



May 2020

How are you doing? We miss you! When you consider the many changes in our world this Lent and Easter, it's easy to see the challenges due to the pandemic quarantine and social distancing. Can you also see the benefits from this unprecedented time?

Maybe you are experiencing loneliness or maybe too much togetherness? Maybe you are feeling bored or thankful for more time with family and catching up on projects at home?

We are all doing our best to keep up with the constant changes, but one thing that has not changed is God's love for us! We are reminded every Easter that His Son, Jesus died for our sins! **Your relationship with Jesus is a gift that gets you through challenging times!** Just when you think you have lost control of many areas of your life, take comfort in knowing God's love and know we are holding YOU in prayer!

When the Pilgrim Gift Shop and Museum were closed to the public due to restrictions, the chapels remained open for individuals to experience time praying and just being with the relics of the Saints. Recently, Dave Wolters of Maria Stein shared what the Shrine means to him and how it has benefited him during this unprecedented time. Can I share his "aha holy moment" with you?

When our world slowed down, it allowed Dave time to enjoy a book about the lives of the Saints. Dave had put Saints up on pedestals and was often too intimidated to ask them to intercede for his needs. But the more he studied; Dave began to learn that Saints are ordinary people. Some did not start out as model citizens but chose to take their earthly challenges to Christ and turn them into holy moments. Through these holy moments, they became extraordinary people and are faithful role models for us all!

**Many events and programs have been cancelled at the Shrine but generosity has not been cancelled.** We understand some may not be in a position to make a gift at this time. But if you are ready to take action and do what you can from home, now is a great time to help! We appreciate your support of the Shrine's mission and making it possible for others to come and experience their "aha holy moments."

***"Holy moments" occur when we make time for Jesus -- and for those moments we simply allow time for Him to love us and help us.***

Dave's reading about the Saints inspired him to visit the Relic Chapel. There he gained a whole new appreciation for Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics and the opportunity to "just be" with the Saints. As he sat quietly in chapel, he realized that he was surrounded by all of these holy men and women who had once walked this earth and experienced earthly challenges just as we do! **The Saints were masterful – they took everyday events of life and made them holy moments! WOW!**

Dave realizes that he lives in a strong faith-based community, **but at that moment he realized he was in the "epicenter of the Land of the Cross-Tipped Churches"**! Dave listened as staff member, Claire Schmitmeyer, gave a tour. She pointed out relics from the life of Christ: the Manger, three Wise Men, Crown of Thorns, and a Relic of the True Cross. The cross that Jesus died on for our sins more than 2000 years ago on this earth!

YES, a lot has changed since then, but the love of God has always been available for you! The Shrine has been around for many years, and with your support, it will be around for many more! This Shrine of 1,200 relics is the second largest collection of relics in the USA! It not only contains relics of Saints, but also relics that chronicle the life of Christ from his crib to his cross . . . in the heart of rural Mercer County! Wow! Dave's reaction was, **"This place is a Spiritual Diamond and should have a beacon of light shining on it!"**

Like many of you, Dave's visit to the Shrine left a profound impact on his spirit. To know the Shrine is to love the Shrine. We invite you to come and experience your "aha holy moment" and truly appreciate the Shrine that has been here for you, your whole life! This is made possible by generosity! We are turning to you for your help - if this is the right time for you, please take action and make a difference from home. You may help online at [mariasteinshrine.org](http://mariasteinshrine.org). Praying that your heart and mind are open to experiencing your holy moments!

Peace,

Don Rosenbeck  
President

Diana Russell  
Director of Fund Development

### REOPENING PLAN

The Shrine will resume normal operating hours.

Monday - Thursday: 9:30 am - 6 pm    Friday & Saturday: 9:30 am - 4 pm    Sunday: 12 - 4 pm

The Upper Room and Museum reopened on Monday, May 11th.

The Gift Shop reopened on Tuesday, May 12th.

Eucharistic Adoration will resume May 26th.

There will be no Saturday Masses here at the Shrine through the end of June.

There are still opportunities to visit the Shrine from home at [mariasteinshrine.org](http://mariasteinshrine.org)

- Virtual tours are available of indoors and outdoors - including the Stations of the Cross.
  - The Pilgrim Gift Shop is still accepting online orders.
  - You may also order a candle to be lit for a special intention online.



Claire Schmitmeyer shares with Dave Wolters the many relics available for veneration at the Shrine.