

# Grotto of the Redemption



## Stepping Stones

August 2009

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### Visitor Testimonials



Thank you Grotto of the Redemption: You 'Rock!' Thank you for taking the time to give us all a tour of the gorgeous Grotto. It was amazing! My favorite part was the top balcony by the 13th station. I'm looking forward to coming again.

- Aimee Fredericksen, St. Rose of Lima School, 5/6th grade

[Read More Testimonials](#)

### Quick Links

- [About Us](#)
- [Support the Grotto](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)



### Greetings from the Director

As director, I tend to wear many hats but have not made the time to learn how to use 'modern' communication tools. Thanks to Ali Hagerty, the Grotto's summer marketing intern, this e-newsletter came to life, our website has gotten a fresh look and we have a Facebook presence. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and learning about what is happening here at the Grotto. May God richly bless each of you. -Rhonda Miller

### Friends of the Grotto

Just as in Father Dobberstein's and Father Greving's day, people are willing to help meet the needs of the Grotto by donating their time and talents. Many thanks to all!

Gerry Thatcher, a retired West Bend farmer took me up in his airplane so I could take some aerial shots of the Grotto to be used in the making of a site map. In return for giving Iowa State associate professor, Heidi Hohmann's landscape architecture class a tour through the Grotto, she converted these photos using Photoshop into sketches. Since then, the sketches have been used to create a site map for preservation purposes, as well as, incorporated into the walking tour brochure and on-site visitor information signage. [View Walking Tour Brochure](#)

When JB Mertz & Son, West Bend's John Deere dealer, was asked to provide a bid for new mowing equipment, they not only provided us with several options for replacement equipment, they included a \$6000 donation to help offset the purchase price.

This spring, the Sioux City Diocesan administrative offices started 'Denim Day', a program that allows the chancery staff to donate money to wear jeans twice a month. Each month, the staff chooses where the proceeds will be donated. The Grotto was the designated benefactor for April, May and June and a check for \$285 was received in early July.

The figurines of a boy and girl fishing on the pond were getting very faded and were in need of some tender loving care. When Gary Weber was asked if he'd paint the figurines, he gladly accepted the challenge. Within 3 days, our little fisher-people were back on the job all spruced up. Check out their new paint job to the right!



When Edna Doty of West Bend passed away this spring, her children Diane Montag, Mary Greinert, Pat Kennefick and Kevin Doty, wanted to remember their mother in a special way. They approached the Grotto with the idea of planting and maintaining the flower garden within the Garden of Gethsemane as a memorial to their parents. Within a 2-hour window one Friday afternoon, the family transformed this flowerbed into a beautiful perennial garden shown to the left.

### Projects Completed & Underway

With the help of annual appeal donations and a grant through the Palo Alto Gaming Development Corp. to expand marketing efforts, the Grotto has been able to complete various projects to further enhance and promote the Grotto.

- Fountains were refurbished and painted a new color



BEFORE



AFTER

- Radio jingle created to be used in radio advertising. [Check out the jingle here.](#)
- Commissioned Preservation Services, Inc. to evaluate and create a written preservation report to be used in maintaining and preserving the Grotto
- Refurbished the rock saw shed that will house the saw and polishing equipment
- Install information signage on the grounds similar to a mall kiosk to assist visitors
- Replace 8 faded billboards on surrounding highways

## Projects Identified

The process of identifying, prioritizing, financing and completing maintenance and restoration projects is a continuous process at the Grotto. Here are two that we hope to begin this fall.



- Purchase an articulated lift to use in on-going maintenance, preservation, and restoration work. To the left you can see a picture of Don Howlett instructing Director, Rhonda, on a rented lift.

- Renovate a garage behind the Grotto Gift Shop to be used for inventory storage.

Please know that your on-going prayers and financial assistance are much appreciated and help to share in the good the Grotto does. [Support the Grotto](#)

## Upcoming Event

Trumpeter Swan & Geology Day on September 19, 2009  
300 N Broadway  
West Bend, Iowa 50597



## Contact Info

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