



LE DECINE DEL ROSARIO

THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF POMPEII

The Oldest Continuing Italian-American Catholic Church
in the City of Chicago, located in the heart of historic "Little Italy."

A Gift of Italian-American Hospitality, Embracing All Pilgrims of Faith
Founded in 1911 ✦ Established as a Shrine in 1994

All you who are thirsty, come to the water!
— *Isaiah 55:1*

Piano, piano... va sano e lontano!!!!

Dear Friends of the Shrine,

Such is the Italian adage. It means: little by little we get there... and stay sane about it!

Well we are just beginning. Or, should I say, continuing our work at restoring the shrine church.

Over the past 10 years we have:

Repaired the bell tower that was falling and slated to be torn down. It still stands strong in the neighborhood.

Repaired the four bells in the bell tower and they ring out again the glory of God and the heritage of our Italian ancestors who heard the same bells ring at their weddings, funerals and on Sundays.

Repaired and re-tiled the roof of the shrine church.

Tuck-pointed the entire building.

Re-wired the entire church building, removing the old wiring from 1923 and replacing it with new wiring.

Re-leaded and cleaned all of the stained glass windows; replacing the old outer plastic with clear double-plated glass.

Added the new bronze doors—the only set in the world that has all the 20 mysteries of the Rosary portrayed.

Re-poured the front steps of the Shrine.

Replaced the boilers for both the Shrine church and the school building.

And, before any of that, we remodeled the old rectory into a modern office space as our Shrine Center.

The best news: by the end of the 2015, God willing, it will be all paid for, and we will have liquidated our outstanding debt to the Archdiocese. (A debt we accrued because some pledges that were made for this phase of the restoration were never made good on... it happens, I am told.)

Now another small step: we are in the process of doing some repairs in the foyer of the Shrine church: at long last the marble around the interior of the bronze doors is being re-installed and some plaster repair work is happening too. It's a small beginning but stay tuned... 2015, our 20th anniversary year, is going to be a big year to continue what has begun: piano, piano, *va sano e lontano!!!*

Father Richard

The term **shrine** signifies a church or other sacred place to which the faithful make pilgrimages for a particular pious reason with the approval of the local ordinary. At shrines, more abundant means of salvation are to be provided for the faithful; the Word of God is to be carefully proclaimed; liturgical life is to be appropriately fostered especially through the celebration of the Eucharist and penance; and approved forms of popular piety are to be cultivated.

Code of Canon Law, 1230 and 1234

Le Decine del Rosario is the Italian phrase for decades of the rosary, representing the twenty decades of the rosary, for which our weekly bulletin is named.