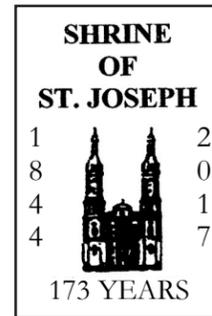




The Shrine of Saint Joseph's Friends, Inc.
1220 North 11th Street ♦ St. Louis, MO 63106-4614

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. LOUIS, MO
PERMIT NO. 1891



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 2017

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



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 Sherry Chibnall, 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 63106-4614. If you need more information, please contact Bernie or Dooley Pestka 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 _____

The Growth, Decline, and Re-birth Along Biddle Street

Originally, Biddle Street consisted of 26 continuous blocks and had run from the Mississippi River out to Jefferson Ave. However, today there are several interruptions in this Biddle Street original continuity. One such interruption is that the street had run directly in front of the steps of the Shrine until 1981 when the Columbus Square neighborhood was built and the piazza was created which replaced the street.

The street was named after Major Thomas and Ann Biddle. After Thomas was killed in a duel, Ann became a childless widow and wealthy benefactor, she donated the land the Shrine sits upon to the Jesuits for the building of St. Joseph's. She stipulated that the land was to always be used for an active Catholic Church or the land to be returned to the family.

The land along Biddle Street was originally primarily owned by the wealthy families of the Carrs, the Mullanphys, as well as the Biddles. Ann Biddle was given 200 acres situated along Biddle Street from the estate of John Mullanphy who was Ann's father. Judge William Carr built his country mansion in the area on what is now called Carr Street as early as 1820, and put up a high fence around it.

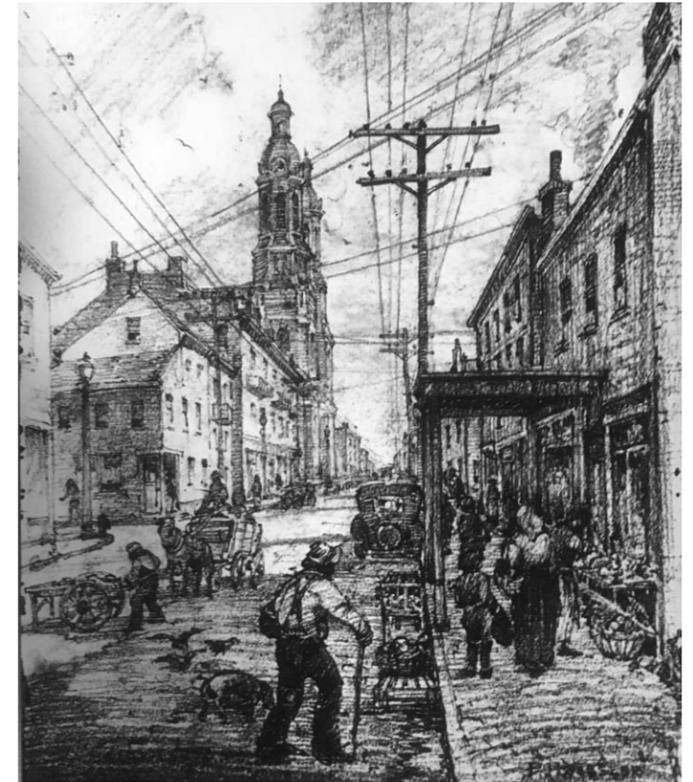
Beginning in the early 1840's, all along this section of Biddle Street land was becoming occupied by Irish and German immigrants. Housing was primarily built of row houses (2-3 stories) with rear alleys. The Irish settled up near Jefferson along Biddle Street in what became known as Kerry Patch. St. Patrick's Church was built at 6th and Biddle in 1843 and became the main Irish congregation in the city. The Germans settled here around St. Joseph's on Biddle and 11th Street and was begun in 1844--both parishes eventually had huge congregations.

The Irish and Germans predominated along Biddle Street until around 1890. Around the 1860's Jewish immigrants and African Americans began arriving. The first Black Presbyterian church was begun at 20th and Biddle. Our Lady Help of Christians was originally a Jewish synagogue and became the focal point for a growing population of German and Russian Jewish immigrants and then another store-front type synagogue was eventually built near 11th and Biddle. The Jewish population tended to center around Carr and Biddle Street. Jewish vendors and other store owners and merchants established thriving businesses in that area. In the 1870's, a large group of Polish immigrants arrived and settled mainly in the Kerry Patch area.

Around 1900 a large number of Italian and Sicilian immigrants made Biddle Street their home around Our Lady Help of Christians when it became a Catholic Church near 9th and Cole. The church finally gave way to the building of the convention center in 1975. Some of the very early founders of the Shrine's thrift shop were composed of folks who had attended Our Lady Help of Christians.

As a result of the influx of all these ethnic groups, Biddle Street became a vibrant cultural "mix" brought from the Old

continued on page 2



An artist's sketch of the Biddle Street early neighborhood surrounding St. Joseph's



Biddle Street and the Shrine towers today

Mark your calendar--Monday, March 20, 12 noon
Solemnity of the Feast of St. Joseph

World. But, after 1910, those that could afford to, began to slowly trickle out of the areas along Biddle Street largely, in part, due to how dirty the neighborhoods had become because of cheap coal burning in nearby factories. In 1940 the city adopted an ordinance eliminating inexpensive, smoky-type coal and mandated expensive smokeless coal. Unfortunately, this law came too late, and worked a hardship on the low income residents who now had to pay the much higher prices for the "new" coal. Near the end of World War II, the flight out increased. Coupled with St. Louis's historic abandonment from declining areas, segregation in housing by landlords and real estate companies, and high profits available to landlords, Biddle Street had reached a sorry state. In 1950, St. Joseph's School finally had to close--just a small number of devoted folks remained to care for St. Joseph's Church. Biddle Street around St. Joseph's became surrounded by abandoned buildings, old truck terminals, and urban decay. The number of worshippers at Sunday Mass dwindled to no more than twenty. In 1965, the Jesuits left St. Joseph's, relinquishing it to the archdiocese-it had been founded and run by the Jesuits for 123 years.

It appeared that there was no hope for saving the historic St. Joseph's Shrine when it was placed on a demolition list to be torn down and the property to be sold to a trucking company. In 1979, our

Friends organization formed an alliance and came to the rescue of the Shrine--the tide of public opinion had begun to change in favor of saving the Shrine; after Father Filipiak's murder in the broken-down rectory that year, this garnered considerable additional support and finally resulted in the granting of financial stewardship to our organization in 1980 by Archbishop May. When it finally became apparent that the Friends, Inc., was going to succeed at gradually restoring the Shrine through the "grass roots" efforts of many donors, it attracted residential developers. The Strauss family and Pantheon Corporation at an initial cost of 25 million dollars developed "Columbus Square" which today surrounds the Shrine and created the European-looking piazza in front of church. Then another major investor- Mark Connor-followed with 66 new condos and townhouses. He said, "we now have \$7 million invested in Columbus Square. None of this would have ever happened without the Friends group responsible for saving the Shrine." The area at 11th and Biddle was literally transformed--the Shrine's resurrection sparked a re-birth and turned urban decay into a brand new north side neighborhood. Ted Schafers, long-time business editor of the Globe Democrat and past editor of this newsletter, very appropriately referred to the Shrine's restoration and this re-birth of the surrounding neighborhood as a "modern-day miracle".

On the very day of the night Fr. Filipiak was murdered, Ann said that Bob asked: "Father, why don't I come and stay with you?" Father replied, "No, that's not necessary." "That very night", said Ann, "Father was murdered."

She commented that after this widely-reported murder in all the media for many days, there was no more talk from the archdiocese about tearing down the church. During the weeks and months to follow, she said, "husband and son, Bobby, lived in the rectory-not every night-but on a regular basis to protect it from vandals. With a former police officer, Bob wired the Shrine with its very first security system."

Ann, herself, became the Shrine's sacristan and to this day she still performs those duties practically every single Sunday.

Ann can re-call how difficult the early years were. Said Ann, "initial Board meetings were lengthy and sometimes argumentative. Bob would come home emotionally drained. For a time, the challenge of saving the Shrine seemed hopeless. However, Rob't Arteaga, Gene Boll, Charlie Finninger, Ted Schafers, Ted Wofford, along with my husband managed to keep the organization pointing in the right direction." She felt that all had demonstrated enormous perseverance, determination, personal sacrifice and the drive to see the restoration through to the end. "People who now visit and worship at the Shrine," she added, "will never know all the hardships these men went through to save and restore this holy Shrine."

Ann Voss 40 years of Shrine Memories



Ann Voss

At age 90, Ann is the oldest of the regular long time volunteers. After 4 decades of her connection with the Shrine, she has seen it all--from the Shrine's uncertain future in the late 1970's to its complete restoration.

Ann's deceased husband--Robert Voss--became one of the founders of our organization in 1979 and was the corporate structure's first vice-president. A veteran who served in Okinawa in WWII, Bob became the Director of Community Relations for the St. Louis Police Dept. with an office downtown. Ann said, "my husband literally just 'wandered' in here in the mid 1970's when he was out looking for a church that had a noon-day Mass whereupon he met Fr. Filipiak. The best way to describe my husband's initial reaction to the sheer beauty of the Shrine was that he was simply 'awe-struck' because even in its deteriorating state, it still had an inner beauty that couldn't be denied. Father eventually got Bob together with five other men that would begin an effort to try to save the church from demolition who were the eventual founders of this not-for-profit corporation.

Strecker Descendants Pilgrimage Set for March 5th

Anyone familiar with the Shrine's history is aware of the miracle that occurred here with the very dramatic cure of Ignatius Strecker leading to the canonization of Peter Claver. What many may not know is that every year, the descendants of Mr. Strecker make an annual pilgrimage to the Shrine in remembrance of their ancestor's miraculous cure. Last year, nearly 60 descendants attended the annual event. On Dec. 11th, the oldest known living descendant, one of Strecker's great grandsons--Jim Crump--died at age 93.

This year the Strecker pilgrimage is planned for Mar. 5th; after Mass, Donna Finazzo, and Denise Finazzo plan a reception for the descendants in the rectory.



Last year's Strecker group

Board of Directors Approves Projects to Give New Life to Aging Areas

As with those of us who restore them, buildings and their restorations grow older. As stewards of the Shrine, the Board believes in prevention to prolong life. This effort takes constant vigilance headed up by Conrad Philipp, chairman of the Board's building committee, assisted by Ted Wofford, Shrine architect, and Joe Finazzo. To faithfully fulfill our mission of conservation, the Board approved the following areas for immediate attention. All work has been completed or is in the process of being completed:

- Rallo Construction repaired east soffit of the church and replaced rotted wood on the connector area between church and rectory, and repainted that area on both front and back.
- Western Waterproofing Co. repaired moisture leakage along interior wall of lower entry level and removed and replaced damaged bricks at west side entry.
- Benson Painting Co. re-glazed several exterior windows, repainted back porch ceiling and front doors, re-stained woodwork.
- Michelle Bowman, owner of Restoration Plus, refurbished several of the Shrine's statuary and their pedestals.
- the decorative ornamentation in the side aisle ceilings are beginning to show signs of age. Thus, the artisans from Benson Painting Co., who have the skills to do this demanding work, have undertaken a study of one bay this winter to determine the scope and direction of corrective measures. Based on what we learn, while we still have these artisans, we will, in the next 2 yrs., give the side aisle ceilings at least two decades of renewed beauty.

Fall Fund Raiser

Your fund raiser participation--when combined with hundreds of others--have allowed us to complete or repair many projects like those described in the above article. We cannot thank you enough for your wonderful support.

On Nov. 27th, the fall fund raiser winners drawn were: 1st place--Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Hogue, Manchester, MO; 2nd place--Delmar & Sarah Bequette, New Douglas, Illinois; 3rd place--Pat & Pete Genovese, St. Louis, MO; and 4th place--Michael Sweda, Florissant, MO.



6 yr. old Nai Diaz Cobos pulls winning ticket with her grandmother and Jim Blum, Board president

From Our President: Jim Blum

Support from near and far has been generous in this past year. The two fundraisers in 2016 greatly assisted in the continued restoration and conservation of our beloved Historic Landmark Church. As we look toward 2017 the all-volunteer Oversight Board is investigating an exterior project: the trees on the 11th Street side of the Shrine are showing severe deterioration--one has already had to be removed due to safety concerns brought on by natural aging and more may need to follow.

One wish that exists is the rebuilding--with light-weight material--the two bell tower extensions containing beautiful cupolas. The originals were removed in 1954. This project would be a superb legacy for a family or group of several families to underwrite.

From all of our volunteers we sincerely thank all who hold this miraculous church dear to their hearts by attending Mass, by introducing friends or family members to visit the Shrine, or by their monetary contributions. We welcome all, we thank all, and wish that 2017 brings peace to our world, our city, our families, and our hearts.



Michelle working on one of several statues



Interior doors were all re-stained



Statues were first re-cleaned



Replacing damaged brick



Several pedestals were refurbished

October: the Month of the Rosary

One of the beautiful traditions going back over 28 years here at the Shrine in October is the annual Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Mass sponsored by the Philippine Liturgical Society of Greater St. Louis. On Oct. 2nd, prior to Mass, an outside processional occurred with the carrying of the statue of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary of La Naval and the recitation of the rosary.

The rosary and the Blessed Mother has a special meaning in the Philippines because in 1646 the Dutch Navy attempted to conquer the Philippines. The very small Philippine forces prayed continuously for the intercession of the Blessed Mother. Though they were greatly outnumbered by a superior Dutch Navy, the Filipinos rebuffed the attack. This victory was attributed to the Blessed Mother's intercession.

Here at the Shrine, the entourage of worshippers processed behind the statue from the outside into the Shrine and up the aisle. Each person brought up a carnation to the foot of this beautiful statue that was placed on the Shrine's altar. All of the music at Mass was in honor of the Blessed Mother.



Processional into Shrine



Statue of Our Lady of La Naval