

# Shrine of St. Therese

Juneau, Alaska

October, 5, 2006

Mr. Graeme McDonald, Principal  
Niche Architectural Inc.  
28 Fair Road  
Brantford, ON, Canada  
N3T 5M1

Director  
5933 Lund Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Phone: (907) 780-6112

Re: Hope's Steel Windows - Shrine of St. Therese, Juneau, Alaska

Dear Graeme,

As the Director of the Shrine of St. Therese, I am responsible for the site on behalf of the Diocese of Juneau. You will see by viewing the pictures on our website at [www.shrineofsainttherese.org](http://www.shrineofsainttherese.org), our Shrine chapel cornerstone was placed in 1938, and it is situated on tiny Shrine Island about four hundred feet from the main shoreline. This special place of beauty overlooks Lynn Canal and serves as a viewing area for many visitors. Parishioners, local residents, visitors and pilgrims seek out this spiritual place of refuge, and experience the serenity and calm of this truly magnificent setting.

Our historic stone chapel, the Shrine, serves as a cherished gathering place for worship and celebration. The Diocese of Juneau recognizes the importance of maintaining the chapel, and places great emphasis on respecting the historic attributes of its original construction. A couple years ago, an extensive renovation of the chapel occurred, including purchasing new windows to replace the old, single-glazed steel windows which did not provide the thermal efficiency we required.

Many factors were considered in the selection of these replacement windows; not the least of which was the desire to maximize the viewing area from the chapel. Our goal was to find a solution that was both historically correct and architecturally appropriate. New steel windows with insulated glass units were by far the most desirable solution. The selection process involved input from our architect and representatives from the local diocese. Steel windows manufactured by Hope's Windows were chosen and have performed extremely well, as anticipated. The finish on the steel windows is beautiful and has shown no sign of deterioration in spite of the salt water that surrounds us. The realities of our harsh winter climate can be most unforgiving, yet I have seen no evidence of condensation around the window frames or on the glass. Hope's steel windows have the thermal efficiency and resistance to condensation that is required in even the most severe winter environment. If Hope's windows can perform this well, year round, on the coast of Alaska, I would think they would work anywhere!

Sincerely,

*Thomas P. Fitterer*

Thomas P. Fitterer, Director  
Shrine of St. Therese