

THE MT. CLARET

SPRING 2021



FAITHFUL

Keeping the



Mount Claret kicks off capital campaign with \$100,000 lead gift

A bold vision to enhance the Mount Claret Retreat Center experience is off to a strong start. Nestled at the base of Camelback Mountain, Mount Claret has provided a true sanctuary where the faithful can step away and attend to the only necessary thing, time spent with the Lord, for over 50 years.

The Honoring Our Past, Investing in Our Future Capital Campaign kicked off its public phase Feb.

1. The campaign will fund a Chapel Renewal project that builds upon its historically strong foundation and

enhances the beautiful Mission-style architecture and interior design. The plans include a narthex addition, increased seating, a new sacristy, an additional confessional, new restrooms, a separate adoration chapel, updated interior flooring and altar furnishings, as well as the addition of a new exterior bell tower along the south roofline.

"We have been working on these plans for several years, and I'm excited the day has finally come to get this done,"

Director Tom McGuire said. "I'm excited for



Mt. Claret and for the generations of visitors and retreat attendees this campaign will impact.”

The campaign, which has a goal of \$1.5 million has already raised over \$240,000 during the silent phase including a \$100,000 lead gift from Kim Komando, one of America’s most successful radio hosts and web entrepreneurs, and Phoenix radio host Barry Young, her husband. Komando and Young, the founders of WestStar MultiMedia Entertainment company located in Phoenix, also serve as the Campaign’s Honorary Co-Chairs along with the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix’s Auxiliary Bishop, the Most Rev. Eduardo A. Nevares. Komando and Young are passionate supporters of Mount Claret and thrilled to help propel the campaign toward success so that construction can begin this summer.

“We hope to build on the legacy of those that came before us and loved Mount Claret deeply,” McGuire said. “In particular Msgr. John McMahon.”

Msgr. McMahon, as diocesan vicar, arranged for the purchase of the property for the Diocese of Phoenix in 1989 and served as beloved advocate and resident priest for the Retreat Center until his death in 2014.

“What Msgr. McMahon saw as a uniquely special place then has remained true today,” McGuire said. “People are touched by the beauty and spiritual environment that’s up here. I feel a personal sense of responsibility toward the present and future of Mount Claret to ensure we preserve and maintain the chapel as the spiritual heart of our campus for all who visit Mount Claret for years to come.”

Honoring Our Past, Investing in Our Future is a three-year pledge campaign that invites all those that love Mount Claret including retreat attendees, community members and local businesses to make a meaningful impact in the future of Mount Claret.

For information on how you can participate in the

Capital Campaign for Mt. Claret

Call Tom McGuire at (602) 840-5066,

or visit **mtclaret.org**



HONORING OUR PAST

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Mt. Claret Chapel Renewal

Sunday Mass at Mt. Claret

We continue to have a good turnout and a safe environment for our Sunday Mass. We are having Mass in the conference center and we are able to accommodate about 65 people. Our plans are to continue with Mass in the Conference center through the summer. Our Chapel project timeline calls for the work to be done in June, July, and August. Clean up and final finishes will be done in September. Please plan on attending a rededication Chapel event in October.

Spring Social Event Scheduled

Save the date for our annual Spring Social on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. The outdoor event will be held on the grassy area north of the Chapel, from 5:30PM – 7:00pm. This gathering to celebrate our friends and family of Mt. Claret will include appetizers, beer and wine. This is a great chance for our community to come together in friendship and fellowship and get updated on all of the good things at Mt Claret!



2020 Donor List



Mt. Claret Club

\$10,000+

Anonymous
Roberty and Kathleen Duyck
Gerry and Teresa Severson
Mark and Janet Travis
Kim Komando and
Edward Young III

Our Lady of Guadalupe Club

\$1,000+

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Up to \$500

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your gifts of treasure are crucial to keeping Mt. Claret in operation as it is the sole source of operational funding.

THANK YOU for your continued support of this cherished sanctuary in the desert. You directly impact our ability to continue our mission.



Remembering Deacon Joe

OBITUARY

The Rev. Mr. Joseph Lessard was born on July 16, 1926 to Leo and Cora Lessard at their home in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. He was one of eleven children. Joseph joined the Navy on his seventeenth birthday and served his country in World War II in the South Pacific as a gunner on torpedo planes and reconnaissance aircraft.

Joseph married his wife Beatrice Cantin in Lowell, Massachusetts on June 10th 1950. He was a devoted husband, father, hard worker, creative and industrious. The couple moved their family to Phoenix Arizona in 1956.

Joe brought a great sense of humor, love of people and a winning personality wherever he went. He and his wife Bea had six children, Michael, Susan, Barbara, Karen, Richard and Janet. Joseph was a successful entrepreneur and started the Aztec Door Manufacturing Co. and several other building material companies.

Although he was always devoted to the faith, he experienced a conversion, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, that changed the direction of his life. Deacon Joe with his wife Bea began a journey that led them into ministry. He was accepted and entered the first Deacon class for

the Catholic Church which was established for married men by Vatican II. After three years of training and education, he was ordained by Bishop McCarthy in St. Simon and Jude Cathedral May 29, 1972. He eventually sold his companies and began full-time ministry living in divine providence for many years.



Deacon Joe served parishes giving retreats, Cursillos, teaching and pastoral care in South Phoenix, Prescott, Phoenix and even as construction manager for the Mount Claret Cursillo Center.

Deacon Joe had a heart to serve, and carried the love of Jesus everywhere. His depth of insight into the Word of God and his spiritual caring heart made him a minister of spiritual refreshment and healing. He was instrumental in developing prayer ministries in parishes and directed many people in the exercises of St. Ignatius.

He and Bea and the children moved to Canada in 1978 following God's leading, to introduce the Diaconate to the Canadian people. He evangelized many churches and small towns on both the French and English side of Canada and preached in Santo Domingo and several other

countries. He founded schools of faith for young adults in both Canada and later back in Phoenix. Miracles seemed to follow wherever he and Bea went.

In 1981 the family returned to Phoenix. His caring ministry continued to flourish as a chaplain to the sick at Kindred Hospital. He retired in 2007 but that didn't mean that he stopped ministering. Wherever he was God was working too. He was a Deacon to the world. His lovely wife Beatrice died on November 28th 2018. His love of people, his infectious laugh and kindness will be greatly missed. His engaging nature quickly built lasting

relationships that will be lovingly celebrated and remembered in the book of faith. In Roman 8: 11-12 Saint Paul reminds us, "that the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in us." Deacon Joe's life points to the author of the Church and the Spirit that breathes life into it. Now he is alive in that same divine embrace of wonder and love forever. Deacon Joe's legacy is also 13 grand children and their husbands and wives and 8 great grandchildren and countless dear friends and colleagues. Together we say and sing, "Well done, well done, well done, Oh dear man of God!"

Retreat Activity on the Rise

With modified events, ministries able to survive

We are pleased to be able to host more retreat activity in these recent weeks. Several of our Catholic High Schools have modified their Kairos retreat model from a 4 day overnight out of town experience to a "commuter" type retreat where the students arrive in the morning and leave in the evening. Mt Claret is well suited to host these groups with our large conference center for group gatherings and multiple smaller spaces for break out sessions to meet. Our beautiful outdoor grounds allow for plenty of opportunity for quiet reflection and

contemplation.

Several other ministries are back on the calendar with scaled back retreats with 20 or so people in attendance. We are excited to have our first of several Cursillo weekend's in over a year the first weekend in June!

We are so grateful that these ministries have stayed intact over the past year – they stayed in touch with small group meetings and via virtual meetings and prayer opportunities. Their persistence is paying off and they are now prepared to resume retreats on a limited basis.

“
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”

A Warm Welcome

Hill hired as new Donor Services Admin. Assistant



We are please to have Shawnee on board in this critical position at Mt Claret. Shawnee comes to us with a solid background both in the corporate world and with work experience in our diocese.

Most recently Shawnee was office manager and scholarship administrator at Holy Spirit Newman Center at Grand Canyon University. Her background and experience are a good fit for Mt. Claret. We welcome her graciously into our Mt. Claret family.



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