

Trails of the Saints

Celebrate the Exemplary Lives

of

St. John Neumann and St. Katharine Drexel

2006 and 2007

Price ranges from \$30.00 to \$40.00 per person depending on lunch.

Katharine Drexel was born in 1858 to a wealthy Philadelphia family. Her mother died within 6-weeks. Her father remarried several years later. St. Katharine saw charity first hand as her step-mother opened the door of their Chestnut Street home to the neighborhood several times a week giving food and clothing to those who were in need. As a very young child, she developed a deep faith that was shown in her letters and in her life. Her step-mother died a painful death. Several years later her father died suddenly. It was at that time that Katharine joined the novitiate. In 1881 she made her vows and bought 30 acres of beautiful grassy land in Bensalem to house the order she was founding, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. Her vision was to educate both black and native American children. Her father had left his estate in trust. the interest to go to his three daughters. St. Katharine used her part to fund the order and build Xavier University in New Orleans and mission schools in the southwest. The sisters continue her work today. The new Mission Center, opened in 2004, offers visitors modern comfort with climate controlled areas , a gift shop, an auditorium, very convenient passenger drop off areas and an elevator to take visitors from the upper level where the new center and St. Elizabeth Shrine are located to the lower shrine area where the crypt is located.



John Neumann studied to be a priest in Bohemia. The year he was to be ordained, the government of Bohemia stopped all ordinations. He came to the United States and started his studies all over again. He was ordained in June of 1836 by Bishop John Dubois at the old St. Patrick's Cathedral on Mott Street, New York City. He was sent to western New York state to work with German and Irish immigrants. He built schools and taught. From there he went to Baltimore. When he was 41 he was elevated to the See of Philadelphia.



During his short life he organized the first Forty Hours of Devotion in America, designed the first unified Catholic school system under a diocesan board, founded the Sisters of St. Francis. He was the first Redemptorist priest in the new world. He spoke six languages so he could take confession for the immigrant poor in their own language. He created the first Italian parish in Philadelphia.

We allow 2 hours at St. John Neumann Shrine and 3 hours at St. Katharine Drexel Shrine to experience a guided tour of the chapel and the shrine, time to reflect in the crypt area, the gift shop and the grounds.

\$30.00 pp lunch at Country Buffet. \$35.00 pp lunch at Belle Voir Manor or Pen Ryn Mansion
\$40.00 pp served lunch at King George II Inn or at Fisher's Tudor House

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