

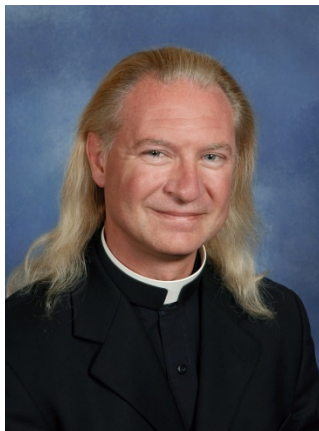
## BEFORE

Dear Jane and John,

Each of us has different spiritual journeys in life; many of us have the same desired destination. The people and experiences of your life can be wonderful opportunities for your own spiritual growth or transformation. Where are you on your spiritual journey? Who has helped you with your spiritual transformation?

Have you had a Shrine experience that brought about transformation for you? We invite you to come and visit the Shrine and have your own experience. May we share with you how Father John Tonkin has transformed and become a part of this holy ground? Since he first learned about Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics, to the many visits he has made here, through today – We welcome Fr. John to the position of Rector of the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics!

John first heard of the Shrine from his great-grandmother, Helen Heckler of Celina in 1982. At that time John was taking instruction from Fr. Rich Riedel so he could be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. She told him stories of her many visits to the Shrine and how the sisters made the corpus for the crucifix from papier-mâché. She also shared that they offered prayers at the Shrine when a family or friend needed a special prayer answered. Who has prayed for you at the Shrine? Who needs your prayers to help them in their spiritual transformation?



Fr. John's first Shrine visit was in the early 1990s with his Grandmother, Mable Reineke. They were drawn into the beauty and the peace of the Shrine, as well as the history of the Sisters and how they ministered to the people of the area. Because of that initial visit, the Shrine remained in Fr. John's memory as a place of prayer and peace. So in the spring of 1998 when he felt a strong calling by God to become a priest, he not only talked to a few priests, Fr. Glen Perin, Fr. David Zink, and Fr. Jim Trick, but he also came to the Shrine a few times to pray amongst the relics. Those experiences helped give him clarity and peace to do what God was asking of him.

Being a priest for twelve years now, he said that he has had the distinct honor and pleasure of presiding at Mass and other liturgies at the Shrine. It is just such a unique experience to pray in the chapels where so many sisters, brothers, priests, locals, and pilgrims have prayed for decades, surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses---the Saints. It is Holy Ground! Please help us continue to offer this holy place of transformation to the many pilgrims who come from far and wide!

We are turning to you - your gift will make a difference at the Shrine! In the lives of so many who come to pray and in the lives of those they are praying for! We also invite you to include your prayer requests on the form below. There is an enclosed envelope for your convenience.

Fr. John continues to visit the Shrine to pray and center himself. The Shrine remains an important part of his spirituality and his priesthood. He said, "I find it amazing that so many people outside of 'God's Country' don't know about the Shrine. I believe one of my missions as Rector is to spread the word about the Shrine as a place of hospitality, prayer, peace, and pilgrimage. This hidden jewel of the North will not remain hidden any longer."

May the Peace of Christ be with you on your journey,

Don Rosenbeck  
President

Diana Russell  
Director of Fund Development

2291 Saint Johns Road  
Maria Stein, OH 45860  
419.925.4532

# Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics

November 2017

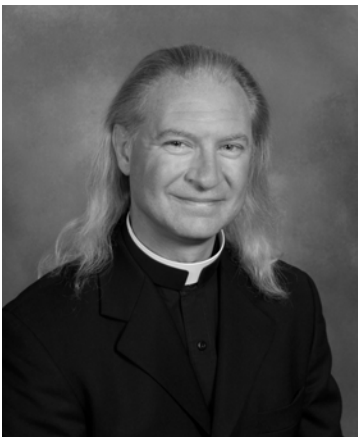
## AFTER

John and Jane Doe  
1234 St. Johns Road  
Maria Stein, OH 45860

Dear FirstName,

**Doesn't it seem like grandmas are angels in training?** It's as though they never run out of hugs . . . or cookies.

**And sometimes they even help you along on your spiritual journey.**



**Fr. John Tonkin**  
Maria Stein  
Shrine Rector

It was like that for our new Rector, Father John Tonkin, who first learned about the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics from his Great-grandmother Helen. She loved sharing the tales of her visits to the Shrine, and how the sisters would make the corpus for the crucifix from papier-mâché.

Just like you, whenever family or friends needed a special prayer answered, Great-grandma Helen knew the Shrine was always there.

But it wasn't until years later, while out on a drive with his beloved maternal Grandmother Mabel, that Father John first visited the Shrine. They were drawn into the beauty and the peace of the Shrine, as well as the history of the Sisters and how they ministered in the area.

Can you imagine Grandma Mabel's joy when she learned that her cherished grandson felt the calling to be a priest?

And now, 12 years after he took his vows, Fr. John says

*"... He's had the distinct honor and pleasure of presiding at Mass at the Shrine. It is such a unique experience to pray in the chapels where so many sisters, brothers, priests, locals, and pilgrims have prayed for decades, surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses--- the Saints. **It is Holy Ground!**"*

**[Name], thanks to your support, the hidden jewel that is Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics will continue to shine.**

Over

*I want to help the hidden jewel, Maria Stein Shrine to shine!*

\$1000    \$500    \$250    \$200    \$100    \$50    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed payable to: Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics

Charge my gift to:

VISA    MASTERCARD    DISCOVER

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVC (3 digits from back of card) \_\_\_\_\_

Acct. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

GIFT IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

GIFT IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

John and Jane Doe  
1234 St. Johns Road  
Maria Stein, OH 45860

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdays: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Wedding Anniversary: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Please include my/our special intentions in your daily prayers:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

For you. For your children. For your grandchildren and your grandchildren's children. To continue to inspire and guide generations on their spiritual journeys.

Please join Father John in his mission to spread the word about the Shrine as a place of hospitality, prayer, peace, and pilgrimage by making your year-end gift today. You and others like you are the Shrine's only hope.

Along with your gift, we also invite you to include your prayer requests on the form below. There is an enclosed envelope for your convenience.

The future of our faith is in your hands. Thank you for caring so very much.

**May the Peace of Christ be with you on your journey,**



Don Rosenbeck  
President



Diana Russell  
Director of Fund Development

PS: How did your grandmother shape your spiritual journey? Drop us a line and let us know.

How did your grandmother shape your spiritual journey? \_\_\_\_\_

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