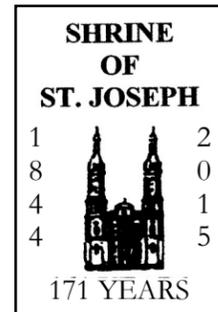




The Shrine of Saint Joseph's Friends, Inc.
1220 North 11th Street • St. Louis, MO 63106-4614

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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 2015

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

The restoration and on-going maintenance of the Shrine is accomplished strictly through private contributions. Annual membership dues is only \$10 (\$20 for husband and wife). All donations are tax deductible. If you are already a member, we **GRATEFULLY THANK YOU** and ask for your continued support. If you are not a member, please consider joining. **Your financial support is needed** to help in preserving this irreplaceable historic and religious landmark for future generations. If you have any questions, please contact Doris Kannady, your Membership Committee Chairperson, at (314) 231-9407.

Please Remember the Shrine in your Will or Trust.

Application for Membership
Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc.
Dues are \$10 per person per year

Mr. _____
 Mrs. _____
 Ms. _____
 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

Air & Steam Club

Members of the Air and Steam Club have, since the beginning, helped to cover utility costs. We need your continued support for the Shrine.

Your donations last year contributed about 60% toward the Shrine's heating, air conditioning, gas, and water bills.

Thank you! Thank you! Please continue your level of support for the Shrine. If you are not currently participating, please join now. Your help is needed! Drawings are monthly for prizes totaling \$200. Tickets are \$12 each yearly with no limit to the number you may purchase.

Mail the form below along with your check made out to: "Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc." and mail to 1220 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63105-4614. If you need more information, please call the rectory at (314) 231-9407.

Visit our website: www.shrineofstjoseph.org

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

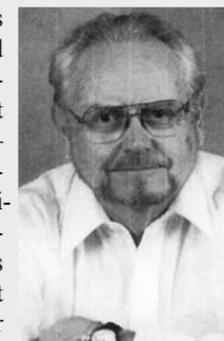
1st prize \$100
 2nd prize \$50
 3rd prize \$50

3 winning tickets every month! \$12 per ticket

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
 Phone _____

Ted Wofford's 40 Years of Dedication to the Shrine

Ted Wofford has been the Shrine's volunteer architect and impassioned leader of the Shrine's internationally-acclaimed restoration effort over the last 40 years. Notice the word "volunteer."—Yes, it is true Wofford's time and expertise has been a gift to the Shrine. One architect was recently asked what would customarily be the fee for what Wofford has freely given, and the response was that it could easily have been as much as over half a million dollars.



Ted Wofford

As rumors spread about plans for the church's demolition to make way for a massive truck depot, Landmark's Association asked Ted to do a feasibility study of what it would take to preserve and restore this religious landmark. The year 1974—40 years ago—marks the beginning of Wofford's long association with the Shrine. "I went to the church," said Ted, "and met Fr. Filipiak and was shocked by the condition of utter poverty under which he was living." Ted and Father proceeded into the church and "Father transformed becoming almost radiant, and simply said 'isn't it beautiful', and from that moment, I was hooked. As we worked together I grew to admire and respect Fr. Filipiak for his unshakable belief that the Shrine would be saved and restored in spite of the formidable forces arrayed against it.

Ted presented his positive report at the annual meeting of the

Landmark's Association held in the Shrine and, it was well received. His goal from the very beginning was to restore the Shrine as accurately as possible based on research and historic documentation. Said Ted, "Our discovery of Ann Biddle's restrictions on her land gift bought us some precious time, and with meager funds that dribbled in (we were jubilant over every \$10 gift) badly needed repairs were made and a cheap new roof was installed." Five men who hardly knew each other formed the Friends of the Shrine and the restoration took on an official face. Ted added that "most of those now active at the Shrine today have no personal knowledge of those early extremely difficult days."

Widespread interest in saving the Shrine didn't occur until Fr. Filipiak's murder in 1979. In 1980, in a bold and innovative move, the Friends were granted financial stewardship of the Shrine by Archbishop John May, and, hoping for a resident priest, the rectory was quickly renovated for a fraction of the cost estimated by the archdiocese. It would be another 5 years, however, before enough donations were accumulated to undertake major interior work on the church. At the Shrine everything is big and there are few small projects. Beginning in 1985 on and off for ten years depending on cash on hand, slowly and methodically the vast interior was restored. Ted, who had also begun his 29 year long restoration of the Missouri Governor's Mansion in 1974, enlisted the same skilled team of artisans who were working with him on that project to do the painstaking work on the Shrine. *(continued on page 2)*

The Shrine's Christmas Tradition of "Quiet and Holy Splendor"

In our noisy culture we live in today filled with chat rooms, talk shows, and non-stop news—by contrast, at the Shrine there was a quiet presence of the Lord during Christmas season as we awaited the "infinite stillness" of the celebration of Christ's birth.

Over 20 volunteers enthusiastically came together on Dec. 13th to decorate the Shrine and on Dec. 17th, a free concert was given by the midwest U.S. Air Force Woodwind Quintet with joyful seasonal music. Prior to that, on Dec. 14th, Santa (aka Jim Fuller) paid the children and grandchildren a visit in the rectory after Mass allowing for a "photo op" of their kids with him. This has become very popular. Under the leadership of Jo Ann Geisz, the Shrine's congregation and volunteers undertook a project of adopting a needy family of four and donating to them food, and other necessities which Conrad Philipp volunteered to take to them.

Christmas Eve Mass at the Shrine is an extraordinary religious experience. To the many families who attend, it has become a tradition. As the early evening sets in, the stunning beauty of the decorated Shrine is breath-taking as the congregation sings carols a half-hour before Mass. Father Wunderlich, the Shrine's rector, in his homily spoke of the legendary, impromptu World War I "Christmas Truce."

With his excellent voice, Father sang "Silent Night" in German just as occurred in the trenches of the war exactly 100 years ago on Christmas Eve. One worshiper described the Shrine's Christmas Eve Mass, as "a night of quiet and holy splendor."

We sincerely wish all of our Shrine supporters a very happy and blessed 2015 and we humbly thank you for supporting us all these years.



Shrine's Nativity Scene

Wofford (Continued from page 1)

Ted is internationally known in his field, not only as a pioneer of “modernist” architecture, but also as a champion of preserving the best of our past as an integral part of our heritage. His pro bono studies have played a critical role in saving the Wainwright Building, Old Post Office, Laclede’s Landing, Lafayette Square, and many other civic treasures. His work includes 100 churches, 4 synagogues, 2 Buddhist Temples, 50 libraries across the country, and such local landmarks as the Loretto Hilton Theatre, headquarters of the County Library system, Climatron, County Government Center, Missouri Historical Society Library and Archives on Skinker Blvd., and many other significant structures. Restorations include the Chancellor’s residence, the oldest building on the Mizzou Columbia campus, Old St. Vincent’s Church in Cape Girardeau, and the 1782 Utz-Teson House. His architectural work is archived in the Mercantile Library collections. Ted is also a superb artist whose drawings are exhibited at the R Space Gallery at 1704 South Broadway east of Souldard.

Wofford has always very humbly given great credit to the artisans

Remembering Ray Bruntrager

When the Friends organization needed to convert to a tax-free not-for-profit corporation back in 1979, the founders went to Bruntrager, a highly respected attorney and devout Catholic. He volunteered to draw up the legal papers needed. In the early years, the Friends had also relied on him for other legal opinions and again - we never received a bill. He truly was our volunteer attorney who donated legal expertise to the Friends, Inc. and to the effort to save the Shrine. Ray passed Dec. 17th at age of 90.

Fall Fund Raiser

We gratefully thank all of you who participated in our fall fund raiser. Winners were: 1st place, M. Girard; 2nd place, William Kennedy; 3rd place, Rose Aubuchon; and 4th place, Casilda Struckhoff. With the proceeds received, the Board of Directors focused on several infrastructure items including a bracing beam for behind the main altar, and correcting some waterproofing and drainage issues that were allowing moisture leakage into the building.

Completed Projects

Conrad Philipp, the Board’s building chairman, who keeps a watchful eye on maintenance issues here at the Shrine, reported to the Board of Director two projects needing attention: the replacement of the 5-ton heat pump and air handler system at \$8660 and also roof repair work at about \$1600. The Board approved that these two items be taken care of.



Conrad Philipp

From our Thrift Shop

We welcome Terry Davis, a newer member of the thrift shop volunteer staff. He is a Viet Nam veteran and a past commander in the American Legion and the VFW. Said Terry, “I worked for Laclede Gas in this area of the city, and I was always intrigued with the Shrine.” Terry has been volunteering about five months at both the Padre Pio counter and the religious counter.



Terry Davis

The volunteers in our thrift shop cordially invite you to join them before and after Mass for complimentary coffee and a doughnut as you browse around. For a limited time, bring the coupon (to the right) with you and receive 50% off of any non-religious item purchased.

who, over the years, have translated his vision into the work we actually see. According to Ted, “the common denominator of all these craftsmen and artisans, beyond their extraordinary skills, is that they truly care about the Shrine and give it their best. Now on the third generation of painters, younger artisans put their regular jobs on hold when there is work to be done at the Shrine. It is this intangible that makes what they do and have done at the Shrine so special - this love shows!”

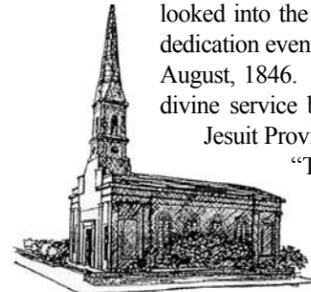
Probably the best paid compliment to Wofford came from Father Valentine, the Shrine’s priest for over 25 years, just a couple of months before Father passed. Said Father Val, “I could always see that what Ted did was proper and that the work was done right. Sometimes people who knew nothing about restoration would challenge him and Ted was always polite and gentle with them. I give him a lot of credit.”

“Over all these years, together we have accomplished what many said could never be done,” said Ted. “Many people - our donors, our faithful volunteers, and St. Joseph himself—have made this remarkable undertaking possible, and I will forever be grateful for their support, their trust, and their dedication to quality.”

from the Jesuit archives...

Dedication of St. Joseph’s in 1846

What was the very first day like when St. Joseph’s was dedicated and put into active service 170 yrs. ago.? To answer that question, we looked into the Jesuit archives for a description of the dedication event which took place in the first Sunday of August, 1846. The church was solemnly dedicated to divine service by Father Van de Velde, the Missouri Jesuit Provincial, who wrote this description:



The early church

“The occasion was a gala one for the Catholics of St. Louis. All the members of the church assembled on Washington Avenue near the St. Aloysius Chapel at St. Louis University and there formed a procession, which was headed by all the children both boys and girls with the banner of St. Aloysius; after the children came the women; then the men, two by two, next, a band of music; at the end came the choir-boys and clergy in rochets (ceremonial robes) and the priests in dalmatics (vestments) and copes.(ceremonial long capes) The procession wound through 3 or 4 streets so as to come up in front of St. Joseph’s. The people were arranged around the church while solemn ceremonies of consecration were being performed by myself as Provincial of the Jesuits. Father Patschowski then preached in German before the large gathering.”

Begun in 1844, the church edifice was 107 by 60 feet. It faced west and its length was along Biddle Street with entry from 11th Street. It was Ionic in design with a portico supported by four fluted columns and with an octagonal turret and a spire. At the above dedication, the church was unfinished due to the scarcity of money. The ceiling and the presbytery were still to be added and the steeple outside rose only up to the roof. Moreover, the entire building had to be plastered and painted. Nonetheless, the German immigrants had their own church even if it was unfinished at the time of its dedication.

Shrine’s Thrift Shop
COUPON
50% OFF ANY ITEM
 (Religious Items not Included)

The Spirit of Volunteering

A major reason the Shrine exists today is because of dedicated volunteers. The “on-going miracle” here is that a group of strangers of diverse backgrounds and skills, and from all over the St. Louis area, have come together since the late 1970’s to form the Shrine’s “family of volunteers” to do many necessary jobs to maintain the Shrine on a daily basis and help raise the revenue. They are truly the lifeblood of the Shrine. Out of the Shrine’s regular volunteers, below we feature families whose volunteers span two or even three generations.

Generational Volunteers

Geisz: Jo Ann, her son, Rob, and grandson, Drew Nieters. Jo Ann is a long-time volunteer. She is one of the two wedding coordinators, but she also handles many other tasks. Her son, Rob, also helps out with weddings and assists with special events. Her grandson, Drew, is a server when needed and helps with cleaning and other chores. Jo Ann’s husband, the late Richard Geisz, left his mark in several areas around the Shrine because he volunteered his skills as a talented woodworker.

Schene: Anita, her daughter, Joan Wilhelm, and granddaughter Dana Wilhelm.--volunteer together as part of the wedding group. Anita has been another long time devoted volunteer having previously served as a wedding coordinator. Anita writes and prints the Sunday bulletin every single week. Her husband, the late John Schene, was a past president of our organization and his family connection to the Shrine goes back several generations. Joan and Dana are welcome additions to our wedding group of volunteers.

Heerlein: Keith, Chris, and their daughter, Alexandria—Keith is a cantor and both he and his wife, Chris, are members of the wedding volunteer group. Their daughter, “Ali”, is a youthful addition to the Eucharistic minister group as well as the wedding group.

Voss: Ann and her son, Bobby—The Voss’s have a long connection to the Friends organization. Ann’s husband, the late Robert Voss, was the first vice-president and a founder of our organization. After Father Filipiak’s murder, Robert and son, Bobby, volunteered to actually live in the rectory until security systems could be put in place. Ann is our very reliable and dedicated sacristan every Sunday and Bobby is a regular weekly volunteer with the thrift shop group.

Allen: Geraldine, Jim, David: The Allens comprise three generations of volunteering. Geraldine, Jim’s mother, has been a regular volunteer in the thrift shop for many years. Jim and his wife, Denise, started by volunteering with the wedding group. Jim was then elected to the Board, and, last year was elected to be its

president. Their son, David, is an usher and helps out with a variety of other chores around the Shrine.

Wetzel and Chibnall: Gene and Mary Ann Wetzel, Gene’s sister, Barbara, Andrew and Sherry Chibnall, and son Joe. Here we have another group of three generations of volunteers. Gene has been the Shrine’s long-time master carpenter while his wife, Mary Ann, handles the front desk on Tuesdays, conducts tours, and is a Eucharistic minister. She and Gene are also part of the wedding group. Gene’s sister, Barb, among other jobs, keeps the sacristy and main altar orderly and spotless. Mary Ann’s daughter-in-law, Sherry, works in the Membership Office while Andy, her son, is a lector and can also help with computers when needed. Both Mary Ann and Sherry are also in the Eucharistic minister group. The third generation is Joe, Andy and Sherry’s son, and the Wetzel’s grandson, who is our very reliable server. Joe, an eagle scout, is a graduate of Oakville High School and attends Meramec College.

Smith: Larry and Pat Smith, and son, Brian. The Smiths are two of our newer volunteers who are helping out with weddings. Their son, Brian, is a server at Mass. He is a senior at St. Louis U. High School and is planning for college.



Top Left - Joan Wilhelm, Anita Schene, Dana Wilhelm;

Top Middle - Jo Ann Geisz, grandson-Drew Nieters, her son-Rob;

Top Right - Bobby & Ann Voss; **Middle Left** - David, Geraldine & Jim Allen;

Middle Right - (Rear) Joe & Andy Chibnall (Front) Sherry Chibnall, Barb,

Mary Ann & Gene Wetzel; **Bottom Left** - Brian, Pat & Larry Smith;

Bottom Right - Alexandria, Keith & Chris Heerlein

A Volunteer Discovers His Roots

Tom Bakersmith is a thrift shop volunteer and an usher. Said Tom, “when I started worshipping at the Shrine, I just walked around church looking at all the religious artwork, when lo and behold I came upon my great grandmother’s name listed on the scroll next to the Pieta statue in the rear of the church.” The name of the scroll is in German but its translation is “Memorial Tablet of the Deceased of St. Joseph Women’s Sodality.”



Tom Bakersmith pointing to scroll

“Her name was Gesina Ubben and she died in 1890 which was listed

right there before my very eyes on this historic scroll,” said Tom. He went to the 1880 census and found that she was listed as having resided at 1407 N. 10th St just two blocks away.

That really got his attention. So then he found out on the Shrine’s geneology link that Gesina’s daughter, Maria, who was his grandmother, was married at St. Joseph’s in 1887. Said Tom, “it is truly thrilling to me to realize that somewhere in this church both Gesina and Maria sat together because in those days every family rented a specific pew-- and that they received communion from this very same communion rail.” Tom added, “Is it any wonder that St. Joseph is now my church?”