

Dedication of Shrine at Divine Word

The new sculpture garden of prayer and meditation, a memorial to Josephine and Thomas Kacmarcik, has been dedicated to Mary, Mother of the Word. The name of the shrine was chosen by Archbishop Weakland. In his remarks at the dedication service Sept. 20th at Divine Word, the Archbishop said the name was an appropriate choice. The reference to Christ as “The Word” would keep the Divine Word name alive after the Cedarburg parishes merge. It is also a reminder of the importance of the scriptures.

The Archbishop told the crowd of some 200 that he could “feel the atmosphere is one of prayer” as he walked up the path to the shrine. He said he hoped people would “come here and pray,” talking to God in the serenity of the shrine, then listening to what he has to say.

Father George recalled that the shrine evolved from Tom Kacmarcik’s determination to provide a fitting tribute to his wife, after her death in June 1999. “He wanted to give us something that would give us the holiness and peace that they found” at the Fatima Shrine he and Josephine visited during their courtship more than 50 years ago, Father said.

Work began in August 1999. Tom, whose own health created a sense of urgency, wanted the shrine finished by the anniversary of his wife’s death. That was not to happen. Nor was his goal to see it dedicated. After his death in July, the family picked up where he left off. They installed the cedar trellises atop the limestone-faced pergola; they transplanted shrubs and perennials from their dad’s garden, including his favorite - daffodils; and they dedicated the shrine to the memory of both parents.

The handmade Italian statues include a near life-size statue of Mary, flanked by two angels and smaller statues of St. Joseph, St. Catherine, St. Thomas and St. Matthew - patron saints of the Kacmarciks.

-Written by Pat Raab for the *Messenger* parish newsletter, Fall 2000.