also helps out in many capacities before every Mass. Several years ago, he initiated the Shrine's annual Veterans Mass—Tom, himself, is a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel. Tom's wife, Donna, a very long-time volunteer here, serves on the Board of Directors as head of purchasing and is the co-chairman of our air and steam club.

**Max Kaiser, Jr. Recipient of Papal Honor**

Known for his long term efforts to bring attention to and preserve historic Catholic churches, including the Shrine, as well as his involvement in many charitable activities, Max Kaiser, Jr., was named a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre by Pope Benedict XVI. Max has been a long-time member of the Friends of the Shrine as well as a Men's Club officer.



Max Kaiser Jr. with cape and hat awarded to him.

He also serves as a member of the Historic Churches Preservation Committee of the St. Louis Landmarks Association and the Knights of Columbus Catholic Heritage and Veterans Affairs Committees. Max is also a national consultant to many church art, architecture, historic preservation, and craftsmanship organizations. Our congratulations to Max for this well-deserved honor and we gratefully thank him for his long-time and continuing support and total commitment to the preservation and promotion of our proud and historic Shrine.

**Board Approves Ceiling Work Project**

*Submitted by Ted Wafford, Shrine's architectural restorationist*

Scaffolding is in place once again—in an effort to be as un-intrusive as possible, it is confined to the balconies. A minor problem has been under observation for some time in one of the paint colors used a couple of decades ago when major restoration of the Shrine's extensive areas of painted decoration was undertaken that the Board of Directors believes needs to be investigated and, if possible, corrected while it is still minor. The project which has already begun is primarily one of investigation and research aimed at discovering the cause of minor flaking we are experiencing and then developing corrective measures. Due to the high cost of scaffolding, we will also be cleaning and refreshing the decoration of the area involved and correcting water damage from a small leak that occurred before the new roof was installed.



Inspecting ceiling area.

The Board's policy during the entire restoration process has been to hold to the highest standards of craftsmanship and consistency possible, and to approach each aspect of the work knowledgeably. While there are always unknowns in dealing with a structure of this age and magnitude, we have always sought to eliminate "blind flying" to the degree humanly possible. So, before embarking on the larger project of the entire nave, this investigative stage is being undertaken. We have been fortunate to have the services for some 30

years now of a dedicated and highly skilled cadre of craftsmen whose involvement has gone far beyond just another job. The care they have lavished upon the Shrine is reflected in the internationally recognized quality of craftsmanship evident to all who experience the special environment that is the Shrine. These same craftsman, now including the 3rd generation, will be working with us in these efforts during the months of January and February.



Re-painting barrel-vaulted ceiling.

Restoration is always like a detective story in which one seeks to discover the truth and searches for rational causes for whatever has taken place over the years. There are many layers of different types of paint at the Shrine, and even with the best information, cleaning and analysis, temperature, and humidity as well as other subtler causes can create problems. When we see a potential problem, it is imperative that we get to the source, and correct it before the deterioration becomes widespread. We are stewards of a very special place and therefore take our responsibility to preserve and protect it seriously. We want the Shrine to speak to future generations the way it speaks to us and has to so many past worshipers. The Board appreciates the patience and understanding of those who call the Shrine home during times when we must do the work necessary to conserve it.

**Weddings-2012**

The wedding season is gearing up for another great year of memorable weddings at our incomparable and majestic Shrine with about 50 scheduled so far in 2012.

Wedding reservations are beginning to come in for 2013; however, our wedding co-ordinators, Jo Ann Geisz and Kathy Schmid, report that there are several open dates left for this year. For more information, please contact them at the Shrine's wedding office 231-0869 on Tuesdays or Thursdays. They will be able to answer any questions you might have.



Jo Ann Geisz



Kathy Schmid

**Joe Finazzo Appointed to Board**

Appointed to the 15-member Board of Directors at their Dec. 9th meeting was Joe Finazzo to replace the deceased Ralph Ellerbrock. Joe and Donna, his wife, have been eucharistic ministers and part of the Shrine's wedding volunteer group for several years. He is the co-owner of a re-modeling business; drawing from this knowledge and experience, Joe will be able to help and become familiar with various aspects of the Shrine's upkeep and maintenance.



Joe Finazzo

Visit our website: [www.shrineofstjoseph.org](http://www.shrineofstjoseph.org)

Photos by Arteaga

**Joe Chibnall Receives Scout Award**

Congratulations go out to one of the Shrine's regular servers, Joe Chibnall, who is about to earn and receive the highest boy scout ranking--that of eagle scout. Joe, a 16 year old junior at Oakville High School, completed the requirements for eagle scout by planning, designing, and supervising the building of ten large dog houses which he then donated to the humane society. Joe's parents, Andrew and Sherry Chibnall, are also part of our family of volunteers. Andrew is a lector and Sherry is one of our eucharistic ministers.



Joe Chibnall

**Up-coming Events**

- Feb 12:** Fr. Valentine's Mass of Remembrance
- Mar. 18:** St. Joseph Sunday-11 am (blessed bread after Mass)
- Mar. 19:** Feast of St. Joseph-12 Noon (blessed bread after Mass)
- Mar. 25:** Friends organization annual meeting 1 pm and election 9am – noon
- April 1:** Palm Sunday
- April 6:** Good Friday—No Mass
- April 8:** Easter
- May 4:** DeSmet High School Ring Ceremony Mass 9 am
- May 6:** Annual Labor Mass 9 am
- May 6:** Annual Men's Club Mass 11 am
- May 13:** Annual Mother's Day Mass & May crowning
- June 24:** Spring fund-raiser and outdoor event after Mass