

Shrine Schedule of Events

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November:

Mon. Nov. 2, Noon
Thurs.- Sun., Nov. 5-8 (L)
Fri.- Tues., Nov. 6-10 (J)
Wed.- Sat., Nov. 12-15 (J)
Wed.- Sun., Nov. 18-22 (L)
Wed.- Fri., Nov. 25-27 (J)
Wed.- Fri., Nov. 25- 27 (J)
Fri.- Sun., Nov. 27- 29 (J)
Fri.- Sun., Nov. 27- 29 (J)

Shrine Chapel ALL Souls Liturgy
Dancers of Universal Peace
Womens Quilting Retreat
Spark-2-Flame Christian Retreat
S.E.Episcopal Deanery Retreat
Holy Trinity Epis. Thanksgiving
Family Thanksgiving Retreat
Family Weekend Retreat
Family Weekend Retreat

December:

Fri.- Sat., Dec. 4- 5 (J)
Fri.- Sun., Dec. 4-6 (L)
Sat.- Sun., Dec. 19-20 (L)
Tues.- Fri., Dec. 23-26 (J)
Sun.- Wed., Dec. 27-30 (L & J)

Book Club Overnight
Womens Weekend Retreat
Families Annual Return
Family Christmas Retreat
Families and Relatives Retreat

Shrine of St. Therese
c/o Diocese of Juneau
415 Sixth Street, Suite #300
Juneau, AK 99801



E-mail: juneaushrine@gci.net • Phone: (907) 780-6112

<http://www.shrineofsainttherese.org/>

Reservations

can be made for the Shrine Chapel, Lodge, Jubilee Cabin, Little Flower Retreat Cabin, Post Office Cabin, the LeVasseur Cabin or the Hermitage by contacting the Shrine Business Office at (907) 780-6112 or by e-mail: juneaushrine@gci.net. (See the Shrine Schedule for unreserved dates.) **At times we do offer a reduced rate "short notice" reservation offer whereby you can reserve one of the facilities for a 10% or 30% savings.** If you are interested in being on a "short notice reduced rate" e-mail notification list, please send an e-mail to the Shrine Office.

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RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED

Ephphatha

"be opened"

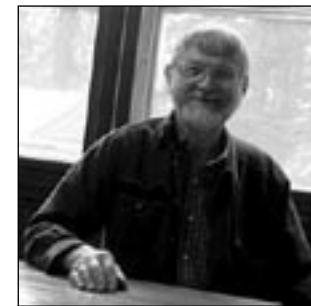
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Shrine of St. Therese
Newsletter

Fourth Quarter, 2009

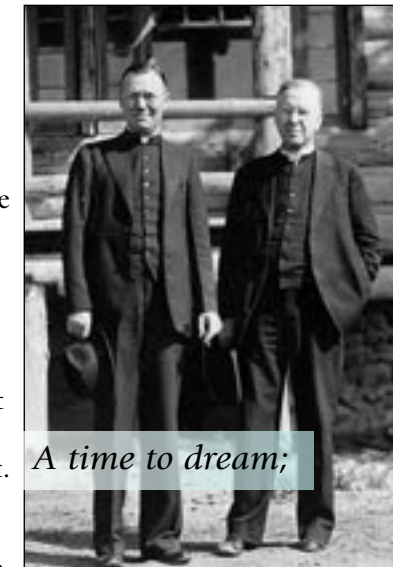
An Appointed Time for All Things; Shrine Director Resigns and Expresses Deep Gratitude for Your Support of the Shrine of St. Therese these past 23 3/4 Years



The Bible talks about an appointed time for everything (Ecclesiastes 3). Today is an appointed time to express my gratitude for the founder and early supporters and for thousands of peoples' support over the last almost 24 years of my life as Shrine Director.

To begin with, I am deeply grateful for Fr. William G. LeVasseur, S.J. for following through with his dream. He

looked at this dream as a reality and with the blessings of Bishop Crimont (and the support—often in the Little Way of St. Therese—of locals and even people from abroad), he persevered to bring the Shrine into existence. Now, we can look back and see how the spiritual hand of God was moving Fr. LeVasseur and how the right people came upon the Shrine scene at the needed time. For instance, plans were to build the Shrine Chapel out of logs like the Lodge. Due to a heavy storm at sea, the logs that had been cut and were going to be floated on the water to Shrine Island were washed out to sea and lost. About that time Doc Holden, a stone mason arrived on site and recommended that the Chapel be made of stone instead of logs. One can see the results of this "Godly timing change" by visiting the Shrine Chapel and seeing the outstanding construction that took place under the watchful eye and direction of Doc Holden.



Others followed in Fr. LeVasseur's footsteps; caretakers, lay volunteers, clergy and sisters, people of all ages and walks of life, to build on this labor of love so that the Shrine would continue to be available for others. The Shrine went through ups and downs, and in the early 1980's the Diocese of Juneau even

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<http://www.shrineofsainttherese.org/>

Bishop Burns to Offer All Souls Day Liturgy Monday Noon, Nov. 2nd

The church has encouraged prayer for the dead from the earliest times as an act of Christian charity. Prayer for a loved one is, for the believer, a way of erasing any distance, even death. In prayer we stand in God's presence in the company of someone we love, even if that person has gone before us into death. Just as we believe we can ask others to offer prayers for our daily needs, we believe that we, too, can offer prayers for those who have passed from this earthly place through death, so that they will come face to face with their God of mercy and love. Please join Bishop Burns—Catholics and non-Catholics for a noon time Liturgy at the Shrine Chapel Monday, Nov. 2nd. Following the Mass, weather permitting, Bishop Burns will process to the Shrine Columbarium and offer prayers for all the deceased resting at this special place.

See Articles About:

- Director Resigns
- All Souls Day Liturgy
- Change of Office Address
- St. Therese Feast Day
- Schedule of Events

Shrine Director parting thoughts,
continued from pg 1

entertained the idea of possibly selling this property for it was re-linking the Diocese with costs that were significant.

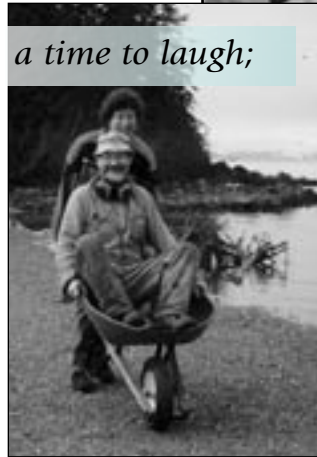
But the Shrine was not to die but to receive new life! In July, 1985, four persons gathered in the living room at 5933 Lund St. to seek to reactivate the Shrine of St. Therese as a viable retreat center. Tony Thomas, who had actually worked on the construction of the Shrine Chapel in the late 30's, Fr. Bill Finn, pastor of St. Paul's Catholic Church, Tom Satre, who grew up in Juneau and was connected very directly early on to the Shrine, and myself, who was called to enter a program in spirituality and retreat direction in the early 80's at Gonzaga University without knowing why. We gathered together, not because of any personal recognition, but because we really discerned that this place of refuge and retreat was to become a life-giving center for people as they came to visit, to retreat, and to seek healing in their lives. As we are all called to have a plan in life but to walk with the shoes of faith, we received the blessings and the "go ahead" from Bishop Michael Kenny to reactivate the Shrine into a viable retreat center.

We know that someone can carry the message and relight the vision that Fr. LeVasseur had—as did the small group that gathered in July of '85—but the true strength and the lasting quality of the message of hope and action is in the people who are the God-given faithful supporters of a special invitation to partake in a life-giving operation, such as the Shrine of St. Therese truly is. I cannot begin to identify all the people who have been instrumental in providing for the Shrine the years that I have been graced to be a part of it. The range is from our Bishops—Hurley, Kenny, Warfel, and now Burns—and to young children and all those in-between. Many provided faithful and regular daily prayers for the Shrine, others provided labor and skill—some for months and even years of time—and other numerous persons have made financial donations, and many in the Little Way of St. Therese have shared in some special capacity for the good of this special unique "gem in our midst," the Shrine of St. Therese.

Over the past years as director, I have had the experience of working with nearly 50 Shrine board members, each bringing their gifts and talents to the table at one or another of the literally hundreds of board meetings and committee meetings conducted for the operational good of the Shrine. It was truly amazing how the Good Lord put together dedicated people with skills and expertise so that the needed and desired changes could be provided for the Shrine. The Shrine Board minutes record the history of numerous spiritual gatherings and retreats held at the Shrine since 1986. In addition, the minutes are filled with records of decisions that brought about new roads, additional buildings, a small village-size water and septic sewer system, trails, a labyrinth, columbarium and needed renovations.



a time to retreat;



a time to laugh;



a time to gather;



a time to pray;



a time to design;

(Top to bottom) Fr. Vic Capriolo and retreatants (2002); Roxy Kohler takes Thomas Fitterer for a ride (1999); Thomas Narvaez guides youth wood gathering (2003); Katherine Shaw & Mary Ann Welp, Good Friday (2006); Tony Yorba & Alan Rogers, architects, meet to plan Chapel renovation (2005).

Never could I forget the Shrine on-site persons, the Caretakers, who performed many of the day-to-day tasks to keep the Shrine alive and well on a regular faithful basis. Working with fourteen individuals (7 different caretaker couples), with unique and varied talents, encouraging them to balance their lives while providing for the many retreatants and visitors visiting the

Shrine has been a real challenge at times. These seven couples have each touched the lives of many persons who have come to the Shrine to retreat or be renewed. I would pray that all fourteen caretakers would have received as much or more from the Shrine as they have so given for the benefit of others.

And, not at all least, I wish to thank my dear wife, Mary, for all these years of having the Shrine Office with all of its activity in our home. Mary was involved the first year as a co-director; vividly we recall the day in 1986 when Jim Rebar, the Diocese Business Manager then, dropped off at our home a set of keys for the Shrine and the handwritten financial ledger that was in the "red" and said, "Best of Luck in your new job." With the grace of God and the support of many others, the Shrine ledger entries slowly turned to "black" so that the Shrine could once again become alive and well to fulfill the Mission Statement: Located in an area of exceptional beauty and solitude, the Shrine is a place of spiritual refuge and retreat for the Diocese of Juneau, other religious groups, and when possible, for others using it with reverence and care.

Yes, there is "An Appointed Time" for all things. I thank the Good Lord for having been overall blessed with the call to serve as Director of the Shrine and I pass that blessing on to the new person or persons who will be handling the operations of the Shrine. I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide those currently involved with the Shrine—opening and closing doors that should be opened and closed—and that the Shrine will continue to be a place where people can find a deeper relationship with their God and with one another. Thanks for all your support; may the Good Lord bless you and grant you lasting spiritual peace.

Thomas Fitterer

See information at right regarding Shrine Office moving to the Diocese Pastoral Center.

Shrine Schedule of Events

Both the Lodge and the Jubilee Cabin are shown below; Lodge=(L); Jubilee Cabin=(J)
* Indicates that there is extra information supplied in this newsletter about these specific topics.

October:

- Thurs.- Mon., Oct. 1-5 (J)
- Fri.- Sun., Oct. 9-11 (J)
- Fri.- Sun., Oct. 16- 18 (L)
- Fri.- Sun., Oct. 23-25 (J)
- Fri.- Sat., Oct. 30-31 (L)

- Womens Quilting Retreat
- Family Return Retreat
- Deacons Formation Retreat
- Womens Crafts Retreat
- Women Living Sober Retreat

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a time to plant;



(Above) Jim and Jo Betts plant roses (2001); (At Right) Bishop Michael Warfel with assistance from Miguel Rohrbacher blesses Good Shepherd Bridge plaque (2004).

a time to bless.

Shrine of St. Therese Office Moves to Diocese Pastoral Center;
Note Changes

Please make note that the new communications for Shrine of St. Therese reservations/information will have a mailing address change from the 5933 Lund Street to: Diocese Pastoral Center, Attn. Shrine of St. Therese, 415 Sixth St., Suite #300, Juneau, AK 99801. The phone number, (907) 780-6112 will remain the Shrine Office contact number, but the email address contact will change from fitterer@gci.net to juneashrine@gci.net.

The Shrine Web Site address will remain the same: www.shrineofsainttherese.org. Please allow for transition time but do not hesitate to contact the Diocese to make sure that your needs are met. We want this to be as smooth a transition as possible. *Thanks.*

St. Therese of Lisieux Feast Day, October 1

Just a reminder that we celebrate the feast day of this special saint on the first of October. Please check your church bulletins for Thursday, October 1st Mass locations.