



*Pieta,  
original to  
the old  
church.*

# ST. JOHN'S HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER # 25      January 2021

## OFFICERS FOR 2020

- PRESIDENT – Ellen Schueling
- VICE PRESIDENT – Cathy Mechler
- TREASURER – Linda Fohn
- SECRETARY – Renae McNiel

## 2020 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2020 has proved to be the most exciting year of all for St. John's Historical Association. After 4 long years of working with the Archdiocese and the architect, having a plan and purpose approved and having a contractor accepted, St. John's Chapel has become a reality. The interior of the old church was restored and Archbishop Garcia-Siller blessed the chapel on September 5th. Daily mass and Thursday adoration of the Blessed Sacrament began on November 1st. Many of the items and artifacts collected by the association are now on display in the chapel and are used for the daily mass. The association held an open house on Sunday, November 22nd with about 40 guests attending. The first wedding is being planned in the chapel this spring.



There are still a few major things to complete, such as additional pews, replacing the metal doors with period wooden doors, and installing a security system.

Much thanks goes to the building committee, especially the officers, Karen Moos and Diane Mann, for constant and continued work during the Covid restrictions to see the project completed. Thank you to Father Babychan for his help, support and prayers. Please come visit the chapel when you can. It is truly more beautiful than pictures can show, and there is such a sense of holiness and prayerfulness and peace.

Ellen Schueling

## WAYS AND MEANS

Because of the restoration being done on the old church and Covid restrictions, our annual rummage sale was not held this year. The overwhelming memorials made to the Historical Association throughout the year to honor a loved one were a blessing.

Linda Fohn/Cindy Bader

## TREASURER'S REPORT

- Donations:** \$4,837.00
- Memorials:** \$72,940.00
- Dues:** \$225.00
- Life Touch:** \$1,695.00

The Historical Association would like to thank all of its members, church community and everyone who gave generously to our beautiful St. John's Chapel.

Linda Fohn

## 2020 Museum Displays in Church

**December 2019** Angels were provided by members of St. John's Church

**March 2020** Rosary display provided by members of the Historical Association. A few pictures of Matthew De Leon's ordination were also shown.



**November 2020** Pictures from the restoration of the old church to a chapel. Included before and after pictures. Gary Zinsmeyer is pictured with the altar that he made in honor of his mother, Vivian Zinsmeyer. There were also pictures of the blessing of the chapel by Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller

Karen Moos

## Chapel History

What a year 2020 has been for St. John's! We are talking of our beautiful new chapel, of course. The building that holds it was built in 1912 with Father J.J. Myers as pastor.

The St. John's Historical Association was formed in 1993 under the leadership of Lucy Davis and Rosie P. Aelvoet to preserve the original building and collect, preserve, protect and present items depicting Catholic life and history in order to educate and enrich the lives of Catholics and non-Catholics.

Thanks to the hard work of contractor, Gumecindo Santillano, his workers and others, the building has been returned to its original state as much as possible for our parishioners to use as a beautiful place for worship. The floors, choir loft, stairway and magnificent arch on the ceiling are original.

The Historical Association founders were a wonderful group that cataloged the collections they gathered through the years. The Association gives thanks especially to Vivian Zinsmeyer, Rosie Aelvoet, Alleen and Ramona Koch, and Renae and Clarence McNeil who have been kind enough to store many treasures in our collection for many years until we could present them for use in the Mass. We are now finding and regrouping this collection to use and preserve it as much as we can for the future. Some of our most treasured items that were original to the early church and are being used now are the crucifix above the altar, vases, candlesticks, the pink and blue angel statues, the Pieta, candle lighters, incense boat and censor. Also being used from our collection are the brass bell chime, Mary candelabra, gold chalices and some of Father's vestments. We have many articles from the Rev. Silverman collection in the chapel such as the relic of St. John Neumann, the tabernacle, sanctuary lamp, ambo and communion glassware. At the present we are using the pews from the church of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Some furnishings we have recently purchased with donations from supportive individuals with the intent of keeping the historical significance correct. Linda Fohn has been so valuable for all of her expertise and knowledge.

Our thanks to all of the St. John's Historical Association members for their hard work in making this a

## Meetings for 2021

Because of Covid 19 restrictions, the January Historical Association meeting will NOT be held. Please watch for a postcard in the mail and/or information in the bulletin about the May meeting if there is one.

special place for our parishioners. A major goal is to develop an appreciation and understanding of the heritage we have in the church, the community and their traditions and customs.

Please come join us in worship in our St. John's Chapel and call us for a tour!

Diane Mann

## MEMBERSHIP

The 2020 membership for St. John's Historical Association was:

- 23 yearly pay members
- 46 lifetime members
- 2 honorary member

Please consider being part of this worthy organization. The \$5.00 yearly dues for 2021 are payable now and can be sent to Linda Fohn at 2488 State Hwy 173 N, Hondo.

Ellen Schueling

## Meetings for 2020

**January** - new officers were installed with Ellen Schueling as president; Cathy Mechler as vice president; Linda Fohn, treasurer and Renae McNeil, secretary.

**May** - the meeting was not held due to Covid restrictions

**September** - the meeting was held in the newly restored chapel. The program was presented by Diane Mann and Linda Fohn. Diane researched and spoke on the history of many of the items displayed or being used in the chapel. Linda Fohn told about the restoration process and the recently purchased statues and stations of the cross that are now in the chapel.

Karen Moos



St. John  
the  
Evangelist

*A wonderful way to remember a deceased love one or honor someone special is to make a donation to the St. John's Historical Association. Donations and memorials can be sent to Linda Fohn, 2488 SH 173 N, Hondo, TX 78861*