



June 2022



Linda Bergman in the Shrine Courtyard

Dear Friend,

God has big plans for YOU! God may close doors in our lives, but he wants us to be aware of the other doors that open, the opportunities at hand and what He has intended next for our lives!

In January 2016 Linda learned that the company where she worked for twenty-two years would be closing. After all those years of job security, this was tough news to accept. But, in June 2016 an opportunity arose to organize and lead the Woods Chapel renovation! If Linda had not lost her job, she would not have been available to accept such a responsibility. **Losing your job can be a challenge, but it may also free you up for what God has intended next for your life! Linda also heads up the over 40 Landscaping Volunteers - people working together for the common good.** So many individuals share their gifts of time, talent and treasure and help to make the Shrine even more beautiful and inviting for visitors.

Linda recalls the Woods Chapel needed some updating. In 2012 some extremely strong winds passed through this area causing many trees in the woods to fall. All the trees fell in the same direction, **except the two trees that could have fallen right on the Chapel; instead, those two trees fell in the opposite direction and spared the little Chapel!** With that, Linda thought, “this Chapel is meant to stay, and it needs to be refurbished! Thank you, God!

When the Woods Chapel project began, Linda asked her husband to come to the chapel so she could explain her vision of what needed to be done in case someone asked. As they were leaving the chapel and heading back to the car, **she felt a strong urge to go to the little tree by the Chapel. As she approached the tree, she found a marker, “In Memory of Gene and Kate Bergman” - her in-laws!** She knew friends had donated a tree in honor of them but never realized until that moment that it was planted right
(Over)



Woods Chapel before renovation photo above.



After renovation photo on left.

I would like to support being open to God's plans for us.

☐ \$5000 ☐ \$2500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$ _____

☐ Check enclosed payable to: Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics

Name: _____

Charge my gift to: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER

Address: _____

Exp. Date _____ CVC (3 digits from back of card) _____

Acct. _____

Phone: _____

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GIFT IN HONOR OF: _____

Birthdays: ____/____/____ and ____/____/____

GIFT IN MEMORY OF: _____

Ordination or Wedding Anniversary: ____/____/____

by the chapel! Linda knew if they were alive, they would have supported this project. Knowing they were there in spirit brought a lot of encouragement along the way. Linda also noted that, “If Kate was still here, she would have ridden her bike to the Chapel daily to pull weeds, and we seriously could have used her help!”

This project came together like the loaves and the fishes! One quick visit to the remnants section of a local door store **Linda spotted a beautiful front door named “St. Louis” with a cross in the ornate glass window. The “St. Louis Door” complemented the new siding! It was perfect! God provided - Thank you!**

When a trinket box was located at an estate sale, Linda thought it would make a nice intention box. **Lifting the lid, she found a Rosary and Hail Mary inscribed on it; that verified the trinket box would make a beautiful intention holder on the altar. God provided again - Thank you!**

During the renovation process, Linda awoke in the middle of the night with the thought, “we must plant red Rose of Sharon on the south side of the Chapel!” She stopped at many nurseries and found pink, lavender, and white Rose of Sharon available, but not red? On the way home from Coldwater, she passed by Benanzer’s Nursery. She hit the brakes and thought. **“Wait, I have to check there. Benanzer is the last name of the little boy whose hip and leg casts were in the Woods Chapel for years as a reminder of their family’s special intention and in thanksgiving for the prayers”** Linda turned around, pulled in; “lo and behold,” they had five red Rose of Sharon Bushes! God provided again!

*“I was open to accepting the opportunities placed in front of me instead of pushing them aside. It makes me feel closer to Jesus and Mary”
Linda Bergman*

Linda said there were so many more stories tied to this project from many wonderful individuals and businesses giving of their time, talent and treasure and divine intervention. Linda is most grateful for the result. By faith we look for the good in others and in situations in life with loving and appreciative hearts. Living by faith is where true happiness comes from. Linda’s ministry/work at the Shrine is one of her most meaningful prayer and devotion opportunities. She commented, “I am no one special, I was just open to accepting the opportunities placed in front of me instead of pushing them aside. It makes me feel closer to Jesus and Mary.”

To know the Shrine is to love the Shrine. We invite you to come experience the Shrine. This sacred space inside and out is made possible by donations. Can we count on you for your Shrine support? You may make your gift via US Mail or online <https://www.mariasteinshrine.org/ways-to-give>
God provides if we ask; we need to be open to His Will and to say Thank You!

God has big plans for you,


Mark Travis
Executive Director

Diana Russell
Director of Fund Development

We will pray for your special intentions at the Shrine:

*Know that you are being prayed for at the Shrine.
God has plans for YOU! May your heart and mind be open to His Will.*