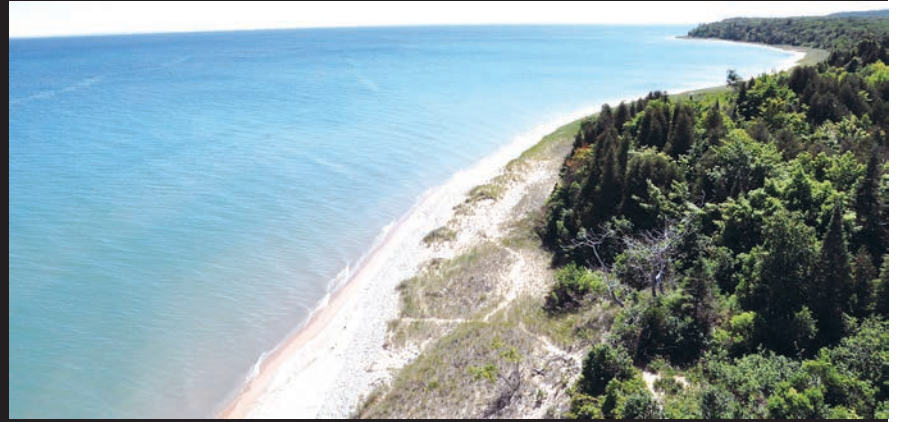




Lake Michigan's MANITOU ISLANDS

The lighthouse on South Manitou Island is visible across the choppy water of Lake Michigan as visitors approach the dock on board the *Mishe-Mokwa* ferryboat based in Leland, Mich. The scenic shoreline also is home to a shipwreck. The *Francisco Morazan*

was a Liberian freighter which ran aground during a storm on Nov. 29, 1960. Scenic hiking trails on the eight-square-mile south island lead to the lighthouse, shipwreck, grove of giant cedars and high dune bluffs. (Story on page 2B.)





Near the boat dock in Crescent Bay, National Park Service rangers live and work at these houses on South Manitou Island. The park rangers also offer educational tours of the historic lighthouse on Sandy Point.

Lake Michigan's Manitou Islands

Indian legend adds to mystery of unique hiking experience

By Mary Ann Garber

SOUTH MANITOU ISLAND—As far as the eye can see, the choppy waves of Lake Michigan blend with the brilliant blue skyline in every direction.

The summer sun shines brightly on the hot, sandy beaches dotted with driftwood, sparkles on the water and casts shadows along the wooded pathways that crisscross South Manitou Island.

High above the scenic shoreline, tourists fill the circular deck of the historic lighthouse and look out at the Great Lake which separates Michigan and Wisconsin.

Then their gazes shift to the curving landscape that stretches out around them and resolutely defines the resilience of this eight-square-mile mass of earth and rock—a mere 5,280 acres—in the midst of so much water.

How did this island—and the more desolate North Manitou Island a few miles away—somehow rise above the surface of mighty Lake Michigan, they wonder, then defy the relentless ravages of wind and water for millions of years?

And how did the islands become populated with wildlife like foxes, rabbits, chipmunks and snakes?

Also perplexing, why did the former settlers choose to farm there and withstand the bitter winters for several generations then eventually decide to give up their quiet lifestyle on the island in favor of the busyness of the mainland?

Perhaps even more surprising, how did the Indians find the islands in the first place hundreds of years ago with only canoes for transportation?

A well-known Algonquin Indian legend claims that a mother bear and her two cubs were forced to flee a forest fire in what is now Wisconsin so they swam across Lake Michigan in search of a safer home.

When the mother bear reached the Michigan shore, she climbed a steep bluff to wait for her babies, according to the folklore.

But the waves were too large for the exhausted cubs and the shore was too far away. They drowned not far from land. Grief-stricken, the mother bear continued her lonely vigil until her death.

Where the cubs perished, the Great Spirit Manitou created two islands, the legend explains. Then Manitou marked the mother's resting place with a huge mound of sand that became known as Sleeping Bear Dune.

Science tells us that massive glaciers formed the two islands, the Straights of Mackinac and dune-covered shorelines about 50,000 years ago, but the Indian legend adds to the mystery and romance of the rugged region.

Now, the bear-shaped dune and the twin islands are popular tourist attractions as part of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in northwestern Michigan.

Ferryboats depart from Leland, Mich., daily during the summer months for the

90-minute cruise to the south island across the Manitou Passage, an international shipping lane in the Great Lake that is guarded by the North Manitou Shoal Light to prevent shipwrecks.

Another lighthouse, built in 1871 to replace earlier warning beacons constructed in 1840 and 1858, rises high above the eastern shore of South Manitou Island.

These lighthouses saved many a ship's crew from coming too close to the shallow waters around the island over the decades.

But on the cold and stormy night of Nov. 29, 1960, the captain of the *Francisco Morazan*, a freighter from Liberia, failed to safely navigate past the south island and ran his cargo vessel aground along its southern beach.

All of the crew members were rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard, but the shipwreck still lies rusting offshore more than 50 years later, home only to the birds that happily nest there.

Day visitors and overnight campers love to hike the island's wooded pathways to take pictures of what is left of the steel freighter off the southern shoreline.

Hikers also enjoy exploring the Coast Guard Station established in 1901, now operated by the National Park Service.

Many tourists also climb the steep winding steps of the lighthouse to get a bird's-eye view of the island and lake.

Others walk across the island to see the grove of giant virgin white cedars and gaze in awe at the massive North American

champion cedar, which measures 17.6 feet in circumference, stands more than 90 feet tall and dates back to before Italian explorer Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492 while on an expedition for Spain.

Abandoned farms on the south island are reminders of a time when the German immigrants worked hard to stake out and maintain a livelihood in the wilderness of the northern Midwest even though winters on the islands were brutally cold and the ice cover on Lake Michigan

kept them isolated for months.

The settlers built a school and general store on the island, farmed the soil and set aside land for several cemeteries. A succession of lighthouse keepers kept watch for ships passing by and maintained the huge safety beacon at Sandy Point near Crescent Bay.

In 1970, the federal government legally acquired the islands and incorporated them into Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore to preserve their wilderness beauty.

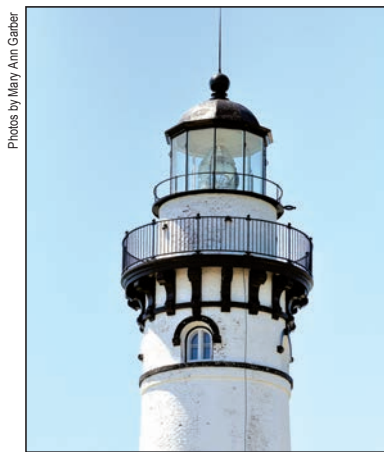
Key points on a map of the south island are the lighthouse and residence at Sandy Point, boat dock in Crescent Bay, weather station campground, *Francisco Morazan* shipwreck, Valley of the Giants grove of cedars, huge perched sand dunes on the western shoreline, Florence Lake, and the ruins of four farmhouses and a cabin.

North Manitou Island is about three times larger than the south island and nearly twice as long. It's also more desolate and has fewer amenities that appeal to many tourists.

Most visitors will prefer hiking the south island, where park rangers are happy to offer information and help during the daily ferry service months of June, July and August. Sightseers will appreciate the park service restrooms near the dock and even the outhouse near the weather station and shipwreck.

There's just one catch to visiting the scenic south island. The Manitou Island Transit, which operates the ferry from Leland, operates on a very strict time schedule so if hikers miss the last boat ride out for the day they get to stay overnight!

Unless tourists are planning to camp there, the thought of getting left behind on the island certainly adds to the excitement and fun of exploring its amazing, one-of-a-kind sights that make it a memorable vacation destination well worth returning to on another hot summer day. †

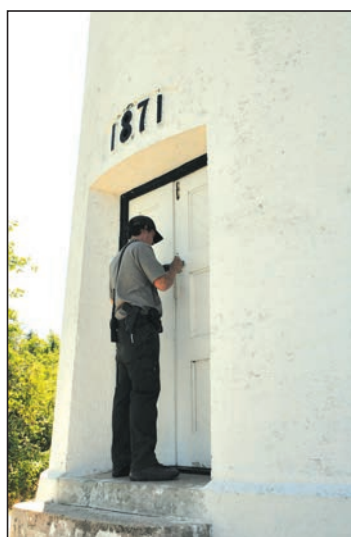


Photos by Mary Ann Garber

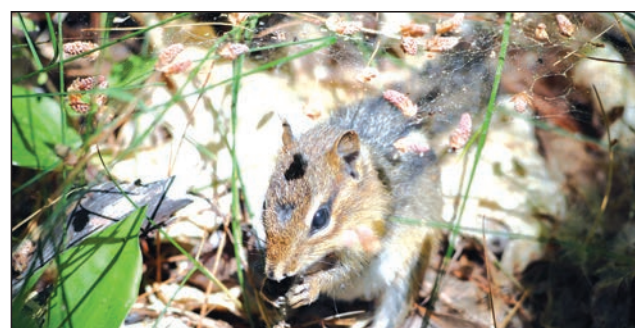
Tourists can walk around the circular deck just below the lighthouse beacon during a guided tour offered by a National Park Service ranger. From that lofty vantage point, they can see the South Manitou Island shoreline and the expanse of blue water that is Lake Michigan.



Above, a fishing boat anchored along the shoreline isn't large enough to go very far off the shores of South Manitou Island.



Right, a National Park Service ranger locks the door of the historic lighthouse, built in 1871, after a guided tour of the structure at South Manitou Island.



Above, chipmunks are friendly on South Manitou Island, but the snakes are less welcoming. Hikers should wear sturdy shoes, and carry food and water. They also must observe the "carry out what you carry in" rule to keep the beautiful island free of litter.

Left, about 120 steps lead to the top of the historic lighthouse at South Manitou Island.



Parish Festivals

May 26

St. John the Baptist Parish, **Starlight**, 8310 St. John Road, Floyd County. "Strawberry Festival," 10:30 a.m.-12:30 a.m., make your own strawberry shortcake, chicken dinner, street dance, 7:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Information: 812-923-5785.

May 27

St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., **Indianapolis**. "Pentecost Sunday Celebration," picnic, following 10 a.m. Mass, bring covered dish. Information: 317-632-9349.

June 1-2

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish, 1401 N. Bosart Ave., **Indianapolis**. Rummage sale, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 317-357-8352.

June 1-3

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish, 1401 N. Bosart Ave., **Indianapolis**. "Summerfest," Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 3-11 p.m., Sun. 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., rides, games, food, entertainment. Information: 317-357-8352.

June 3

St. Rita Church, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., **Indianapolis**. African Catholic Mass, 3 p.m. Information: 317-632-9349.

June 7-9

St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oaklondon Road, **Indianapolis**. Parish festival, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, rides, games, entertainment, food, \$10 cover charge includes food and tickets. Information: 317-826-6000.

St. Anthony Parish, 337 N. Warman Ave., **Indianapolis**. "Summer Festival," food, rides, games, 5:30 p.m.-close. Information: 317-636-4828.

June 7-10

Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., **Greenwood**. Parish festival, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, Sun. noon-9 p.m., rides, games, children's games, food. Information: 317-888-2861.

June 8

St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 222 E. Third St., **Bloomington**. St. Vincent de Paul Society and St. John Conference, hog roast, 4:30-8:30 p.m., food, music, silent auction. Information: 812-825-0634.

June 8-9

Holy Angels Parish, 740 W. 28th St., **Indianapolis**. "Music Festival," music, games, Fri. 5-10 p.m., Sat. 3-10 p.m. Information: 317-926-3324.

June 8-10

St. Louis School, 17 St. Louis Place, **Batesville**. Rummage sale, Fri. 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m., half-price sale, noon-4 p.m., Sun. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., \$1 bag sale. Information: 812-934-3204.

June 9

St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish, 3033 Martin Road, **Floyds Knobs**. "Knobs Fest 2012," music, booths, quilts, homestyle fried chicken and ham dinners, 9 a.m.-midnight. Information: 812-923-3011.

June 10

St. Paul Parish, 824 Jefferson St., **Tell City**. Parish picnic, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners, games for all ages. Information: 812-547-7994.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 2322 N. 13½ St., **Terre Haute**. "Sunday with Sinatra," dinner and silent auction, noon, \$25 per person. Information: 812-466-1231.

June 14-16

St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, 535 E. Edgewood Ave., **Indianapolis**. Parish festival, 4 p.m.-midnight, rides, food, music, games. Information: 317-787-8246.

St. Bernadette Parish, 4838 E. Fletcher Ave., **Indianapolis**. Parish festival, Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, games, rides, food. Information: 317-356-5867.

June 15-16

St. Bernadette Parish, 4838 E. Fletcher Ave., **Indianapolis**. Yard sale, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 317-356-5867.

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., **Indianapolis**. "International Festival," Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 3 p.m.-midnight, food, games, rides. Information: 317-291-7014.

Johnson County Fairgrounds, 250 Fairground St., **Franklin**. St. Rose of Lima Parish, "St. Rose Festival," rides, games, dinners, Fri. 5-11, Sat. 1-11 p.m. Information: 317-738-3929.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 316 N. Sherwood Ave., **Clarksville**. Parish picnic, Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 2-11 p.m., chicken dinner, Sat., food, entertainment. Information: 812-282-2290.

June 15-17

St. Lawrence Parish, 542 Walnut St., **Lawrenceburg**. Parish festival, food, music, rides, Fri. 5:30 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 4 p.m.-midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., chicken dinner. Information: 812-537-3992.

June 21-23

St. Jude Parish, 5353 McFarland Road, **Indianapolis**. "Summer Festival," Thurs. and Fri. 5 p.m.-closing, Sat. 4 p.m.-closing, Thurs. Father Carlton's dinner, Fri. Iaria's Italian food, Sat. fried chicken dinner, food, games, rides. Information: 317-786-4371.

June 22-23

Christ the King Parish, 1827 Kessler Blvd., E. Drive, **Indianapolis**. "Summer Social," Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, food, music, games, entertainment. Information: 317-255-3666.

St. Mary Parish, 415 E. Eighth St., **New Albany**. "Street Dance Weekend," Fri. 5:30-10 p.m., Sat. 7 p.m.-midnight, games, music, dance Sat. night with \$10 cover charge. Information: 812-944-0417.

June 24

St. Maurice Parish, Decatur County, **St. Maurice** exit off I-74 then north four miles. Parish picnic, 10 a.m. Mass, chicken and roast beef dinners, mock turtle soup, sandwiches, games, country store, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Information: 812-852-4237.

St. Nicholas Parish, 6461 E. St. Nicholas Drive, **Sunman**. Parish picnic, fried chicken and roast beef dinners, famous turtle soup, games, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 812-623-2964.

July 4

St. Mary Parish, 317 N. New Jersey St., **Indianapolis**. "Fourth of July ¡Ole! Festival," music, food, games, downtown fireworks, 3-10 p.m. Information: 317-637-3983.

July 8

Harrison County Fairgrounds, 341 Capitol Ave., **Corydon**. St. Joseph Parish, parish picnic, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., food, games. Information: 812-738-2742.

July 12-14

Holy Spirit Parish, 7243 E. 10th St., **Indianapolis**. Parish festival, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, food, music, entertainment. Information: 317-353-9404.

July 13

St. Benedict Parish, 111 S. Ninth St., **Terre Haute**. Parish festival, 5 p.m.-midnight, games, food, \$2 adults, children free. Information: 812-232-8421.

July 14

St. Mary Parish, Navilleton, 7500 Navilleton Road, **Floyds Knobs**. 5K Chicken Fun Run/Walk, 8 a.m. Information: 812-923-5419 or www.stmarysnavilleton.com.

July 14-15

St. John the Baptist Parish, 25743 State Road 1, **Dover**. "Summer Festival," Sat. 6 p.m.-midnight; Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. chicken dinner, food, games, entertainment. Information: 812-576-4302.

July 15

St. Mary Parish, Navilleton, 7500 Navilleton Road, **Floyds Knobs**. Parish picnic, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner, games, quilts. Information: 812-923-5419.

July 19-21

St. Christopher Parish, 5301 W. 16th St., **Indianapolis**. "Summer Festival," Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri. 5-10 p.m., Sat. noon-10 p.m., food, games. Information: 317-241-6314.

July 22-28

Jackson County Fairgrounds, **Brownstown**. St. Ambrose Parish and Our Lady of Providence Parish, Jackson County Fair, food booth 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Information: 812-522-5304.

July 28

St. Mary Parish, 777 S. 11th St., **Mitchell**. Hog roast and yard sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-849-3570.

July 28-29

St. Martin Parish, 8044 Yorkridge Road, **Yorkville**. Parish festival, Sat. 5:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m., barbeque pork dinner, Sun. 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., fried chicken dinner, food, games, music. Information: 812-623-3408.

July 29

St. Augustine Parish, 18020 Lafayette St., **Leopold**. Parish picnic, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., fried chicken dinner, quilts, games. Information: 812-843-5143.

August 3-4

St. Joseph Parish, 2605 St. Joe Road W., **Sellersburg**. Parish yard sale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-246-2512.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 523 S. Merrill St., **Fortville**. Parish festival, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., games, food, entertainment, silent auction, chicken and noodles dinner. Information: 317-485-5102.

August 5

St. Bernard Parish, 7600 Highway 337, **Frenchtown**. Parish picnic, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., chicken and ham dinners, quilts. Information: 812-347-2326.

St. Boniface Parish, 15519 N. State Road 545, **Fulda**. Parish picnic, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., famous soup, food, quilts. Information: 812-357-5533.

August 11-12

St. Paul Parish, 9798 N. Dearborn Road, **Guilford/New Alsace**. Parish festival, Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, pork tenderloin dinner, music, Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., chicken dinner, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 812-623-1094.

August 12

St. Mary Parish, 2500 St. Mary's Drive, **Lanesville**. Parish picnic, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 812-952-2853.

August 17-18

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, 7225 Southeastern Ave., **Indianapolis**. "Augustravaganza," 5K walk/run, rides, food, music, entertainment, 4 p.m.-midnight. Information: 317-357-1200.

August 17-18

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 46th and Illinois streets, **Indianapolis**. "Sausage Fest," food, music, Fri. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 6:30-midnight. Information: 317-253-1461.

August 19

St. Pius Parish, County Road 500 E., **Sunman**. Parish picnic, chicken dinner, mock turtle soup, games, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-689-4244.

August 23-25

St. Ann Parish, 6350 Mooresville Road, **Indianapolis**. Parish festival, rides, games, food, 5-11 p.m. Information: 317-821-2909.

August 24-25

Prince of Peace Parish, 413 E. Second St., **Madison**. "Community Festival," Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School, 201 W. State St., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight., Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, food, rides, games. Information: 812-265-4166.

August 25

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 5692 N. Central Ave., **Indianapolis**. 5K Run/Walk, 9 a.m., \$15 pre-registration, \$45 pre-registration family of three or more, "Fall Kick-Off Fest," food, music, games, movies, \$1 adults, under 21 free, 4-11 p.m. Information: 317-257-2266.

Mount St. Francis Retreat Center, 101 St. Anthony Drive, **Mount St. Francis**. Picnic, 11 a.m.-midnight, chicken dinner, games, quilts. Information: 812-923-8817.

Restaurant road trip



Bonaparte's Retreat serves tasty French and American cuisine

By Mary Ann Garber

NAPOLEON—Steaming, fragrant soup was a tasty choice for lunch at Bonaparte's Retreat, a delightful theme restaurant in a historic building along U.S. 421 in scenic Ripley County.

Given the fact that I visited St. Maurice Parish in Napoleon before dining at a restaurant named for the famous emperor, it wasn't a tough decision.

I ordered a bowl of—what else?—homemade French onion soup slathered in gooey melted Gruyere cheese and topped with croutons.

A garden salad with bleu cheese dressing—I almost asked for French dressing—and a slice of

fresh-baked cherry pie completed my meal in the charming restaurant and bar decorated with countless images of Napoleon.

I could have ordered the Napoleon, a hoagie bun filled with ham, roast beef and bacon. Or the Bonaparte, smoked ham and swiss cheese layered on thick rye bread. Or the Josephine, chunky chicken salad served on a croissant. Or the Waterloo, a trendy grilled or crispy chicken wrap.

Or I could have dined on a variety of beef, pork and poultry entrees—made with meat from locally raised animals—or chosen Icelandic cod “seasoned your way.”

The waitress said the baby-back ribs are the house specialty—“moist and tender, lightly seasoned and slow-baked,” according to the

menu—and the prime rib and butterfly shrimp are other favorites.

A large painting of Napoleon astride a white horse loomed over me while I enjoyed the aromatic soup on a cold November day. With all of Bonaparte's images preserved in paintings and on china dishes displayed throughout the restaurant, I felt like I was being watched all the time so I made sure that I ate every bite.

Built about 1830, the building housed several businesses over the years and was even a stop on the Underground Railroad, one of a variety of hiding places for slaves as they made their way north to freedom during the 1800s.

Recently redecorated by owners Ron and Debbie Power, Bonaparte's Retreat Restaurant

Photos by Mary Ann Garber



Bonaparte's Retreat Restaurant and Lounge along U.S. 421 in Napoleon serves French-themed menu items and features a collection of memorabilia of the French emperor.

and Lounge is home to a fascinating collection of Napoleon memorabilia that adds to the fun of dining there.

(For more information about Bonaparte's Retreat Restaurant and Lounge, call 812-852-4343.) †

FESTIVALS

continued from page 3B

August 25-26

St. Mary Parish, 302 E. McKee St., **Greensburg**. Parish festival, Fri. adult night, 5:30 p.m., Sat. family festival, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner, games. Information: 812-663-8427.

August 31-September 2

St. Joseph Parish, 1375 S. Mickley Ave., **Indianapolis**. “Fall Festival,” food, rides, games, Fri. 5 p.m.-1 a.m., Sat. 5-11 p.m., Sun. 3-11 p.m. Information: 317-244-9002.

August 31-September 3

Sacred Heart Parish, gymnasium, 558 Nebeker St., **Clinton**. “Spaghetti Dinner,” 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Information: 765-832-8468.

September 2

St. John the Evangelist Parish, 9995 E. Base Road, **Enochsburg**. Parish festival, fried chicken and roast beef dinners, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-934-2880.

September 3

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 4791 E. Morris Church St., **Morris**. “Labor Day Picnic,” chicken dinner, games, food, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Information: 812-934-6218.

St. Peter Parish, 1207 East Road, **Brookville**.

“Labor Day Festival,” 10 a.m.-7 p.m., country style chicken dinner, 10:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m., quilts, games. Information and reservations: 812-623-3670.

September 7

St. Anne Parish, 5267 N. Hamburg Road, **Oldenburg**. Turkey supper, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Information: 812-934-5854.

September 7-9

St. Mary Parish, 212 Washington St., **North Vernon**. Parish festival, rides, music, silent auction, dinners, Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 9 a.m.-midnight, Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 812-346-3604.

September 8

St. Joan of Arc Parish, 4217 N. Central Ave., **Indianapolis**. “French Market,” noon-10 p.m., French food, booths, children's activity area, entertainment. Information: 317-283-5508.

September 8-9

St. Michael Parish, 145 St. Michael Blvd., **Brookville**. “Fall Fest,” family style chicken dinner, Sat. 4-10 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Information: 765-647-5462.

September 9

St. Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish, 512 N. Perkins St., **Rushville**. “Fall Festival,” music, dance, Sun. 8 a.m.-6 p.m., chicken dinner. Information: 765-932-2588.

St. Augustine Parish, 315 E. Chestnut St., **Jeffersonville**. “Harvest Celebration,” chicken dinner, baked goods, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-282-2677.

St. Pius V Parish, Highway 66, **Troy**. “Fall Festival,” 11 a.m.-5 p.m., dinners, games. Information: 812-547-7994.

September 14-15

St. Malachy Parish, 326 N. Green St., **Brownsburg**. “Country Fair and Hog Roast,” Fri. and Sat. 4-11 p.m., food, booths, games. Information: 317-852-3195.

September 14-16

St. Lawrence Parish, 6944 E. 46th St., **Indianapolis**. “Fall Festival,” food, rides, games, music, Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 3-11 p.m., Sun. 1-6 p.m. Information: 317-546-4065.

September 15

St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., **Indianapolis**. “Kids Day Festival,” 10 a.m.-4 p.m., games, food. Information: 317-632-9349.

September 15

St. Bridget Parish, 404 E. Vine St., **Liberty**. “Oktoberfest,” all day, food, games, entertainment. Information: 765-458-6818.

St. Anne Parish, 102 N. 19th St., **New Castle**.

“Fall Bazaar,” 8 a.m.-2 p.m., crafts, bookstore, rummage sale. Information: 765-529-0933.

September 16

St. Michael Parish, 101 St. Michael Drive, **Charlestown**. “Septemberfest,” fried chicken dinner, quilts, games, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 812-256-3200.

St. Louis Parish, 13 E. St. Louis Place, **Batesville**.

“Fall Festival,” 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m., food, games. Information: 812-934-3204.

September 19

St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish, 3033 Martin Road, **Floyds Knobs**. Dessert and card party, 7-10 p.m., \$5 per person. Information: 812-923-3011.

September 21-22

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1723 I St., **Bedford**. “Oktoberfest,” Fri. 4-11 p.m., Sat. 8:30 a.m.-11 p.m., polka Mass, 5 p.m., German dinner, games. Information: 812-275-6539.

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish, 23455 Gavin Lane, **Lawrenceburg**. Parish festival, 5-11 p.m., Fri. fish fry, Sat. “hog wild” meal, rides. Information: 812-656-8700.

September 22

St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., **Indianapolis**. “Taste of St. Rita,” 6-10 p.m., food, silent

auction, \$30 per person. Information: 317-632-9349.

September 23

St. Michael Parish, 11400 Farmers Lane, N.E., **Bradford**. Parish picnic, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., dinner, booths, games, silent auction. Information: 812-364-6646.

September 26

St. Mary Parish, 777 S. 11th St., **Mitchell**. “Persimmon Festival,” Main Street, Mitchell, Italian dinner, \$6 adults, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Information: 812-849-3570.

September 28-29

SS. Francis and Clare Parish, 5901 Olive Branch Road, **Greenwood**. “Fall Festival,” Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. noon-midnight, rides, art in the park, music. Information: 317-859-4673.

September 29

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 5333 E. Washington St., **Indianapolis**. “Chili Cook-Off and Festival,” chili cook-off, noon-3 p.m., festival, 6-11 p.m., games, food, music, silent auction, festival times may change closer to event. Information: 317-356-7291.

September 30

Fayette County Fairgrounds, 2690 N. Park Road, **Connersville**. St. Gabriel Parish, Connersville, “Fall Festival,” fried chicken dinner, games, pumpkins, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 765-825-8578.

St. Mark Parish, 5377 Acorn Road, **Tell City**. Parish picnic, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., ham shoot, quilts, games, chili. Information: 812-836-2481.

October 7

Holy Family Parish, Main St., **Oldenburg**. “Fall Festival,” 9 a.m.-7 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners, games. Information: 812-934-3013.

St. Joseph Parish, Clark County, 2605 St. Joe Road West, **Sellersburg**. “Fall Festival,” 11 a.m., turkey shoot, food, games, quilts. Information: 812-246-2512.

October 12-13

Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 89 N. 17th Ave., **Beech Grove**. “Oktoberfest,” food, music, 5 p.m.-midnight. Information: 317-784-5454.

October 14

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, 4052 E. 38th St., **Indianapolis**. “St. Andrew Fest,” homecoming, Mass, 4:30 p.m., dinner, entertainment, games, 5:30-8 p.m. Information: 317-546-1571.

St. Mary-of-the-Rock Parish, 17440 St. Mary's Road, **Batesville**. “Turkey Festival,” dinner, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 812-934-4165.

October 21

St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, 6501 St. Isidore Road, **Bristow**. “Fall Festival,” 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m., food, games, shooting match. Information: 812-843-5713. †

Sacred Pittsburgh

Churches help preserve history of unique Pennsylvania city

By Sean Gallagher

PITTSBURGH—Several beautiful views of Pittsburgh meet the eyes of visitors to Point State Park in the heart of this western Pennsylvania city.

The park sits at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, and at the start of the Ohio River.

Four boats often dock there to take sightseers up and down the city's three rivers.

Across the Allegheny River are Heinz Field and PNC Park, the respective homes of the Pittsburgh Steelers, the city's National Football League team, and the Pirates, its Major League Baseball club.

And across the Monongahela River, tourists can see Mount Washington rise above the city and its metropolitan region of nearly 2 million people.

As visitors look at the mountain on the south side of Pittsburgh, a large church stands out at the top of it.

It is St. Mary of the Mount Church. The prominence of this church built above Pittsburgh in a sense symbolizes the importance of the Catholic Church in the history of the city.

As the city's population slowly grew, the Catholic Church grew with it. In the second half of the 19th century, Pittsburgh's growth took off as the region's steel and oil industries established bases there.

Prominent landmarks of the Church in Pittsburgh, including St. Mary of the Mount, date to that time period and are well worth a visit for Catholic tourists.

St. Mary of the Mount Parish, the boyhood home of Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, was founded at the start of the city's heyday in the 1870s. Its current church, which features many beautiful stained-glass windows, was dedicated in 1897.

Tourists can visit St. Mary of the Mount Church by riding the historic Duquesne Incline, which opened for service in 1877. This railroad track climbs the eastern face of Mount Washington, and has a total rise of 400 feet on a grade of 30 degrees.

The Incline is open year-round, and has a reasonable fair of \$4.50 round trip for adults and \$2.20 round trip for children ages 6-11.

Many restaurants offer scenic views of Pittsburgh in the neighborhood around Mount St. Mary Church.

St. Anthony's Chapel in Pittsburgh is quite different from St. Mary of the Mount Church. It is built on the north side of the city instead of its south side, and is hidden in a residential neighborhood rather than perched atop a mountain.

Its calling card is unique with its claim that it houses more saints' relics—at more than 4,200—than any other church in the world.

A part of Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Pittsburgh, St. Anthony's Chapel was built on Troy Hill in the 1880s through the initiative and financial support of Father Suitbert Mollinger, a Belgian-born priest who began ministering in western Pennsylvania during the late 1850s.

Father Mollinger traveled to Europe several times between 1868 and 1892, and brought back scores of relics that many Church leaders in Germany, Italy and elsewhere wanted to safeguard in the U.S. for the future. At the time, they were concerned that political leaders might close churches there.

The relics, many of which came with authentication papers, are from saints who lived throughout the history of the Church. Today, the relics line the walls of St. Anthony's Chapel in beautiful reliquaries inside walnut display cases.

The chapel is open daily, except for Fridays and holidays, from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Between St. Anthony's Chapel and St. Mary of the Mount Church stands historic St. Paul Cathedral in the middle of Pittsburgh.

Dedicated in 1906, this massive church marked by its Gothic architecture is nearly 250 feet tall. The cost of construction surpassed \$1 million more than a century ago. Inside, visitors will be impressed by its ornate marble main altar and side altars as well as the beautiful ribbed ceiling.

In the neighborhood surrounding St. Paul Cathedral are Carnegie-Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh with its medical center.

Today, approximately 40 percent of the population of the Pittsburgh metropolitan area is Catholic. That percentage has remained about the same in the Diocese of Pittsburgh for many decades.

When visitors to Pittsburgh tour the sacred sites, they also learn much about the life and history of this unique city built along the beautiful mountain range and curving rivers.

(For links to the websites of the churches mentioned in this article, log on to the website of the Diocese of Pittsburgh at www.diopitt.org.) †



Photo by Brandon A. Evans



CNS file photo/Pittsburgh Catholic

Above, historic St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh features ornate Gothic spires. Dedicated in 1906, this massive church rises nearly 250 feet tall. The cathedral's construction costs surpassed \$1 million more than a century ago.

Left, the western Pennsylvania city of Pittsburgh sits at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, both of which form the Ohio River. The rivers and surrounding hills and mountains make Pittsburgh a beautiful tourist destination.



CNS photo/Nancy Phean Wechelec



CNS photo/Nancy Phean Wechelec

Above, life-size Stations of the Cross at St. Anthony's Chapel on Troy Hill in Pittsburgh inspire Mass-goers. The chapel houses more than 5,000 holy relics as well as the valuable 19th-century wooden stations carved by ecclesiastical artists at Mayer and Co. in Munich, Germany. The chapel was built in the early 1880s to hold the collection of saints' relics amassed by Father Suitbert Mollinger, a Belgian-born priest who served as the first pastor of Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish on Troy Hill.

Left, a Catholic media group tours St. Anthony's Chapel on Troy Hill in Pittsburgh on June 22, 2011. The chapel houses the largest collection of holy relics on public display.



Photo by Brandon A. Evans

Above, the Duquesne Incline climbs the eastern face of Mount Washington in Pittsburgh. Opened for service in 1877, the Incline's track has a total rise of 400 feet on a grade of 30 degrees.



Photo by Sean Gallagher

St. Mary of the Mount Church, dedicated in 1897, stands atop Mount Washington and can be seen from many points across Pittsburgh.



Photo by Brandon A. Evans

Right, the Princess, a riverboat in Pittsburgh, takes its passengers on a tour of the western Pennsylvania city via the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio rivers. Several other boats are available for visitors to ride up and down the city's three rivers.

Scenic Sicily

Mediterranean island even has a volcano

By John F. Fink

SICILY—My initial impression of Sicily was, “What a humongous rock!”

It’s a mountainous island dropped into the middle of the Mediterranean Sea.

Sicily has a rich history, which isn’t surprising when you realize its location. It’s near the mainland of Italy, but still only 70 miles from Africa.

Plato wrote about people flocking to this island “like frogs around a pond.” Greek legends about their gods in Sicily go back to the eighth century B.C.

Sicily became a province of Rome in 227 B.C. When the Roman Empire was divided in 286, Sicily became part of the Byzantine Empire. The Vandals in Africa conquered the island in 468 A.D. Arab Muslims ruled Sicily beginning in 878 until the Normans came in 1061.

Sicily was taken over by Spain in 1282. It was from Sicily that the great fleet was rallied which defeated the Muslims at Lepanto in 1570. In the early 19th century, Sicily was controlled by the Bourbons.

In 1860, Giuseppe Garibaldi landed at Marsala, on the west coast, and defeated a Bourbon force. Sicily was freed from Spain. It became part of Italy when the Kingdom of Italy was proclaimed in 1861.

During World War II, there was heavy fighting in Sicily until it fell to the Allied forces in 1943. The Allies then used Sicily as the jumping off point to conquer Italy.

Today, Sicily has a mixed culture of Italians, Spanish, Africans and Eastern Europeans. The Sicilian dialect is a composite of Italian, Spanish and Arabic. Sicily has a low birthrate, but a high immigration rate of people migrating from Africa.

I visited Sicily with my daughter, Regina, and her friend, Gina. After our arrival in Palermo, we took a cab to the *Cappella Palatina* in the Norman Palace. It was built by King Roger II from 1130 to 1140, although all the mosaics weren’t completed until the 1170s.

When you walk into the chapel, you are immediately struck by the fact that there is gold everywhere. The chapel is filled with mosaics that tell the story of Genesis at one level and then scenes from the Acts of the Apostles at a lower level.

The mosaic of the earth being separated from the sea as part of creation shows the terrestrial globe as a sphere of water in which there are three areas of land. America and Oceania had not yet been discovered.

The creation of Adam shows God and Adam with the same face to illustrate that God made man in his own image. There are scenes of Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit, their expulsion from Eden, the sacrifices by Cain and Abel, Cain killing Abel and so on up through the story of Noah and the ark, the story of Abraham and Isaac, and Jacob wrestling with an angel.

The cupola above the choir contains the stern figure of Christ Pantocrator, which shows an Eastern Christian influence

since the Orthodox use that figure to portray both God the Father and Jesus.

Then we walked to the cathedral, which dates from 1185. It’s an extremely large church built on the site of a Byzantine church and, later, a mosque. It contains the tombs of King Roger II; his daughter, Constance; Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II, who died in 1250; his wife; and Constance of Aragon, who died in 1222.

The next day, the tour we were on took us to Monreale, one of Europe’s supreme cathedrals. It was built on *Monte Reale*—the Royal Mountain—by the Norman King William II, the grand-nephew of Roger II, between 1172 and 1174.

William claimed that he had a vision of the Blessed Virgin asking him to build the church. A bronze statue in front of the church shows William presenting the church to Mary, a scene that is also depicted in a mosaic panel in the church.

Just as inside the *Cappella Palatina*, this church is filled with beautiful mosaics—64,000 square feet of them—that tell stories from the Bible.

As Regina said, “They practiced with the *Cappella Palatina*,” and then made this cathedral much larger. Many of the mosaic panels are identical to those in the *Cappella Palatina*.

As always in a church with Eastern influence, the great figure of Christ Pantocrator towers above the central apse. In his left hand, he holds a Bible open to the words, “I am the light of the world. Whosoever follows me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life” (Jn 8:12)—written in Latin.

East and West come together in this cathedral. It’s a Catholic church, but with Orthodox and Arab-Muslim influences. It was the Arab-Muslims who actually constructed the church for King William II.

The tombs of both William I—who succeeded his brother, Roger II—and William II are in the cathedral.

We then returned to central Palermo and stopped at the *Quattro Canti*, the Four Corners. Each of the four corners has a central statue and fountain at the bottom symbolizing the four seasons. Above them are statues of four Spanish kings: Charles V and Philips II, III and IV. And above them are patron saints of the old city quadrants: Christina, Ninfa, Oliva and Agatha.

Just to the south of this corner, in front of the City Hall, is the magnificent *Fontana Pretoria*, a central fountain surrounded by statues of sea horses, mermaids, dolphins, cherubs and, especially, Greek gods and goddesses. All of the male and female statues are nude, which led to it being called the “Piazza of Shame.”

We then drove to Cefalu, a city on the northern coast of Sicily at the foot of a promontory with a sheer drop to the Tyrrhenian Sea. It has sandy beaches, and people were sunbathing or swimming.

The cathedral here was also built by King Roger II.

Apparently, Roger survived a shipwreck nearby and pledged a



Smoke rises from craters in Mount Etna, Sicily’s active volcano, which last erupted in 2006.

church to Mary in gratitude for his escape. He wanted it to be Sicily’s most important religious building, but his successors preferred Palermo and moved his tomb to the cathedral there.

Like the Palatine Chapel, this cathedral has many mosaics. Christ Pantocrator has the Bible open to the same passage quoted earlier. This was the first mosaic of Christ Pantocrator in Sicily, much repeated across the island.

Besides Palermo, visitors should also try to see Marsala on the west coast, Agrigento on the south, and Syracuse and Taormina on the east coast.

Marsala is famous for its wine. We visited a winery then a factory that makes olive oil.

According to legend, Agrigento was founded by Daedalus and his son, Icarus, after they fled from Crete “by air.” Historically, it goes back to 582 B.C. when it was founded by colonists from Crete and Rhodes. It is important today because of its archaeological site.

The Valley of the Temples has ruins of four temples, beginning with the Temple of Juno (Hera), built between 460–440 B.C. The temple still has its 25 columns, although they are not in good condition.

The Temple of Concord is the best-preserved of the temples. It has six columns in the front and 13 on either side. It used to have colorful decorations, but those have disappeared over the centuries. In the sixth century A.D., it was turned into a Christian church, and some traces of that remain.

The Temple of Heracles—or Hercules—is the oldest of the temples. It was destroyed by an earthquake and is now a heap of ruins, but is in the process of being re-erected. It was once the size of the Parthenon in Athens.

Finally, there is the Temple of Zeus—or Jupiter for the Romans. Still in ruins, at one time it was one of the largest temples built in ancient times, measuring 373 feet by 118 feet.

Syracuse, on the east coast,



St. Luke the Evangelist parishioner John F. Fink of Indianapolis stands in front of the Temple of Concord, which was built in the fifth century B.C. in Agrigento, Sicily.

was once the most powerful city in the known world, first colonized by Greeks from Corinth in 734 B.C. Between 416 and 413 B.C., there was war between Syracuse and Athens. Later, the city fell to the Romans, and after that to the Byzantines, Arabs and Normans.

We began our tour in the Neopolis—a new city, the most recent—from the fifth century B.C. We began at the “*Latomies of Paradise*,” which were large quarries from which the Syracusans obtained the limestone for their palaces, temples and fortifications. They are called *latomies* because they were also the prisons for the Athenian slaves who were captured and who did the work. “Paradise” comes from the delightful garden in the quarry with orange trees, palm trees and magnolias. So we all bought our “ticket to Paradise” to see it.

Inside the quarry is the “Ear of Dionysius,” a cave that somewhat resembles an ear, or at least Caravaggio thought so. It was he who gave it the name when he was told that because of the amazing acoustics in the cave Dionysius the Elder could hear what the prisoners were saying.

Other attractions in Syracuse are the Greek Theater, built in the third century B.C., once the

second largest theater in the world after the theater in Ephesus; the Altar of Hieron II, dedicated to Zeus, long enough that 100 oxen could be sacrificed at the same time; and the Amphitheater, where Syracusans watched gladiator fights.

Taormina has to be the most beautiful city in Sicily, located high above the Ionic Sea. Looking at the sea below from the window of our hotel’s restaurant, a member of our tour said, “It doesn’t look real—more like a painting.”

Taormina has long been a magnet for authors and celebrities. D. H. Lawrence, John Steinbeck, Truman Capote and Tennessee Williams all wrote while they lived here. Movie stars who enjoyed Taormina include Cary Grant, Orson Welles, Greta Garbo and Rita Hayworth.

Nearby is Mount Etna. We could see smoke coming from a couple of its more than 150 craters. Regina joined several others to go up the volcano, but I decided not to join them.

We did many other things during this trip to Sicily, including eating delicious Sicilian food. Anyone who makes a trip to Italy might consider visiting this beautiful island.

(John F. Fink is editor emeritus of The Criterion.) †

Dominican Republic

Beauty abounds in this Caribbean island nation

By Patricia Happel Cornwell
Special to *The Criterion*

SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—In 1492, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus discovered America while on an expedition by the Spanish monarchy.

More precisely, Columbus found a Caribbean island that he named *Española*, which was home to the Taíno Indians.

Spanish conquistadors subsequently decimated the native race, and imported African slaves to work on their plantations and in their mines.

Home to the Dominican Republic and Haiti, the island is now known as Hispaniola.

The Dominican Republic is the second largest Caribbean nation, after Cuba, and 95 percent of its 10 million people are Catholic.

Half the size of Indiana, the country constitutes the eastern three-quarters of the island. Its versatile geography encompasses semi-desert land, fertile plains, swamps, rainforests and mountains.

My husband, John, and I visited our friends, Scott and Sandra, in the Dominican Republic in early January.

Our flight from Miami took us to Santo Domingo, the capital, then we drove for two hours north to *La Vega* Province in the mountainous center of the country.

We passed roadside vendors offering roasted cashews, sweet potatoes, and whole roast pigs and chickens on sticks, which are traditional foods for New Year's Eve.

Women and girls walked by with large bunches of green, banana-like plantains balanced on their heads.

Motorbikes are used to carry all manner of cargo from entire families to chickens in cages.

As we threaded our way into the mountains, we passed brightly painted concrete block homes and small towns with central plazas.

All of the houses are made of concrete because hurricanes are a fact of life there. In 2010, after a deadly earthquake, Hurricane Tomás struck the island, especially devastating Haiti, where buildings are not as strongly constructed as those in the Dominican Republic.

Upon our arrival at Sandra's mother's home, we enjoyed a traditional New Year's Eve supper. The centerpiece was *sancocho*, a hearty soup of pork, beef, chicken, sausage and vegetables that is seasoned with oregano and other spices then served with rice and avocado.

In rural areas, there is little hot water and not always electricity. Fortunately, the temperatures are moderate all year.

The next evening, we drove to a mountaintop called *Jamaca de Dios*, which means "Hammock of God." After a

CNS photo/Eduardo Munoz, Reuters



Lights illuminate the historic Cathedral of *Santa Maria la Menor* in 2010 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The Catholic cathedral is the oldest in the Americas. Construction began in 1514 and was completed in 1540.

jolting climb, we reached a fine restaurant to view the sunset over the valley and the city of Jarabacoa.

Military checkpoints are common in the provinces that border Haiti. Soldiers with rifles randomly wave cars to the side of the road to check for illegal immigrants.

We stopped in Bonao to admire the artwork on the plaza outside *Museo Candido Bido*. The gallery was closed, but a museum docent opened it for us. The pride of the *museo* is a collection of soulful, colorful works by revered painter Bido. The *Fundación de Bonao Para La Cultura*, which operates the gallery, offers painting, music and ballet classes for young people.

Driving in the Dominican Republic is definitely a challenge and an art.

The next day, we drove southwest to *Barahona* Province for a three-day stay at *Casa Bonita*, a small upscale hotel overlooking the Caribbean Sea. The resort offers spa treatments, zip line excursions and ecological tours.

While there, we drove to *Villa Miriam*, a popular waterfall. Families on holiday splashed and shouted in manmade pools beneath the waterfall. We climbed a stone staircase to the top and enjoyed our picnic in the midst of the roar and mist of rushing water surrounded by ferns and ancient gnarled trees.

At 5 a.m. on Jan. 5, two strong tremors shook Casa Bonita. A maid told us not to be afraid because, "It does this all the time." It was a 5.3 earthquake on the Richter Scale and was felt on the entire island, but no damage was reported.

From Casa Bonita, we enjoyed a boat tour of *Laguna Oviedo*, a small island. In contrast to the blue of the Caribbean Sea, the water of the island lagoon was green. We ate a picnic lunch on the "Island of the Iguanas," where a dozen two-foot-long iguanas surrounded us—all hoping to share some of our lunch.

Afterward, we walked across the island, which is largely composed of volcanic rock that looks as though it has just bubbled up. While the rock looks frothy, it is hard to traverse. We leapt from one rock to the next, clinging to one another's hands. We stopped at a small cave to admire petroglyphs, faded ancient drawings of faces, likely scratched there by one of the indigenous Taínos.

As we left Casa Bonita on Jan. 6, we stopped at the simple workshop of a family who makes jewelry from a rare blue stone called *larimar*, which is found only in the Dominican Republic. First discovered in 1916 by a Catholic priest, *larimar* was rediscovered in 1974 by a local man and a Peace Corps volunteer.

Columbus's brother, Bartolomeo, founded Santo Domingo in 1496. *Alcázar*, the immense stone palace built by Columbus's son, Diego, still stands. The city is home to the first fort and the first cathedral in the Americas. Its historic center, *Ciudad Colonial*, is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site.

In 1697, Spain ceded to France the western portion of the island, which would become the nation of Haiti in 1804.

The Dominican Republic has been governed under seven flags and has three independence days. The date they celebrate is Feb. 27, 1844, when they were freed from Haitian domination.

We toured the 1503 Fortress of Santo Domingo and the National Pantheon, where the country's heroes are buried.

Looking over the ancient city wall, we were startled to see a huge cruise ship discharging tourists from Puerto Rico for a day of sightseeing and shopping.

The Dominican Republic is the Caribbean's largest tourist destination, no doubt because it is a beautiful place with beautiful people.

(Patricia Happel Cornwell is a member of St. Joseph Parish in Corydon.) †



Submitted photo by Patricia Happel Cornwell



Submitted photo by Patricia Happel Cornwell

Above, the fortress of Santo Domingo, built by the Spanish in 1503, is called the "Hub of the Conquest of America." It is the island's oldest and most complete military construction, and is made of coral stone extracted from the seabed and embossed with marine fossils. It continued in military use until the 1970s when its modern elements were removed and it was restored to its ancient configuration.

Left, the daughter of a Santo Domingo store owner plays her toy guitar, which she sometimes pretends is a violin, while customers shop for artwork and souvenirs made by artisans in the Dominican Republic.



Submitted photo by Patricia Happel Cornwell

Left, a horse and its driver wait for a fare outside *Capilla de los Remedios* in the historic district of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The Spanish chapel, constructed between 1541 and 1554, has a Gothic interior with a "barrel vault" ceiling. It is still in active use as a Catholic church.

Right, in the center of historic Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic, stands a monument topped by a statue of Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, who discovered Hispaniola. Columbus is depicted with a lantern and anchor as he points the way to the New World. The statue is a popular perch for pigeons.



Submitted photo by Patricia Happel Cornwell

Visit Virginia

Colonial sites preserve artifacts from nation's early years

By Fr. Louis Manna

Special to *The Criterion*

As much as I like traveling to Western Europe, there is also something to be said for going on a shorter trip to nearby places where I can easily drive.

For a recent vacation, I decided to see some of Virginia, the first British colony in North America, dating back to about a dozen years before the pilgrims founded the settlement in Plymouth, Mass.

So I traveled to Charlottesville, Va., for a couple of days to see a number of historical places of interest.

Ash Lawn-Highland is the home of James Monroe, one of our early presidents. We tend to only associate him with the Monroe Doctrine, but there is much more to learn about his life.

I toured his home and found out much about the many failures in Monroe's life, although he still had his share of successes.

He was asked by then-Gov. Thomas Jefferson to move the Virginia capital from Williamsburg to Richmond. To accomplish this huge task, he spent many hours on horseback and read law books during his travels.

One of the most famous and interesting places to visit is Jefferson's Monticello. A tour of the home reveals a most interesting and fascinating man. Examples of his genius are still present in his home.

There were more historic places near Charlottesville—such as Montpelier, James and Dolley Madison's home—and I wished that I had stayed there longer. Maybe on a future trip!

About two hours away is Williamsburg. This became a handy base for the Hampton Roads area as well as other closer historic sites, such as Jamestown and Yorktown.

In the Hampton Roads area, I went to the Mariners' Museum, where there is a display about the *Monitor*, the first ironclad ship to sail for the Union in the Civil War.

Most of us remember the story of the Civil War battle between the *Monitor* and the *Merrimac* from American history lessons during grade school. That navy battle was fought in the Hampton Roads area. The *Monitor* sank during a storm. Recently, the ship's turret was recovered, and there is a display about the recovery effort as well as the turret at the Mariners' Museum.

Another museum in Norfolk is the Nauticus, which displays the battleship *Wisconsin*. Many people are aware of its sister ship, the *U.S.S. Missouri*, where U.S. Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Japanese leaders signed a peace treaty to end World War II on Sept. 2, 1945, in Toyko Bay.

Visitors can tour the inside of the ship, but I chose to just explore its exterior. It is on loan from the U.S. Navy, and can be

made ready for active duty if needed.

A while back, I was researching information about religious shrines to visit on my vacation. I noticed that many of the features I saw—historical incident, education, bookstores for more information and religious articles—can also apply to Williamsburg, especially the area known as Colonial Williamsburg.

This famous site is not a religious shrine. It is a historical shrine to the beginning of our country.

The main claim to fame there is that the Virginia legislature, located at Williamsburg at the time, sent the proposition to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia about separating from Great Britain as "a free and independent" country. This action led members of the Continental Congress to write our Declaration of Independence.

Focusing on that time period and recreating it required a lot of study to complete the work. There are DVDs and books on how things were done in the 18th century.

We are so used to having easy access to 24-hour media on television and the Internet. How did they have newspapers 235 years ago? They had to make the paper and print it with different types of inks then sell it for enough money to make a living. The same production process was required for books. There were no bookstores filled with thousands of titles waiting to be sold.

Colonial Williamsburg shows us how labor intensive daily life was for our ancestors, and how they lived close to the earth.

One interesting event there was a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence.

"This just came from the Continental Congress in Philadelphia!" a costumed interpreter exclaimed, excitement apparent in his voice.

Then several other actors read different sections during the interpretative performance.

An actor portraying a black slave read the part about how "all men are created equal."

Later, as the crowd broke up, he said, "That means I'll be free!"

An actress portraying a young woman passed by him and replied, "It said 'all men.' You're property."

She had described the slavery problem in a nutshell.

On my last visit to Colonial Williamsburg, there was a new historical presentation dealing with the American Indians. The Indians were discussing whom they should support in the coming conflict—the British or Virginians. They wondered how their lives would be changed.



Costumed interpreters dressed in Revolutionary War uniforms play fifes and drums during a historical re-enactment program in Colonial Williamsburg, where guests experience the challenges of creating a new, self-governing society.



Above, historical re-enactors portray slaves or freed men and women as they cope with the effects of war profiteering, rampant inflation and other hardships in Colonial Williamsburg. Tourists can listen as they ponder their loyalties and discuss what the future holds for them in the 18th century.

Left, during Colonial Williamsburg's Revolutionary City® program, costumed interpreters read the Declaration of Independence at the Capitol.

I had not considered the ramifications of the conflict from their side.

In Williamsburg, there are other presentations given by interpreters portraying Gen. George Washington, Jefferson, Patrick Henry, the Marquis de Lafayette and others.

During an earlier visit, I attended a presentation about Washington. At the end was a question and answer period.

One lady asked about help from our navy.

Washington responded, "Which of our two ships are you referring to, Madam?"

His question was a powerful reminder of how Americans forget much of the facts about our early beginnings as a country.

Near Williamsburg are two other important historical sites—Jamestown and Yorktown.

Jamestown is our first settlement from England, and was founded in 1607.

Yorktown is the site of the famous battle where a British general, Lord Charles Cornwallis, formally surrendered more than 8,000 British soldiers to Washington—after a hard-fought conflict against the colonial and French armies—on Oct. 19, 1781, effectively ending the Revolutionary War.

(Father Louis Manna is pastor of American Martyrs Parish in Scottsburg and St. Patrick Parish in Salem.) †

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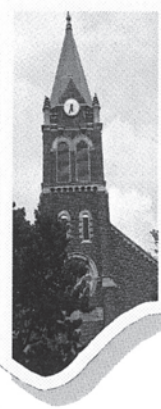
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