

# NEWSLETTER

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

SUMMER—FALL ISSUE 2005

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF STEWARDSHIP

It is difficult to realize that we are closing in on the 25th anniversary of having stewardship of our miraculous Shrine. This Shrine is a living monument to the endurance of the early Friends who stood between St. Joseph's and the headache ball, and, under great odds—prevailed. Even more remarkable is that this organization, entirely volunteers, has remained together all these years. Here is the amazing story and just some of the events that led up to the Friends being granted stewardship on Oct. 1st—1980, 25 years ago:

In the 1970's, the Shrine stood in the middle of a wasteland of urban decay. Rumors circulated that the Shrine was to be torn down. The church's elderly priest, Father Filipiak, went to the Landmarks Association and revealed that St. Joseph's had been placed on a demolition list and said that, as far as he could learn, there were no plans to save it. In 1974, the Landmarks Association approached Ted Wofford, an architect with substantial restoration experience, and asked him to look at the structure. After meeting with Father Filipiak, whose devotion to the Shrine was contagious, Wofford undertook a thorough assessment and study of the Shrine's condition. In 1977, Wofford presented the final report of his feasibility study at the annual meeting of the Landmarks Association.

In 1978, the Shrine was named to the National Register of Historic Places. In the meantime, Father Filipiak had been offered a comfortable retirement but he refused to leave fearing that his departure would accelerate the Shrine's impending fate. And so, in the very worst of conditions, he stayed on with the church he loved.

An unofficial group interested in saving the Shrine had been meeting since as far back as 1970, and volunteer workers began devoting Saturdays to renovation and cleaning. The group was allowed to hold meetings at Charles Fininger's catering business; Fininger gradually assumed a leadership role in that group.

Two other men came into the picture: Robert Arteaga, a well-known photographer with a passion for saving historic landmarks, and Eugene Boll, a southside business-man. Arteaga and Boll were talking with Father Filipiak one cold January night in '79 and the discussion centered on the need for a new roof. Arteaga and Boll drove up to Fininger's to discuss it some more. Along the way, they picked up Bob Voss, a public relations man. Boll remembers that they were all four at Fininger's discussing the roofing problems; then the topic changed to that of needing to form a not-for-profit corporation to provide a legal base for receiving donations. Ray Bruntrager, an attorney, another interested Shrine friend, was

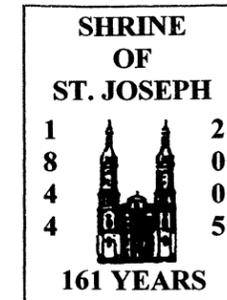
brought in to develop the legal papers. In March 1979, the Friends Inc. came into being with Arteaga as the chairman, Fininger the president, Voss the vice-president, Boll the treasurer, and Charlie Heisler the secretary. They were the first officers of the Friends of St. Joseph, Inc. There were many others who made up the core of the organization. Wofford volunteered his expertise by heading up the restoration. The Friends, Inc. managed to get enough donations for a modest, new roof put on in August of '79, and even sent up helium balloons to celebrate the occasion.

A month later, on Sept. 29, Father Filipiak was senselessly murdered in the rectory—his love for the Shrine and refusal to leave cost him his life. Many St. Louisans of all denominations mourned and there was an overflowing crowd at the funeral. Membership in the Friends Inc. grew and there was a surge of donors for the restoration that had not been seen before; folks came forward to volunteer. Bob Voss, vice-president of the organization, and his son actually stayed in the rectory regularly at night in order to discourage thieves or vandals. The murder created sentiment throughout St. Louis with many active supporters and strong press support for saving the Shrine. When Archbishop May came to St. Louis in March, 1980, he took a fresh look at the Shrine issue. On May 30th, he decided that he would give or lease the Shrine to any legitimate group. On Oct. 1, 1980, the decision came: he granted to the Friends stewardship of the Shrine in the form of a lease in which they accepted all financial responsibility.

It was with this background that the fledgling Friends, Inc., against what appeared to be overwhelming odds, began the task of funding and directing the restoration of the Shrine. After 25 years of continuous restoration, it is now recognized internationally for its carefully researched historical and architectural authenticity and for the superb quality and beauty of its workmanship. Old age, years of neglect, the threat of demolition, and the murder of its priest could not destroy this magnificent, sacred, historic, and religiously-significant landmark.



Shrine of St. Joseph  
"The church that would not die"



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.  
 I no longer wish to receive the Newsletter.  
 Please clip this address panel and mail it to us noting your request.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

### Special Services

On First Fridays of Each Month - Mass at 12:00 Noon  
 Every Second Sunday of Each Month - St. Padre Pio Devotion and Rosary recited before Mass  
 Every Third Sunday of Each Month - Choir Sings Mass in Latin

### Supporting the Shrine with Your Membership



**Doris Kannady** 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.

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 over-all utilities expense in 2004 was approximately \$22,000. 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 Ralph Ellerbrock, Leo or Pauline Frost, who serve as co-chairpersons. Phone (314) 231-9407.



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

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

### From Our Pastor, Fr. Valentine Young



Fr. Valentine Young

St. Francis of Assisi one time said to his brothers, "till now, we have done nothing... let us begin."

These words echoed in the minds and in the hearts of a dedicated group of people after the death of Father Filipiak. He himself said that he would die for the Shrine of St. Joseph and surely he did one night—drastically and unnecessarily brutal. But it struck hard in the

hearts of those who began to let the Friends of the Shrine of St. Joseph be known.

You, the faithful of the Shrine, have created a family at the Shrine. And you have, for the most part, finished and restored it. PRAISE THE LORD!

And so, my brothers and sisters, let the words of St. Francis echo in your hearts (continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1) and minds: "let us begin" to support the Shrine in whatever way you may choose—volunteering, financial assistance, prayerful assistance...

It is the holy temple of God. Let us continue to keep it a special and sacred place of worship. From the Old Testament these words strike a wonderful sound: "I have loved the beauty of your house and place where your glory resides."

## Weddings

Mrs. Geisz, one of our wedding co-ordinators, reports that 35 weddings are now scheduled for 2006, with 50 weddings occurring this year in 2005. Our thanks to the great wedding group of volunteers who dedicate so much time and energy at every wedding to help make it a sacred and beautiful occasion. For information about weddings, please call Kathy Schmid or JoAnn Geisz at (314)231-0869. They will be happy to talk with you.

## A Special Thanks

A Special Thanks to all of our "Friends" for so generously supporting the Shrine's 24th Annual "Fund-Raiser" raffle. The winners were announced at a hot dog and soda social following Mass on June 26th. They were: 1st place—Joseph Whealen; 2nd place—Edna Meier; 3rd place—Dolores Schloemer; 4th place—Jules Zimmermann. Congratulations to the winners and thanks again to all you wonderful and loyal supporters. Where would we be without all of you? Your donations have made the dream of restoring the Shrine a reality.

## From the President: Restoration Update

The Board's Building Committee—Conrad Philipp and Walt Raney—deserve a lot of credit for the careful planning and completion of a number of projects. In April, the 140-yr. old church and rectory side-steps were replaced with material that simulates the look of the old Carthage stone that was removed. Work was done by St. Genevieve Building Stone Co. at a cost of \$43,380. All iron railing at both locations were removed, restored, and re-installed; new hand-railing, an additional safety feature, was added to the church wall. In February, a major refurbishing occurred inside the church. Included were the re-staining of all pews, vestibule doors and re-painting of the elevated floors. Next, all of the Stations of the Cross, the pulpit, and

lower sections of the altars were thoroughly cleaned. And then, the front portions of the dome in the sanctuary required re-painting. All of the above work was done by Picco and Benson Painting Inc. at a cost of \$25,773.

Other projects completed were: repair and replacement of deteriorated areas of the louvers and rosettes on the towers, \$23,495; sealing and striping the parking lot, \$1,968; pigeon-proofing cornices around the church roof, \$5,361; sanding and re-staining the rectory floor to a beautiful appearance, \$350. A major project for this fall is a new drainage system to properly disperse water on the west side so as not to damage the stone wall.

*Photos by Arteaga Studios*



Stations of the Cross getting a refurbishing.



The new steps each weighing over 700 lbs. being set in place.



Completed new steps at church side entrance.



A new rectory entrance.

## Loss of a "Friend"



John Schene

John Schene passed into eternal life on March 11th. He was president of the Board from 1993 to 2003 and a Board member for 18 years. John and Anita, his wife, began volunteering in 1977 when the Shrine's future was still very uncertain.

Schene had always wanted to see the Shrine restored as a memorial to the hundreds of people who have supported the restoration during all these years; as many others have done, he devoted his life after retiring to trying to fulfill this goal.

Those who knew John lost a personal friend—and the Shrine lost a monumental "Friend."

## To Shrine Lovers Far and Wide

Please come and celebrate with us at the 11:00 Sunday Mass on Oct. 2nd in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Friends having stewardship and our continuous restoration of this sacred and holy Shrine. Because this is a special occasion, bring along a friend and share with them how much you love the Shrine. There will also be a photo display, a brief presentation, and the Mayor of St. Louis has been invited.

## Fr. Filipiak's Death Brought the Shrine to Life by Ted Schafers

The following article was written by Ted Schafers as part of his experiences during his over 25 years of volunteering here at the Shrine. After a distinguished career with the Globe-Democrat as its business editor, Ted became the editor of this newsletter and chief fund-raiser in the corporate community for the restoration. Like many others, Schafers dedicated most of his retired life to making the Shrine what it is today.

"God moves in mysterious ways his wonders to perform" is a familiar quote often used when something good (even bad) happens that is difficult to explain through ordinary reasoning powers. Often I fall back on this proverb rather than to say "it took the murder of Father Filipiak on Sept. 29, 1979 to gain the kind of public support needed to save this architectural and religious landmark" which was targeted for closing and demolition.

Before the untimely loss of the Shrine's no. 1 champion, there were a number of fund-raising attempts to meet the costs of maintaining the beautiful church founded in 1844 and one of the very few credited with a miraculous cure leading to the beatification of Peter Claver, who became noted for his work among slaves. However, that religious record did not produce much financial response and Charles Finninger, the Friends first president, remembers "passing the hat" just to get ordinary bills paid!

The Jesuits left in 1965 after operating it for 121 years. Father Filipiak, pastor of Our Lady Help of Christians, assumed the job of acting administrator of the Shrine and moved into its run-down rectory after the Cole Street church was razed to make way for the convention center.

Surrounded by slums of empty warehouses, there seemed little hope of ever attracting enough parishioners to maintain—much less, restore this beautiful edifice to its former grandeur.

A number of the early supporters tried in vain to persuade Father Filipiak to move out of the rectory because the neighborhood had become unsafe. He pointed out that he had worked and lived to serve his St. Louis churches since 1938 (41 years to his death) and that he would dedicate whatever years that remained to saving and restoring St. Joseph Shrine—a goal he would not achieve. However, this goal of Fr. Filipiak's has been carried on in his place by the Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc., in which they were granted stewards of the Shrine on October 1, 1980, and have continuously worked toward achieving his goal.



Father Filipiak

## Shrine Christmas Cards

Magnificent and unique Christmas cards with a stunningly elegant photo of the Shrine's main altar will be available this year for the first time. Donna Milligan, who directed the project, says they will be ready for sale in September. Proceeds support the continued restoration. Price is \$10 for a box of 10—please call the rectory to order.

## Officers Re-elected—Milligan and Litzau Join Board



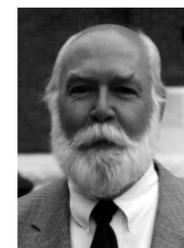
Ralph Kannady



Pauline Frost



Ralph Ellerbrock



Tom Milligan



Ray Litzau

At the annual membership meeting held April 3rd, re-elected to another 3-year term on the Board of Directors were **Ralph Kannady**, **Pauline Frost**, **Ralph Ellerbrock**, and **John Schene** (re-elected post-humously). At the April Board meeting all officers were elected to serve another year. As a result, Kannady was returned a third year as the Board's president (a Board member since 1992), **Jim Blum** as vice-president (active in Shrine work for over 30 years), **Pauline Frost** as the Board's long-time treasurer, and **Gloria Brostoski**, in her second year as secretary. Ellerbrock, a Board member since 1994, is also approaching his 60th year as organist and music director. Joining the Board for the first time were **Tom Milligan** and **Ray Litzau** replacing Schene and Leo DeCarlo.

**Leo DeCarlo** stepped down after serving on the Board since 1987. The Board benefited from DeCarlo's work and experience with the all-important aspect of the Shrine's finances. More recently, DeCarlo was very active in the Padre Pio beautification movement. Acting in behalf

of the entire membership, President Kannady and the Board expressed appreciation to DeCarlo for his dedication to the Shrine and his service on the Board. Leo plans to remain active in other helpful ways.

### New Board Members

**Tom Milligan**, a retired lieutenant colonel in the Air Force, has been a long-time devoted Shrine advocate for over 12 years. Tom said, "my wife, Donna, who was active way before me, eventually got me involved; in fact, when I converted to Catholicism, my wife (a eucharistic minister) served first communion to me right here at the Shrine." Milligan is the men's club treasurer, and one of our regular ushers; he is a 4th degree Knights of Columbus member and an active Moolah Shriner. A number of years ago, Tom became a certified financial planner—he helped the Shrine in a big way when he used his knowledge to put in place the much-needed new software accounting and bookkeeping program which has been in use here the last five years. One of Tom's assignments will be in purchasing and supplies here at the Shrine.

**Ray Litzau** first became involved with the Shrine five years ago. A hobby of Ray's is genealogy; he was researching his wife, Jane's family history, and found that she had roots connecting her to St. Joseph's. "And so, we decided to come down to Mass and see it," said Ray. "After that, we became strong Shrine supporters." Their children, Alex and Hannah, also volunteer as regular servers at Mass, and are much appreciated for their efforts as well. Ray has already been the driving-force behind the creation of Shrine genealogy which is taking shape on our web-site. Residing in the Dorsey, Illinois area, Ray has his own landscaping and consulting business. One of Ray's assignments will be in assisting with the exterior maintenance of the entire Shrine property.



Leo DeCarlo

*Photos by Arteaga Studios*