

Old St. Ferdinand Shrine Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 3

August-September 2004

Archaeological Dig Project

Special points of interest:

??**Wine and Cheese Reception Aug. 14, 2004 6-9 p.m.**

??**Tours: Open 1-4 p.m. April Through December**

??**Special Tours by appointment all year long**

Inside this issue:

<i>School Tours</i>	2
<i>Membership Application</i>	2
<i>Spring Encampment</i>	3
<i>President's Note</i>	4
<i>St. John Francis Regis</i>	4

The First St. Ferdinand Church

Florissant's Lewis and Clark Anniversary Celebration has launched a project that always intrigued its residents: Uncovering the history beneath their feet.

A team of archaeologists led an excavation in Spanish Land Grant Park from May 26 through June 6. The site was expected to contain remains of a burned-down, 19th-century French church complex.

What they found was something more. Indentations in the dirt helped them determine that the church's structure relied on the support of vertical logs, not horizontal

ones, verifying that it was of French colonial construction. But some of the artifacts, such as pieces of plates, tea sets and smoking pipes, were English. The most important discovery came near the end of the excavation work. The discovery of a storage pit was not surprising, it was the 10 books, printed in English and found inside the pit, some with leather bindings, that shocked the diggers.

Such books would have been buried when the church was built. Especially in the St. Louis area, with changing seasons and humidity, things like these books don't usually survive. The books could have been about various things. There

is a possibility that they could be religious books. Instead of burning them, they buried them like people; there could be some religious significance to that.

Before they can be further cleaned and examined, the books must first be preserved. One of the first steps may be to freeze the books, to reduce the amount of deterioration once they are exposed to oxygen again.

Currently, the archaeologists are working with preservation expert Richard Baker to plan the conservation and restoration of the manuscripts.

Would you be interested in helping us show the Old St. Ferdinand Shrine to our visitors?

We need a few good

People:

Please join us in giving tours at the Old St. Ferdinand Shrine to all the many people who come and visit.

There will be a training class for everyone interested. Each volunteer receive a schedule of 3 hours per month .

Training sessions will be announced. Please

contact Bill Bray at the Shrine.

These tours highlight the Shrine and the Old Town area.

Upcoming events

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting took place in June and attendance was very good for a hot Sunday afternoon.

Many items were discussed as well as the final budget numbers.

The President's 3 year position will be filled by Bill Bray..

Vice- president will be Vern Schlemmer Jr.

Secretary is Teri O'Neill

Treasurer is Antoinette Costo.

SCHOOL TOURS

Any school that would be interested in taking a tour of the Shrine is urged to do so by contacting the President or any of the Board

Members to set up a day and time. Information and presentations are available.

Please call the Shrine and make arrangements. 837-2110

FALL FESTIVAL

Plans for the fall festival in October will be under way in the next months.

The Shrine along with other businesses in Old Town and Sacred Heart church will be open and providing many activities and services throughout the day. Anyone interested in helping or organizing with the Shrine activities can contact Bill Bray.

HELP NEEDED

We are looking for people with background in grant writing to aid the Shrine to obtain funds for the preservation of the Shrine and our wish list needs. Call Bill Bray. Thanks!

Membership

Membership to the Shrine is available at any time throughout the year. Memberships are renewable each year.

Friends \$25.00

Patrons \$50.00

Business \$100.00

Lifetime \$250.00

Lifetime membership is paid only once.

Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail _____

Membership Type _____

Make checks Payable "Old St. Ferdinand Shrine"

Mail to: P.O. Box 222

Florissant MO 63032

Thank You!!

You may wish to help:

Tours _____

Volunteer for an event _____

Join a Committee _____

Contribute money to the preservation, maintenance of Shrine— --

Thank You, Memorials and Membership

“I brought the tour book home yesterday after having a wonderful experience of attending Mass at the Shrine.”

“ Enclosed is a donation from the city of Ballwin tour on March 24 with Linda Koenig. The Shrine is beautiful and your hospitality was greatly appreciated. Thank you for having us as guests.” Bekin Youngblood

Thank you for the use of the Old School for Al’s Funeral Luncheon.

Sincerely, Sally Henke

Memorials

Contributions were made in honor of the following:

- Marian Pataky
- Matilda Busken
- George Pezold

Membership

- Pat and Jack Reed
- Vernon and Alberta Creely
- Michael and Gail Bray
- Rita Burke
- Frank J. Petruso
- Carol Baluka
- Kathleen Sperlo

Schedule for Tour Guides

1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

	Fourth Saturday of Month	Third Sunday of Month
First Saturday of Month	Geri Debo	Kay Spring Carol Baluka Ida Bosslett
Peggy Hogan Kathy Sperlo	Fifth Saturday of Month	
		Fourth Sunday of Month
Second Saturday of Month	Bill Bray Carol Baluka	

Rose Vierdag Gladys Theisman	First Sunday of Month	Mary Keeven Ray Maddock Rosemary Maddock
Third Saturday of Month	Rose Vierdag	
		Fifth Sunday of Month
Mary Keeven	Second Sunday of Month	
		Bill Bray Carol Baluka
	Jack Reed Pat Reed	

We have many things happening at the Shrine, but none so vital to our preservation than the effort to educate people of what we have and are willing to share with EVERYONE!

Old St. Ferdinand Shrine could really use your help in welcoming and giving tours to all the many people who visit us each year.

What we call the "special tours" are given all year around and most reasonable time of the day. We can handle groups of 2 to 250 people. Our regular hours are every Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., April thru December.

Please call me at 314-363-4572.

Anyone working 3 hours per month for the remainder of the year will receive a lifetime membership.

Wish List. We are starting a list of items that we are in need of and soliciting help from anyone interested. Two items are; Panel Display for pictures and articles and new tables for the School. Please help us if you can. Thanks!!!

North American Martyrs, Part One

The Blackrobes.

One of the most inspiring chapters of Catholic Missions is the story of the Jesuit missionaries who worked in Canada and the northern United States. Theirs is a story of educated and cultured men who willingly entered Indian wilderness to live under the most primitive and dangerous conditions, ever ready to sacrifice their lives for the advancement of Christianity.

Eight of those, all martyrs, have been canonized. Three of these belong to the U.S., St. Rene Goupil, St. Isaac Jogues and St. John de Lalande.

St. John de Brebeuf, St. Gabriel Lalemant, St. Anthony Daniel, St. Charles Garnier and St. Noel Chabenel were the other five. Some of the stories are pretty gruesome involving St. de Brebeuf and St. Lalemant being tortured, burned, (tongue cut out), then when one of them was about to die, the Indians cut out his heart and ate it. These are just some accounts of the suffering and anguish they suffered without complaint in order to speak of God and further Christianity in the new world.

The story of St. Jogues is

another example of bravery and unselfishness of missionaries in that time. Fr. Jogues and Fr. Goupil were returning to Huronia with two other missionaries when they were captured by Mohawk Indians. Fr. Jogues escaped, but when he saw the others being taken away he gave himself up. For 13 dreadful days the Mohawks made their way back to their camp. They were tortured, beaten with sticks, hair and fingernails torn out, fingers chewed and thumbs cut off. Both men were forced to serve as slaves and a few weeks later Fr. Goupil died. For the next ten months, Fr. Jogues, was forced to continue serving as a slave and tending to the Huron captives and secretly baptized seventy Indians. He succeeded finally to escape. He then returned to France where he met with the Queen Mother. He also was given the privilege to say Mass for Pope Urban VII. A year later he recovered from his ordeal and was back in a mission to serve the Mohawks.

His end came in 1646, when he was tomahawked from behind. Thus the blood of one more missionary enriched the soil of the U.S.

St. Stanislaus History Museum

In the fall of 2002, the St. Stanislaus Historical Museum Society opened its Museum on the 2nd floor of the St. Ferdinand School. The museum is the successor to the Museum which was housed in the 1849 'Rock Building' at St. Stanislaus Seminary.

While we do not have all the treasures which we formerly cared for, we do have many items which you will remember from the other Museum. For example we have all the artifacts from the Southwest Room. We have various pieces of furniture as well as memorabilia from Fr. Claude Heithaus' corner of the Porter's Room.

Please come and see us after your visit to the Shrine.

Every Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

**Editor: Vern Schlemmer
Address: P.O. Box 222
Florissant MO. 63032
E-Mail:**

vernon.jr5969@sbcglobal.net