



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.

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

Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD who made us. — *Psalms 95:6*

Dear Friends of Our Lady,

There is a saying: Behind every successful man, there is a woman!

Let me paraphrase that in the context of my own experience:

Behind every good work of our Shrine, there is a wonderful staff!

And, that is the truth about The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii.

Writing these short letters has given me a chance to share with you what is happening at the Shrine... to offer you some behind the scenes insight of this place to pray for peace.

Well, at the heart of it all is a group of dedicated people, our staff, who see to it that the day-to-day operations flow smoothly and that the Shrine continues to fulfill its mission in the Archdiocese Chicago - as a gift of the Italian-American Community.

From time to time, I am asked: "What does the staff do?"

Let me start with the area you are most familiar with, Pastoral Ministry, which includes the liturgical life of the Shrine: our Sunday masses, baptisms, weddings, funerals, including the decorating for the major holidays. Also, our programs of spiritual growth and comfort are a part of this area, like the pilgrimages, retreats and days of reflection that are offered each year. It takes a creative powerhouse, working together, to create and manage these programs. Beyond the Shrine, our gifts and talents are shared with the Archdiocese by serving on a consultative board to the Archbishop about matters of inter-religious dialogue. This year, by invitation, the Shrine will be represented in Rome at an inter-religious consultation gathering with the Pope, which is such an honor for us all.

A foundational area that moves our mission is development. This is where special events happen that enrich our community, help fund programs and keep our doors open. In order to sustain our cultural festivals and fund-raising events at a top level

of enjoyment and success, it takes amazing organization and creativity. We are always judging how we are doing and what we can be doing better, from the St. Joseph's Table to the summer Festa and our Christmas gala - Mary & Christmas. Funds are also raised by the direct mail pieces you receive throughout the year. Our mailing list extends throughout the country and our mission is supported through your generosity.

Finally and critically important is business operations. This is the behind-the-scenes of the Shrine where financial monitoring and interaction with all areas takes place, making sure we are compliant with Archdiocese standards. Communications is included here and is the vital link that keeps us connected to the outside world - from the "Hello" you hear on the phone, the thank you letters, our major fundraising appeals, from e-blasts, these letters from me each week and archiving of pictures and records.

Each person that works in this place has a different motivation and I often ask myself, "What keeps them here?" To each of them, I cannot be grateful enough. They all work with the accuracy that keeps us in great form to do all our work smoothly. I turn to them to insure the beauty of the celebrations that make our Shrine of place of hospitality, where our hearts always have a home.

So there you have it... and, one more thing.

Behind all of us, there is God and Our Dear Lady, who inspire us all, to serve you.

Blessings,
Fr. Richard