



Shrine Mont Annual Report – October 31, 2022

Shrine Mont is a conference and retreat center serving the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. At our heart is the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration, the cathedral of the diocese with public services held at 11:00 on Sundays in the spring, summer and fall. During the course of our season, we welcome parish retreats, family reunions, a vast array of conferences and meetings, and the diocesan summer camp program.

Shrine Mont is located on 1,200 acres of forest in the historic resort town of Orkney Springs, VA fifteen miles west of I81 between Winchester and Harrisonburg. Part of our facility is a renovated nineteenth century resort that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Accommodations vary from hotel style rooms to cottages for families or small groups. Recreation activities include swimming, tennis, hiking, sports activities, volleyball, shuffleboard, Bocce, hayrides and camp fires. Golf and other recreation activities are available at nearby Bryce Resort.

In a typical year, Shrine Mont will host over 13,000 guests and 700 campers and staff during our season, which starts at the end of April and ends in early November.

Shrine Mont thanks our guests who have continued to come to Orkney Springs and value the hospitality we strive to give during what continues to be a difficult time. We are especially appreciative of the flexibility our guests have demonstrated as Shrine Mont copes with the many new challenges that have come out of the past three years – challenges that present a new reality in how we will do business in the future.

This is a time of transition for the Diocese of Virginia and Shrine Mont. We are deeply appreciative of Bishop Susan Goff's leadership during the past 4 years as the president of Shrine Mont and we look forward to working with our soon-to-be new president Bishop-Elect Mark Stevenson. This was also Paris Ball's last year as the Director of Shrine Mont Camps. Paris has served in this role for the past 16 years and done an amazing job. We look forward to working with the new Director of Shrine Mont Camps, James Williams to make sure the camps continue in their growth for years to come.

Shrine Mont is also deeply appreciative of the leadership Lisa Lettau has given as a member of our Board of Directors. Lisa will step down after serving for the past 6 years. Shrine Mont welcomed three new members of our board in 2022 – Soledad Arnez from Fall Church, Scott Harvard from Winchester and Diane Wright from Charlottesville.

The 2022 season was another challenging time for Shrine Mont, but the increasing business in the fall gives hope for 2023. October was the most successful month since 2019. In summary Shrine Mont expects to welcome approximately 10,000 people by the end of our season on November 6, 2022 – a 61% improvement over 2021. We anticipate total revenues from boarding and lodging to be 70% of what was earned annually before the pandemic.

Shrine Mont continues to see an increase in the number of people and organizations giving to support our work. Donations in 2020 and 2021 doubled as our friends gave to help Shrine Mont survive the dramatic downturn in business. As 2022 comes to an end, the number of donors to Shrine Mont continues to grow even as donations are not at the same level as 2021.



In 2022, Shrine Mont made improvements to our facilities to be better stewards of creation and save funds with growing cost of energy. The renovated Spring Mountain Lodge has been very well received and gives smaller families the chance to stay in a place more suitable than our larger cottages. The Maryland House and Virginia House have been equipped with on-demand hot water saving gas and expense for Shrine Mont. Indoor and outdoor lighting continues to be upgraded to use bulbs that are more efficient and give better ambiance to the campus. The EV charging stations have become so popular that we plan to add more in 2023.

Shrine Mont is already getting ready for the celebration of our 100th Anniversary in 2025. We are holding events for our guests and throughout the diocese to hear how you want to celebrate this milestone in your local communities and here on the Mountain. These discussions are also informing our staff and leadership as we plan for the future and think about the needs of next generations coming to Shrine Mont.

A few highlights of 2022 include:

- 80 retreats held by 75 diocesan parishes
- 8 diocesan conferences and events
- 17 non-diocesan parish retreats
- 18 non-diocesan conferences and meetings
- 460 diocesan campers and staff
- 21 Shrine Mont sponsored programs serving 366 people
 - New programs included a Fly Fishing Weekend and John Philip Newell's School of Earth and Soul
- Over 500 overnight packages with the Shenandoah Valley Music Festival
- 4 high school groups including 2 with church schools of the diocese
- 20 arts groups
- 5 weddings
- As of September 30
 - 474 donors have given \$590,299 to Shrine Mont
 - 140 new donors have given to Shrine Mont in 2022
 - 13 Shrine Mont friends have raised \$8,935 through Facebook fundraisers

With all of the world's challenges, Shrine Mont has spent the past three years laying a foundation for a positive outlook into our future. We look forward to seeing you in 2023!

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Moomaw, Executive Director