

Summer 2013

Trinity Heights



Queen of Peace

Dedication of Veterans' Memorial

On a warm, sunny Sunday afternoon, hundreds of veterans and their families descended upon Trinity Heights for the formal dedication of the Veterans' Memorial. The ceremony included several moving, memorable speeches. Don Stevens, former Executive Director of Trinity Heights and a decorated Vietnam veteran, was the emcee for the event. He spoke of his survivor's guilt and his pain at the rejection he experienced on his return. Sam Clovis, a fighter pilot related his personal experiences and the love of his country that he shares with other veterans.



In a beautiful and moving dedication, Father Brent Lingle Director of Worship for the Diocese of Sioux City blessed the memorial and led all present in the Our Father, the prayer shared by all faiths.

The American Legion had just concluded its state-wide conference in Sioux City and members were on hand to engage in the celebration. Its vice commander, Ed Rohner relayed sentiments of all the veterans in the American Legion. He and Monica Harvey, designer of the Band-Aid for Hearts Pin, invited all veterans in attendance to come forward in a circle of life surrounding the memorial and receive the Heart pin. The pin is designed to recognize all veteran's service to our country as well as to help heal the broken hearts of Vietnam veterans who valiantly served their country only to find that they were not welcomed home by a grateful nation. Forty years have passed but the pain remained in the hearts of many silent veterans. Attendees finally got their "Welcome home, soldier" message during the program. One veteran stated that it was "very emotional, a lot of memories that we have tried to keep hidden, were brought forward with a closure and heart-felt healing that I haven't ever had."

There were many tearful eyes, but smiles prevailed in the Marian Center where refreshments were served and conversations continued. It was truly an afternoon that all in attendance will not soon forget—how the Veterans Memorial and that warm sunny afternoon at Trinity Heights Queen of Peace brought such great healing and overall feeling of love and respect for all of our veterans that served our great country.

Enhancements to the St. Joseph Center, other projects on hold

Projects placed on hold:

- *Sidewalk repair*
- *Three computer systems*
- *Landscaping behind the statue of the Sacred Heart*
- *Shrine maintenance*

Sometimes our friends ask, “What is next for Trinity Heights?” or “Are you going to add more buildings or more attractions onsite?” The short answer is, “No, not at this time.” Our site is over twenty years old and some areas are in need of repair. Maintenance is our priority.”

The roof on the St. Joseph center has been a concern for some time. Inside, the beautiful artistic ceiling of wood planking would be destroyed by moisture problems. It is never an ideal time to invest in roof repair, but the project could no longer be postponed. The work was initiated and we have been blessed with benefactors who recognized the need for additional funds to complete the project. Workers are quickly making progress on the summer project while the rest of us breathe a sigh of relief that the building is protected once again.



In the past several years, the generosity of patrons resulted in donations of beautiful religious art. Some pieces have come from closed parishes, others from family collections. The St. Joseph Center is in need of several renovations to properly house these beautiful pieces.

“Christianity: A Celebration!” documents history of the church

A twenty part series of presentations by area speakers is documenting the history of the church from the time of Christ to the 21st century.

The series began in April and continues throughout the summer months. The series is attracting large crowds, with many attendees making it their regular event for Wednesday evenings. Presenters include clergy and lay people from the area, including speakers from Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. Each presenter becomes the story teller of a single century including fascinating accounts of life in the Roman catacombs, the influence of various Roman emperors, early heresies, the succession of popes throughout the centuries, political and economic influences on the church, and the many ways that the church shaped the culture, art, science, and education of the world. As the stories of the centuries unfold, we are reminded of the promise of the Jesus that he would send us the Holy Spirit who would be with us until the end of time...that even the gates of hell would not prevail against it.

The series is offered at no cost as a Year of Faith experience aligned with the Queen of Peace mission statement.



Queen of Peace

Mission

Statement:

“...by awakening faith through devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we are committed to assisting people on their journey of faith.”

Patriotic rosary culminates Fortnight for Freedom celebration

Prayers and events at Trinity Heights supported the U.S. Bishops' call to engage in a Fortnight for Freedom starting June 21 and ending on July 4.

The culminating event was the patriotic rosary, prayed at the Mound of Mary on July 4th at 7:00 p.m. A crowd of 100 came to participate in the event which featured the recitation of the luminous mysteries of the rosary along with meditations supporting the protection and restoration of our religious freedoms.

As a young veteran announced the prayer intentions for our government entities at the beginning of each mystery and for all the souls in each of the fifty states for each Hail Mary, a diverse group of friends of Queen of Peace led the rosary and quotes from founding fathers. Father Topf, a retired priest from our diocese who celebrated his 50th anniversary to the priesthood in July, and who serves Trinity Heights in many ways, led the culminating Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty and gave the crowd his blessing.

The patriotic rosary is a long-standing tradition at Trinity Heights on the 4th of July, but this year it was tailored to the Fortnight for Freedom and the Year of Faith.



The Knights of Columbus provided the solemn entrance during song, a flag ceremony and a patriotic reading entitled, "The Soldier".

Message from the Executive Director

Queen of Peace is a very busy place this summer. We continue to celebrate the Year of Faith as a diocesan official pilgrimage site. Activities include tours, a Marian pilgrimage, a patriotic rosary on July 4, dedication of the Veterans' Memorial, special opportunities for grace and blessings to pilgrims, and a documentary series on the history of the church.

In a recent session of our documentary series, we heard about the 13th century and the founding of mendicant monks. These are the begging monks in the Franciscan and Dominican orders who own nothing, and depend on the good will of others and God's providence to survive. Wow, I surely could identify with that! Begging for financial assistance is a humbling experience. As the new executive director, I have the benefit of seeing over 20 years of blessings bestowed on this shrine. Through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, Our Lord has used the kindness of others to provide Queen of Peace with the financial resources to continue our mission of evangelization. I trust in her continued protection.

As always, I ask that you contribute to your parish and your schools first. Then, if you can, please send us something to help us meet our financial obligations to maintain and enhance this peaceful, prayerful, and beautiful pilgrim site. Thank you for your generosity. God's Blessings and Mary's Peace be with you.

Yours in Christ,

Terry Hegarty,

Executive Director Trinity Heights /Queen of Peace

Mark your Calendar!



Our 20th anniversary Prayer and Celebration Banquet with Father Frank Pavone is September 29, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. Make your reservations to hear this outstanding pro-life advocate. Contact us at 712-239-8670 or at info@trinityheights.com to reserve your tickets.

Postage here

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Volunteers and good weather team to create beautiful grounds

Last summer was a great trial for those who work to maintain the beautiful grounds at Queen of Peace. Not only did we endure the drought, but a lightning strike shut down the pond and irrigation system for a significant amount of time and on its heels, came an expensive repair to the well itself. This year, the funds are extremely tight for irrigation and ground care, but we are blessed with mostly mild weather and significant amounts of rain in the spring and early summer months.



Teams of volunteers continue to provide hours of labor on the gardens, shrubs and grounds. Young and old mow the lawn and trim the trees, bushes, and plant accents. Many have commented on the exceptional beauty of the grounds this year.

Visitors who come have found a beautiful place to peacefully pray, meditate, or engage in private remembrance of their loved ones in whose memory benches, bollards and trees were donated.

Free will offerings and hours of volunteer service are often downplayed by our donors but each contribution makes a difference. You can see some of the grounds on our website, but there is nothing like a personal visit. Please plan to join us this summer or fall.