

A WALKING GUIDE

Travel out the front doors of the Saint 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. The **Jesus with the Children Statue** reminds us of the educational history at St. Joseph Academy and the opportunities for learning still here for young people.

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.

Turn your walk to the woods to visit the **St. Francis of Assisi Statue** which was relocated here from the previous diocesan retreat center in Hartford City.

Returning south takes you to the **St. Joseph Academy Alumnae Garden** 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 a 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 again in 2018 by a Kokomo Eagle Scout.

The **Sisters of St. Joseph Cemetery** found on the southeast side of campus still belongs to the Sisters. 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. It is an 11-circuit labyrinth, meaning that from one edge to the center are 11 circuits, or rows of paths, made by 12 concrete circles (i.e., it is 22 circuits across, plus 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 1908 **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. 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 2013.

Traveling back to the main building 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 Immaculate **Heart of Mary Courtyard**. A gift of the family of Sister Dolorosa Essling, the statue was originally placed at Villa Maria, a convalescent home for elderly residents in Kokomo that was run by the Sisters of St. Joseph from 1948 until 1960. When Villa Maria closed, the statue was placed in its current location.