

A WALKING GUIDE

Travel out the front doors of the St. Joseph Retreat & Conference Center around the west side of the building to begin your stroll at **The Walsh Walk**. As you walk, learn about the Kokomo family of Mary Elizabeth (Heckman) and Ambrose Walsh, their five children and extended family who were family and friends to the Sisters of St. Joseph for a century. Dedicated August 12, 2000, this accessible walk is .14 miles from the front door of the Conference Center and back. A bench is available along the path.

Nestled among the trees on the northwest side of campus is the **St. John of the Cross** Montana-style Log Cabin. Built in 1989 by an anonymous donor, the fully furnished cabin is used as a retreat house for two guests.

Traveling behind the Conference Center you'll arrive at the **Trent Tebbe Eagle Scout Project Gazebo** and then north to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus Shrine**. Dedicated September 12, 1941, the Shrine previously stood outside St. Katharine Hall in a rock garden that featured a fish pond. The four-foot-tall statue was donated by Fr. Leo Faurote and the class of 1941.

Returning south takes you to the **St. Joseph Academy Alumnae Garden** located on the site of the former school. Built in 1904, the St. Joseph Academy was a boarding and day school for young women grades nine through 12. The St. Joseph Convent was housed in an addition built in 1910. From 1958 until 1972, postulants and novices were educated at St. Joseph's Junior College here as well. In 1977 the Academy and Convent buildings were razed. The west side of the garden features an Academy wall left standing. On it sits the school's St. Joseph statue. The original school bell is featured atop a raised flower bed. Benches in the Alumnae Garden allow visitors a place to reflect on this 68-year institution.

Due east is **St. Katharine Hall**. Built for the Academy in 1932 and blessed by Bishop Noll, this hall housed the

gymnasium, auditorium and home economics departments. While in need of refurbishment, this building is the last architectural remnant of the St. Joseph Academy.

Further east, visitors pass the **Stations of the Cross** along the path to the Cemetery. Dedicated and blessed November 1, 1942, they were refurbished in 1967 by the Concord Woodworking Co. in Kempton, IN.

The **Sisters of St. Joseph Cemetery** found on the southeast side of campus still belongs to the Sisters of St. Joseph. The Crucifix was set up on Good Friday, April 6, 1917, a gift of the St. Joseph Academy Alumnae Association in memory of Mother Gertrude, Foundress of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Tipton. The figures of Mary, St. John the Beloved Apostle, and Mary Magdalene were added later.

Returning west visitors will see the **Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto**. Built in August of 1926, this shrine includes statues of Our Lady and St. Bernadette. The statue of St. Anthony of Padua was placed in memory of the first spiritual director for the Sisters, Fr. Anthony Kroeger, and the statue of St. Francis Xavier was placed in memory of Mother M. Xavier Donahue, the second Mother General for the Sisters of St. Joseph. The stained glass windows, made in Germany, are of St. Gertrude and St. Therese—St. Gertrude in memory of Mother Gertrude Moffitt, the foundress of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Tipton. The Grotto was formed with Tuffa stone mined from the bottom of Lake Erie.

Directly west is the **Little Flower Grotto** also built in August of 1926, within a year of St. Therese's canonization May 17, 1925 by Pope Pius XI. The statue is formed of Carrara marble from Italy and is four and a half feet tall. The stones for the grotto were hauled in by area farmers.

Anchored to the Grotto is our **Labyrinth**, based off the labyrinth found in Chartres Cathedral in France. At the center of the 11-circuit labyrinth is a smaller circle from which

radiates six petals, forming the medieval image of a rose. Surrounding the inner flower are a series of rows folding one upon the other making up an elaborate twisting and turning path that runs from the bottom-point of the circumference to the center. One walks the labyrinth carefully and slowly following its direction from beginning to end. It is designed to slow us down and make us reflect, ponder and contemplate Jesus.

Travel north again to the **Our Lady of Fatima Shrine**. Added in the Marian year of 1954, the Shrine featuring the Blessed Mother, Lucy, Jacinta, Francisco and sheep are made of Carrara marble. They were moved from their previous location to the circle at the end of Academy Drive in 1978 after the building was razed.

Traveling west visitors pass the **Nazareth House** which functioned as the St. Mary's Boys Academy and the Chaplain's house before being remodeled in 1991 as a retreat house. This fully-furnished bungalow was built in 1908 and can accommodate up to six guests. Behind the home is a small garden and bench dedicated to the Sisters of St. Joseph who established and occupied this campus from 1904 until 2012.

Traveling back to the Conference Center visitors find the **St. Joseph Statue**. In 1928, this was placed in the circle in front of the Academy's 1904 building. The Carrara marble statue was moved to current location in 1978 by the Tebbe family and Martin Quinn.

Once back inside the building, be sure to visit the courtyard and see the **Immaculate Heart of Mary Statue**. A gift of the family of Sister Dolorosa Essling, it was originally placed at Villa Maria, a convalescent home for elderly residents in Kokomo that was run by the Sisters of St. Joseph from March 1948 until 1960. When Villa Maria closed, the statue was placed in its current location.

