

# THE UPDATE

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## Heart of Gratitude

BY MARK TRAVIS,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Maria Stein Shrine has many reasons to be grateful. We continue to experience all the fruits of the labor being done here at the Maria Stein Shrine. This past year we welcomed more than 16,000 pilgrims and guests through our doors. We love welcoming visitors and guests here and sharing our Shrine story. Groups of all sizes and ages visit the Shrine and experience one common denominator: peace.

Looking back at last year, we brought to life a piece of history with the Brunner Bake Shop. Our cozy bake shop located on the third floor (elevator available) was inspired by the Swiss Shop that once was nestled on the grounds and served visitors and pilgrims for years. The Brunner Bake Shop offers our visitors and pilgrims a sweet treat, fresh bread, and a hot drink. Currently, only open on Fridays with hopes of being open more days a week in the near future.

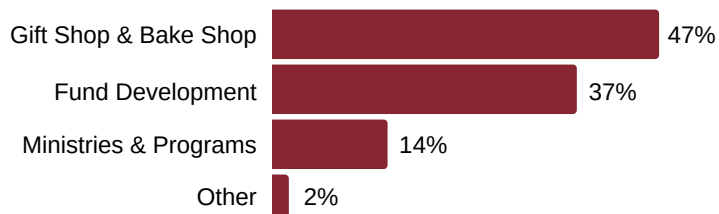
Additionally, last year we met our goal for our St. Joseph Preservation Campaign to help the Shrine with ongoing maintenance and capital expenses for years to come. Through your generosity, we repaired a stained-glass window on the north side of the chapel and added a sidewalk near the Jesus statue. We are so grateful for the generous support of all our volunteers and donors who continue to help us live out the mission of the Maria Stein Shrine.

All Glory be to God,

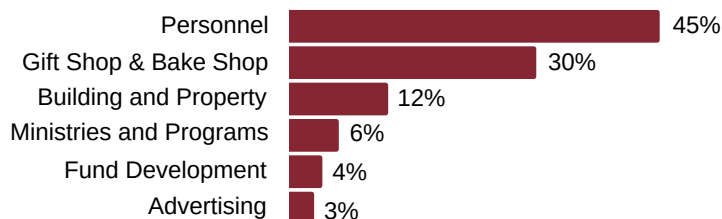
*Mark E. Travis*

## 2022 - 2023 SHRINE FINANCIAL OPERATIONS REVIEW

### Revenue



### Expense





## A Glance at Shrine Generosity Last Year:

**12** Sponsors from Heritage Day Celebration  
and over **40** Baskets to Raffle!

Shrine Circle/Monthly Donors **24**

Art Show & Sale **30** Artists and

**36** Sponsors

Grants/Restricted Gifts **47**

**593** Gifts from 3 Appeal

Letters & 2 Newsletters

**4** Bequests

New Donors **189**

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR SHRINE STORY!

*We are certainly grateful for the many families requesting their loved one's memorial contributions be made to the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics.*

*The Arkenberg's lives were impacted when surgery was not an option for their newborn son, but hope and prayer prevailed.*



*Justin Homan's faith helped him to go from "Why me?" to "How can I inspire others to never give up?" Justin and Brittany met at a Shrine young adult group. He later proposed to her in the Adoration Chapel.*

*The Ebbings introduced their Grandson to the Shrine. They wanted to share their faith and to help Ben find peace & hope on his cancer journey.*



**Planned Giving** is designating a major gift to a charitable organization in life or as part of an Estate Plan. Planned giving is often done as someone creates an Estate Plan, as there are certain investment or tax strategies that could be done to maximize the gift's impact. The benefits of planned giving include providing long-term support to an organization, establishing a legacy, and leaving a major gift that may not have been possible in one's lifetime due to financial constraints. Charitable gifts are often exempt from Estate Tax, meaning more of the gift would go directly to the organization. If you are interested in planned giving, you can get started with the help of an attorney or Estate Planning lawyer.

*"Each one must do just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that, always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed" 2 Corinthians 9:7-8*

Please remember the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics in your Planned Giving:  
Some donors choose to gift monthly retirement distributions to the Shrine  
and others choose to remember the Shrine in their will.  
Diana Russell, MSS Director of Fund Development 419.925.4532





We celebrated Mass on the feast of St. Isidore the Farmer and asked for God's blessings on the planting season, for safety and an abundant harvest to follow.

**Shrine Life 2023** has taken many opportunities to engage pilgrims and guests through tours and programs offered. We have hosted buses of pilgrims as well as small tours of families and CCD classes. We are thankful for the blessings bestowed on the Shrine and visitors this past year:

- ▶ **Cancer Care Ministry** and their ability to extend the compassion of Christ to those in our local community. Through home visits and the **St. Peregrine Prayer Services**, the Shrine continues to offer prayer and support for those affected by cancer.
- ▶ After receiving many prayer requests for loved ones to return to the faith, we offered the **St. Monica Prayer Service**. As we asked St. Monica to intercede for their needs, it was also a time to give thanks to our loving Father who draws everyone to Himself and whose arms are always open to us.
- ▶ **Summer Day with the Saints** pairs activities with the lives of saints to teach elementary schoolers about the heroes of our faith. With the joy and energy they bring a third session was added this year.
- ▶ In the Fall relics were added to the Shrine's Relic Chapel, and **Mass of All Saints** was celebrated in the Adoration Chapel. We ask these modern witnesses of faith to inspire and touch the hearts of pilgrims.
- ▶ Ending the year with a popular event: **The St. Nicholas Celebration**. Tim Nealeigh as St. Nicholas taught the children and their parents about the saint while the children's shoes were filled with candy and other symbols from his story followed by activities, hot cocoa, cookies, and photos.



*Saints Louis and Zelie Martin, Parents of St Thérèse of Lisieux from the new relics that were added to Shrine's collection in 2023*

These are just slices of Shrine life in 2023. We have a lot to be thankful for from the past year. We have been able to touch so many lives by the sacrifice of our benefactors and volunteers. **We appreciate the many hands and hearts who labor to make the many ministries of the Shrine possible for those souls who seek peace, prayer, and hospitality at our beloved Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics.**



*Above: Youth from Summer Day with the Saints praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet.*



*Left: Edith Stein canonized as Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross*

## Shrine Ministry 2023:

**4,193** Program/Event Guests

Programs and Events **27**

**3,987** Mass Attendees

Pilgrims on Guided Tours **2,125**

**1,538** Recorded Hours of Adoration

CCD Students Toured the Chapels **533**





## HOURS

Monday - Thursday:  
9:30am - 6:00pm

Friday & Saturday:  
9:30am - 4:00pm

Sunday:  
12:00pm - 4:00pm

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday  
Mid-Day Prayer: 11:45am

Tuesday - Thursday  
Eucharistic Adoration: 1:00pm - 5:00pm  
First Thursdays: 1:00pm - 8:00pm

Saturdays  
Mass: 10:00am

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH

Each Friday during Lent:  
Stations and Soup 11:45 am

7th - 10th Spring Sale in Pilgrim Gift Shop

5th & 14th Lenten Learning Series 10:00 am

25th Tenebrae 7:30 pm

29th - 31st CLOSED for the Easter Weekend

### APRIL

Pilgrim Gift Shop's  
Month-Long First Communion Sale

21st St. Peregrine Prayer Service 2:00 pm

### MAY

23rd Taste of the Shrine

For up-to-date event information, follow us on  
Facebook, Instagram or visit [mariasteinshrine.org](http://mariasteinshrine.org)