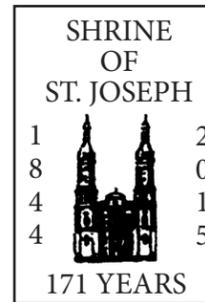




The Shrine of Saint Joseph's Friends, Inc.  
1220 North 11th Street • St. Louis, MO 63106-4614

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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 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



Sherry Chibnall

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

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

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

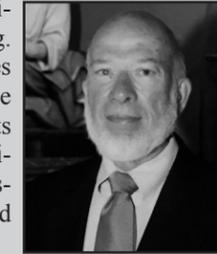
1st prize \$100  
 2nd prize \$50  
 3rd prize \$50

**3 winning tickets every month! \$12 per ticket**

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

## Jim Blum Elected President of Shrine's Board of Directors

Elected president of the Board of Directors was Jim Blum at its April meeting. Jim's involvement with the Shrine goes back many years--he first joined the Shrine Board in 1993 and then quickly became its vice-president in the following year, a position he has held for 21 years. He is obviously very well-acquainted with all matters and issues related to the Shrine.



Jim Blum

The Blums have been long-time supporters of historic preservation and are avid St. Louis history buffs. His interest in the Shrine goes as far back as 1977 when Jim and his wife, Annie, were among the first group in the battle to save the Shrine from demolition. They would meet regularly at Charlie Finninger's Restaurant to plan on how to save the Shrine.

Blum retired last year as a civilian employee of the U.S. Coast Guard. He holds a license as Master of Steam and Motor Vessels, Any Gross Tons, upon the Western Rivers. An interesting aspect of Jim's career and not very well known is that he was pilot of the steamboat *Admiral* excursion boat for two years, which will no doubt remind the reader of St. Louis nostalgia from the 1950's and 60's. Annie, his wife,

worked summers on the *Admiral* in the payroll office. She has recently published an award-winning book about this well-known St. Louis attraction as well as other Mississippi River steamboats.

Here at the Shrine Jim has been involved in many behind-the-scenes tasks. Blum takes care of replacing all the candles at their various locations around church, a formidable job, as well as ordering them. Driving toward the Shrine, there are numerous Shrine banners attached to light poles thanks to Blum. The historic signage on the attractive Victorian post near the Shrine entrance is also Jim's doing. Eucharistic minister, lector, introductory speaker, newspaper ad specialist, and barbecue pit master--these are also part of Jim's various Shrine activities.

For the challenges that lie ahead, Blum says, "the need for more volunteers is reaching a critical stage where there is a very high need for volunteers to help staff the day-to-day operations. We have had many Shrine regulars over the years who had some kind of emotional attachment perhaps through older family members who were here. As a result, they continued to be involved with the Shrine. These people are passing on and our challenge is to somehow attract a new generation who will love and serve this historic landmark just as they did."

## Shrine's Weddings Leave Lasting Impressions

The success of the Shrine's wedding program has to be partially attributed to the personable and knowledgeable manner of our two wedding coordinators: Jo Ann Geisz and Kathie Schmid. A special congratulations goes out to Kathie, who is well in to her second decade of service in this very important position. And Jo Ann, who began in this position in 1997, is closing in on completing two decades.



Bride, Lindsey Lozmack, with Kathie Schmid (left) and Jo Ann Geisz (right) on her wedding day at the Shrine who married Robert Nelson III

Kathie handles the scheduling of the some 28 wedding volunteers who assist with weddings. She, as well as Jo Ann, are quick to complement these volunteers saying, "we absolutely could not do all these weddings without this devoted and loyal group. They are indispensable in helping a wedding go smoothly." Jo Ann Geisz, our veteran long-time coordinator, added, "we also received some great help from Joe Finazzo and his son a couple of years ago, who dramatically upgraded the look of the bathrooms and their surrounding facility." This area also serves as the staging areas before weddings for our brides and her bridesmaids to begin their processional.

Jo Ann said, "Kathie came along at just the right time nearly 12 years ago, because at the time I was the only wedding coordinator handling everything and having both of us has made it so much better....she was a real godsend."

"What I enjoy about this position," said Kathie, "is knowing that I have been involved in giving back and in some small way

helping young ladies to plan their big day at this historic church... it's a rewarding feeling. In addition, "said Kathie, "it is also enjoyable to share connections related to what school or parish prospective brides and families are from." Both of Kathie's own daughters selected the Shrine for their weddings so she also has a devotion to the Shrine, even on a personal level.

The sheer number of telephone contacts both Kathie and Jo Ann handle with prospective brides or mothers of brides is indeed mind-boggling. "We always ask them to make a visit," said Jo Ann, adding that "the Shrine truly sells itself once a future bride sees it."

Revenues from the 60-70 weddings per year produces about 45% of the Shrine's normal operational cost. "It would absolutely be impossible to operate the Shrine without this revenue," said Jim Blum, Board president. Both Jo Ann and Kathie also point out that another major benefit is the number of guests here from across the country that get to experience the Shrine's beauty. Said Kathie, "the many nice comments we get about the Shrine and how helpful our volunteers were, is also very gratifying to know that Jo Ann and I had some part in all this."

Shrine weddings are without a doubt exquisitely superb and memorable. As one professional special events coordinator put it recently: "from beginning to end, the beauty of the Shrine and its helpful wedding program exceeds all expectations.... it is the top location for a Catholic wedding." There are currently 57 weddings for this year with a few openings left in the Fall, and 20 weddings for 2016 are already scheduled. A recent Catholic magazine placed the Shrine in the top two St. Louis Catholic churches in number of weddings held.

## Resignations Are Never Easy

Writing this article is a bittersweet task. Following are all long-time volunteers who have put their heart and soul into contributing to our organization for the sake of the Shrine--their years of volunteering was their personal gift to this Shrine. Their stepping down for medical reasons is difficult--so many years volunteering together--good friends--and many fond memories. No amount of words can adequately describe what they have meant to us. And only the Lord really and truly knows how much time and energy they gave to the Shrine.

Walt Raney resigned from the Board recently--his most recent valuable contribution for the Shrine was to develop a system for calculating the Shrine's on-going financial needs. Walt, a retired executive from IBM, was on the Board's finance committee. Dianne Raney, was heavily involved on a regular weekly basis with the air and steam club. In addition, she handled all aspects of the two fund-raisers we send out yearly.

Another couple whose volunteering has been "put on hold", is Ralph and Doris Kannady. He also resigned recently from the Board. They both headed up all business associated with the membership office on a twice a week basis. Ralph was the Shrine's Board president for 11 years. He oversaw and coordinated nearly every major outdoor event for years.

Donna Milligan has also resigned from the Shrine Board. Donna's major contributions go way back to 1988. At that time, she began helping with the development of the wedding program, the protocol of which we still use today. More recently, she has handled the air and steam club business, often twice a week. Her husband, Tom, helped out with funerals and computer maintenance. He was the men's club treasurer, an usher, and he organized the annual veterans Mass.

Donna Milligan, Dianne Raney, and the Kannadys all contributed heavily toward the formidable tasks of handling all the business and correspondence of the Membership and the Air and Steam Club on a virtually constant basis with the assistance of the always-reliable Bernie and Dooley Pestka, and a few other volunteers during peak periods.

One of the challenges associated with our organization (composed mostly of older retirees) is that Father Time eventually catches up with us. These unique six volunteers will never really be replaced; but one of the ways we can honor their high level of volunteering is to do everything in our power to have their work continue. We hope they can still be with us on Sundays and other times.

## Unexpected Expenses

The water main from 11th street into the rectory was leaking. The city said this leakage must be repaired--the cost of digging up part of the street down to the water line and fixing our aging line where it connected to the city's main line was \$11,000.

This amount plus what we spent on a heat pump & air handler system last fall (\$8,600) equals almost \$20,000 of unexpected costs. It is a reminder to us, once again, that infrastructure problems like these can occur without warning, but must be taken care of without delay.



Dianne & Walt Raney



Ralph & Doris Kannady



Tom & Donna Milligan

## Board Elections: A Year of Transition

There was a larger than usual gathering at the Friends annual March meeting and elections. Incumbents on the Shrine's Board of Directors who were re-elected back for another 3-yr. term were Jim Blum (photo on p.1), Kevin Finazzo, JoAnn Geisz, and Frank Fessler. Then reports were given by the various department heads involved in the work that goes on here at the Shrine.

Sherry Chibnall was elected as a Board member for the first time. Sherry is taking charge of all the work associated with the membership office. Having spent considerable time assisting in that office, she has gained the experience and knowledge of the work involved which will make for a smooth transition.

At the April Board meeting, the Board named for its executive committee Jim Blum as its new president and Kevin Finazzo, a relatively newer member of the Board since 2010, as its new vice-president. Gloria Brostoski, the Board's secretary, and Pauline Frost, treasurer, were re-elected to fill out the 4-person executive committee officers.

It was definitely a big year of transition with four Board member resignations. With a profound debt of gratitude, the Board reluctantly accepted the resignations of Ralph Kannady, Donna Milligan, Walt Raney, and Jim Allen. Since three of the four Board member resignations had occurred after the March election, this leaves these three positions to be filled through Board appointment.



Kevin Finazzo



Jo Ann Geisz



Frank Fessler



Sherry Chibnall

## Shrine Visits Receive High Marks

Trip Advisor, an internet Travel website, ranks the Shrine among the top 16 out of 60 St. Louis landmarks as best places to visit. Recent reviews say it all: "We stayed for the tour...what an amazing story." "We have been in many churches in the U.S. and Europe and this is one of the best." "Exquisite architecture and details." "brought me to tears, it was so beautiful."

Please call ahead to schedule a tour. It is best if you call on Tuesday or Thursday, or you can call, leave a message; our tour scheduler will call you back and help arrange a day and time.

## Thrift Shop's Padre Pio Counter

The thrift shop is open every Sunday and first Friday between 9am and 1 pm. Everyone is invited after Mass--have a complimentary coffee and a doughnut as you browse around. Don't forget to take a look at the St. Padre Pio counter.

## Opportunity for a Fabulous Football Week-End

Please check out the enclosure. A generous lady who lives in South Bend, Indiana, has donated 2 tickets to the Notre Dame-Navy football game for the purpose of raising revenue for our Shrine. This is an entire week-end package--and the dollar value is quite a lot. The enclosed informational flyer gives all the details--a great way to help the Shrine--and you just may be the winner.

Visit our website: [shrineofstjoseph.org](http://shrineofstjoseph.org) and like us on Facebook from the link on our home page | Photos by Arteaga

## The Arteaga Family Tradition

In looking at the photo below, the reader may wonder: what does the Shrine have to do with the Gateway Arch? Very simply: the Arteaga family.

Exactly 50 years ago on Sept. 19, 1965, Eldon Arteaga, at age 29, literally stood on the top of the Gateway Arch 600 ft. above the ground. As the final pieces were put in place, he photographed the event and without a safety device other than a lower net hanging 100 ft. below. Meanwhile his father, Robert Arteaga, was photographing this same event from a helicopter. This father-son team had also previously documented the entire progress of the Arch since the very beginning. Together, they took some 12,000 photos and had produced one book depicting the step-by-step process in the building of this iconic St. Louis landmark as well as several well-known posters. Every year at the anniversary of the arch completion, Eldon goes to the Arch and autographs their book and posters for buyers. This year on Oct. 28th, marks the official 50 yr. anniversary of the "topping off" of the Arch, and Eldon will, for sure, be there signing autographs on his "Building of the Arch" photography.

The late Rob't Arteaga had become known for his stunning night-time photographs of the Gateway Arch. Then, a decade or so later, in 1977, with his passion for saving historic landmarks, the elder Arteaga also began his drive to save the Shrine. He soon joined the early Friends restoration group that met at Finninger's north side restaurant. Of all the projects Robert helped to preserve, he said that none was more personal and sacred to him than the Shrine. Bob was one of the founders of Friends, Inc., and it is fair to say that without his efforts in the difficult early years, the movement to save the Shrine may not have succeeded. Said Ted Wofford, the Shrine's long-time architect, "Robert Arteaga's photographs and vigorous publicity began to put our efforts on the map and recruit new members."

Here's how Robert's drive to save the Shrine got rolling, in his words: "I was commissioned to photograph churches that have stained glass windows, but not the Shrine's. Somehow, I drove to the Shrine anyway. I entered the rectory and met Fr. Filipiak. He turned the altar lights on. The heavenly effect overwhelmed me. I told Father I would return at 8 pm to photograph the altar. The Southside Journal printed my photograph on their front page and a wonderful article (1977) on saving the Shrine written by Kevin Madden.

After Bob passed in 1982, his son, Eldon, has carried on the Arteaga tradition of volunteering his professional photographic skills here at the Shrine. Eldon has documented through his photos nearly every special event held here all these years to say nothing of the celebrated color photographs of the Shrine which we use on color brochures that are sent out everywhere. In fact, if all the Arteaga photographic legacy contained in the Shrine's archives were assembled, it would take a museum to suitably display them all. A few of the Arteaga photos depicting the Shrine's restoration are on display at the lower entrance to the thrift shop.

At the Arteaga Studio in South St. Louis a visitor sees a virtual potpourri of the history of photography with old, vintage cameras on

## 35th Annual Fund Raiser

The Shrine held its annual picnic in the courtyard with food, brew, and music on June 28th. Shrine supporters made new acquaintances and renewed old friendships. For each of the last 35 yrs. there has been an outdoor event with the drawing of the winners of the annual spring fund raiser. Father Wunderlich, the Shrine's rector, drew the winners from the ticket returns. Income from this fund raiser will go toward the restoration of two statuary in the Shrine. Once again, we humbly thank all the donors who participated in this spring's fund raiser, and we hope each of you can attend a Sunday Mass here at the Shrine if you haven't done so for awhile.

display showing their gradual technological improvements through the years. In addition, the Arteagas' photo collection spans nearly 9 decades and includes just about every notable person or building that was a part of St. Louis. On one wall, are the many awards over the years Eldon has received, the latest of which was the Freedom Foundation Award, and in 2013, a lengthy article about his civic contributions appeared in the *St. Louis Business Journal*.

Eldon gives great credit to his wife, Caroline, for helping to keep "the business organized." She and Eldon attend Mass here at the Shrine on Sunday--she also volunteers as a Eucharistic minister. And now is the 3rd generation Arteaga--their son, Brad--who is more heavily involved with commercial photography and the newer technical photographic applications.

"Whenever I have asked Eldon to photograph people or an event for us, he has always graciously and enthusiastically volunteered his talents," said Howard Matthews, newsletter editor. "And what wonderful friends the Arteagas have been to us all. They are an absolute joy to work with," said Jim Blum, Board president. And so we honor the Arteaga family not only as part of their 50 year involvement with the St. Louis Gateway Arch but also their nearly 40 years of steadfast, loyal, and unwavering support and photographic contributions here at the Shrine.



Eldon Arteaga autographing one of his Arch posters



Eldon & Caroline Arteaga at the Shrine



the late Rob't Arteaga



Brad Arteaga



On Sept. 19, 1965, this photo was taken from helicopter by Rob't Arteaga as his son, Eldon, was on top of the Gateway Arch photographing the second to last section being installed