



The Shrine of St. Joseph

100 years of History,
Present Realities, Future Possibilities



Origins

- Father Thomas Augustine Judge, C.M., S.T. (1868-1933)
- Founder, Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity (Trinity Missions). Catholic religious community of missionary priests and Brothers serving today in 7 countries
- Founder, Shrine of St. Joseph (193-1924)



Founding Vision

- Our specific mission: *preservation of the faith*
- Our chief effort: *develop a missionary spirit in the laity*
- Our goal: *every Catholic an apostle*
- Our focus: *the spiritually abandoned, especially the poor*





The Shrine of St. Joseph, Stirling (1923-24)

- Threefold purpose:
 - Hostel for diocesan priests with issues of alcoholism
 - Hospitality for pilgrimages and retreats especially for African-Americans & Italian immigrants from New York & New Jersey cities
 - Mission formation center for lay and religious missionaries of the Missionary Cenacle Family



A new moment in the 1970s

- Construction of new Shrine chapel, residence and offices
- Sister Servants of Jesus arrive (Sr. Agnes and Sr. Anna initially - eventually 3 more sisters come)

The Shrine “Gift Shop”: a missionary work

- The Shrine gift shop and bookstore was from earliest days a dimension of the mission here.
- Provides a vital service to Catholic & non-Catholic community alike in the region and for pilgrims and guests.
- The Sister Servants of Jesus assumed responsibility for Gift Shop soon after their arrival. They have carefully cared for it with faith and love for over 40 years.



Trinity House: an overview

- 1930-1969: one of first treatment centers for priests utilizing 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- 1970-1996: center for teams promoting lay Catholic leadership throughout US through workshops & retreats
- 1996-2004: apostolic formation center for young adult Catholics; beginnings of Migrant Ministry of diocese of Paterson
- 2004-today: a retreat facility including monthly weekend retreats for “I Thirst” program, emphasizing spirituality of recovery from addiction.



The Shrine “constants”

- **Supporting people in recovery or dealing with addictions:** AA, Alanon, “I Thirst,” Recovery Ministry
 - *Poor & abandoned*
- **Hospitality to “marginalized” people:** immigrant communities, youth & young adults
 - *Preservation of the Faith*
- **Apostolic Formation & Retreat Center:** spiritual direction, retreats, days of renewal, daily Confessions & Eucharistic Adoration, Bible Study
 - *“Every Catholic an apostle”*



Shrines Today? “At the Service of the New Evangelization”

- Pope Francis in the Apostolic Letter *Sanctuarium in Ecclesia* (2017): “Clear that the Shrines are called to play a role in the new evangelization of society today.”
- The Shrine: “a privileged place ... of prayer, of devotion and trust in God's mercy inculturated in the life of every people.”
- Shrine of St. Joseph: member of National Association of Shrines and Pilgrimage Apostolate; participated in first International Convention of Shrines at the Vatican (2018)





The Shrine's Mission: distinct from a parish

- For the Preservation of the Faith, a sacred place of hospitality and welcome, especially for those most in need.

The Shrine's "Four Pillars" Today: Present Reality

I. Worship

II. Apostolic Formation

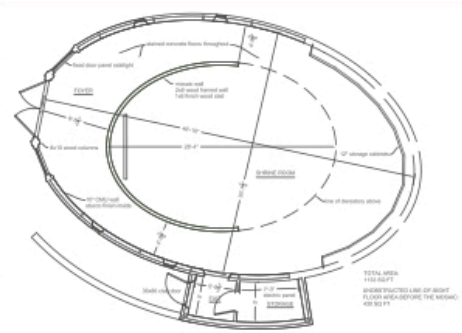
III. Human Rights & Peace

IV. Recovery, Health & Healing

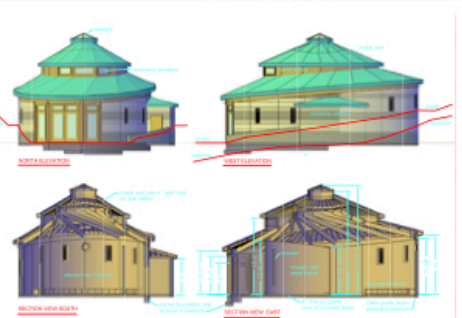
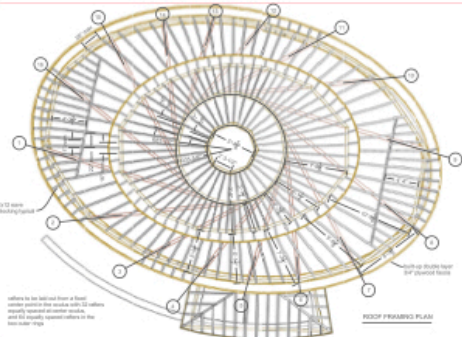
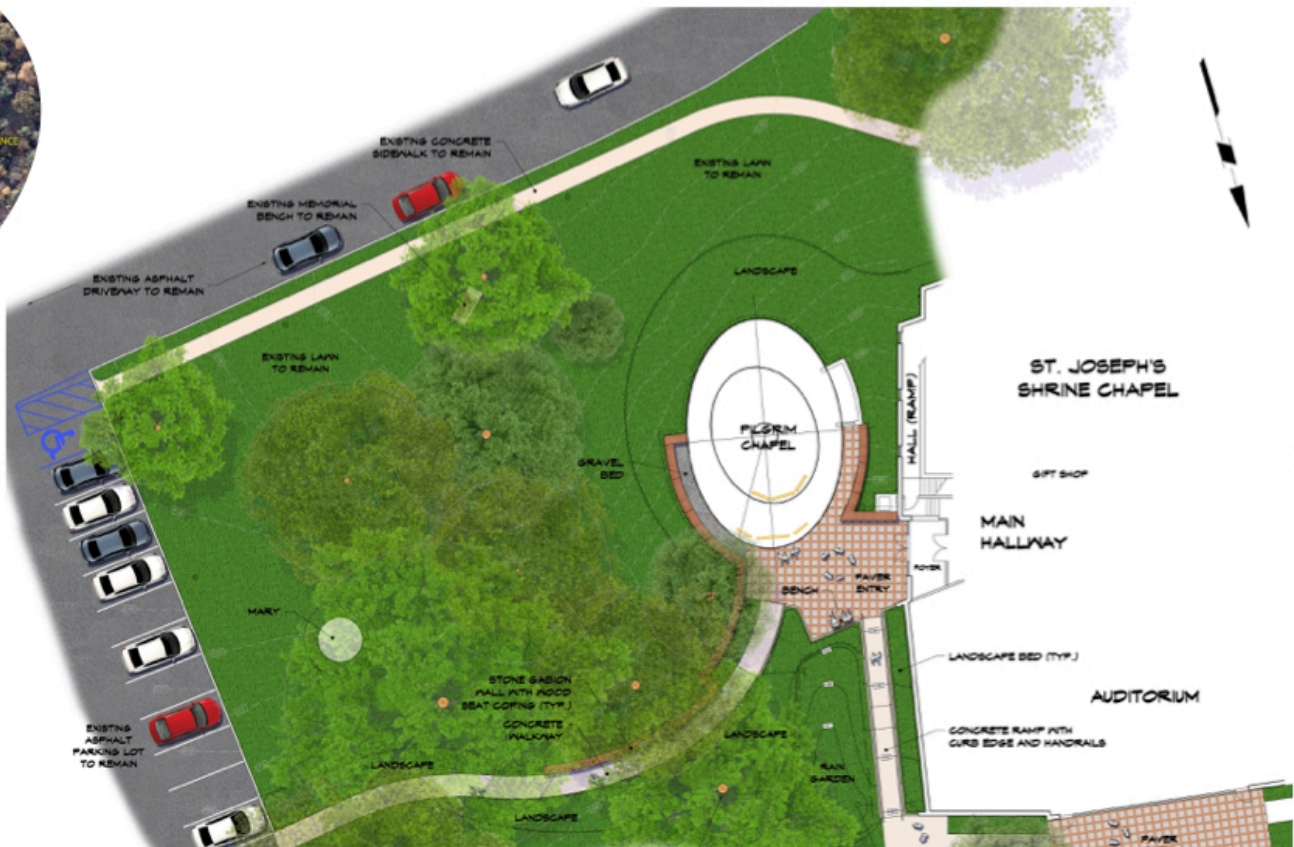
The Shrine Mission Goals (2016-2020)

- Make the Shrine better known throughout the region.
 - *36,000 visitors came to the Shrine in 2019*
- Respond to these three areas of pressing need: 1) the rights of immigrants; 2) health and safety of workers; 3) recovery from addictions.
 - *Programs have been offered in each of these areas.*
- Promote devotion to St. Joseph as model & guide for the 21st century.
 - *The building of the Pilgrim Chapel to encourage pilgrimages and devotion to St. Joseph.*





Location Plan



Moving Forward . . .

- *Preservation of the Faith*: Currently 33,000,000 adult “former Catholics” in the US. Northeastern US is the “mega-center” of this loss of faith among US Catholics
- *Huge immigrant community*: New Jersey's immigrant population is 2 million – 22% of the entire state population. The majority are Catholic.
- *Recovery Ministry & “I Thirst”*: Opioid overdoses accounted for more than 42,000 deaths in 2016. The Shrine Recovery Ministry & *I Thirst* program are a resource for those suffering from addiction, their families, and for those seeking to serve and assist.





For the next 100 years?
"Come, Holy Spirit!"

