

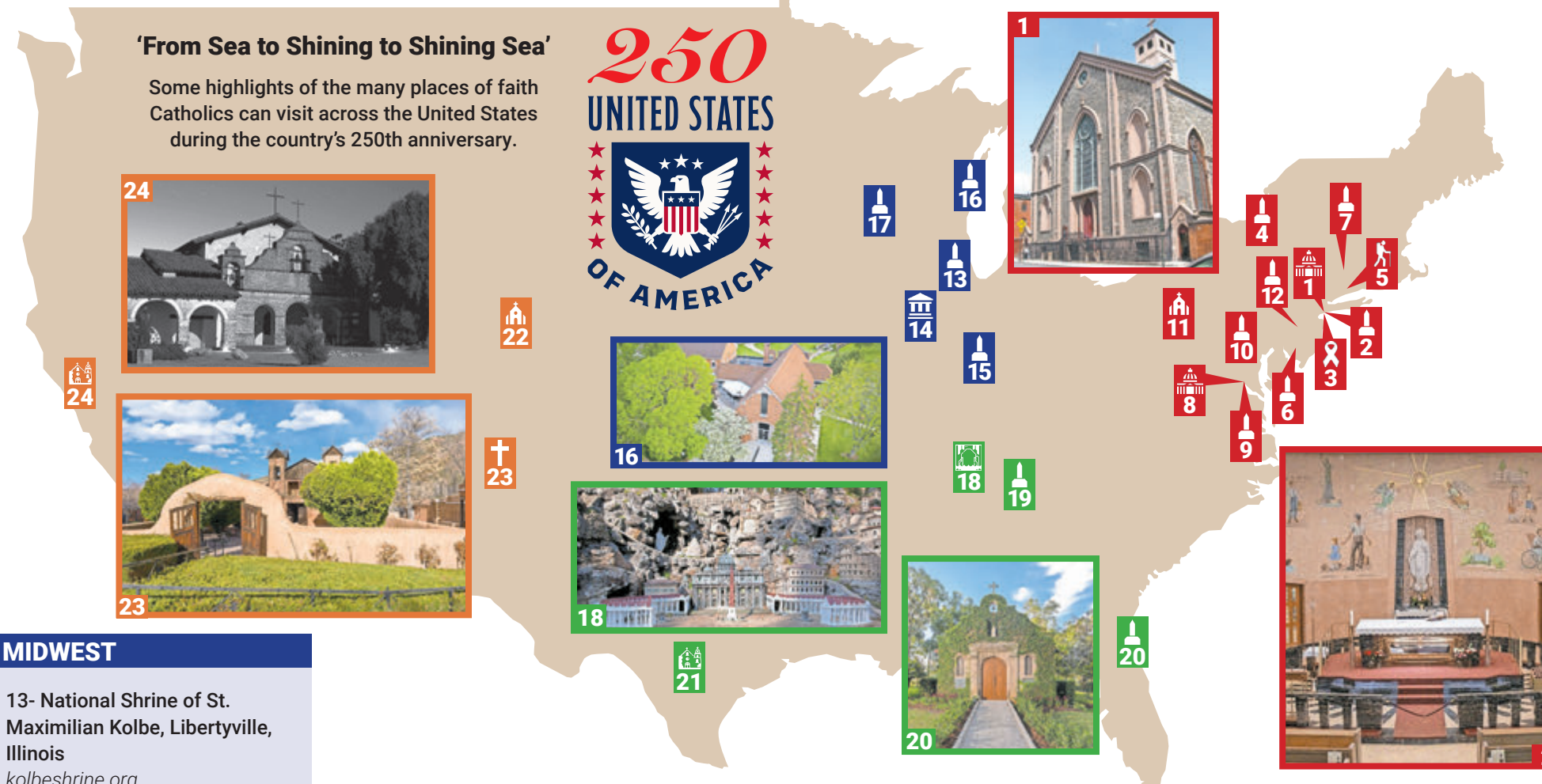
EAST

- 1- Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral, New York City
oldcathedral.org
- 2- St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Shrine, New York City
cabrinishrinenyc.org
- 3- Catholic Memorial at Ground Zero, New York City
spcolr.org/catholic-memorial-at-ground-zero
- 4- Shrine and Museum of St. Marianne Cope, Syracuse
saintmarianne.org
- 5- Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center, New Haven, Connecticut
michaelmcgivneycenter.org
- 6- National Shrine of St. John Neumann, Philadelphia
stjohnneumann.org
- 7- National Shrine of Divine Mercy, Stockbridge, Massachusetts
shrineofdivinemercury.org
- 8- National Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C.
nationalshrine.org
- 9- Saint John Paul II National Shrine, Washington D.C.
jp2shrine.org
- 10- National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg, Maryland
setonshrine.org
- 11- St. Anthony's Chapel, Pittsburgh
pgshshrines.org/about-st-anthony-chapel
- 12- National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, Pennsylvania
czestochowa.us

SOUTH

- 18- Ave Maria Grotto, Cullman, Alabama
avemariagrotto.com
- 19- Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Hanceville, Alabama
olamshrine.com
- 20- National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche, St. Augustine, Florida
missionandshrine.org
- 21- San Antonio Missions, San Antonio
nps.gov/saan

PRAY THE WAY



MIDWEST

- 13- National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe, Libertyville, Illinois
kolbeshrine.org
- 14- Archbishop Fulton Sheen Museum, Peoria, Illinois
celebratesheen.com/museum
- 15- Shrine of St. Mother Theodore Guerin, St. Mary of the Woods, Indiana
Spsmw.org
- 16- National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, Champion, Wisconsin
championshrine.org
- 17- Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, La Crosse, Wisconsin
guadalupehshrine.org

WEST

- 22- St. Catherine's Chapel on the Rock, Allenspark, Colorado
campstmalo.org
- 23- El Santuario de Chimayó, Chimayó, New Mexico
www.holychimayo.us
- 24- Spanish Missions of California
californiamissionsfoundation.org

A Faith-Filled Way to Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary

by Paula Katinas, Senior Reporter

PROSPECT HEIGHTS — Catholic Americans can celebrate the nation's 250th birthday and simultaneously grow closer to their faith by making a pilgrimage to one of many religious shrines across the nation.

"There is just so much to discover in our country," said Karen Rohrecker, director of sales and marketing for Peter's Way Tours Inc., a company specializing in pilgrimages.

One popular destination is the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in Champion, Wisconsin, which welcomes more than 200,000 visitors a year, said John Paul Brissette, the shrine's communications director.

It was there in 1859 that the Blessed Mother appeared to Adele Brise, an illiterate 28-year-old Belgian immigrant, whom she instructed to teach the faith to children in the community, which was populated at the time by Belgian immigrants.

"Our Lady instructed Adele to teach the children what they needed to know for salvation," Brissette explained. "And because she was illiterate, she responded to Our Lady and said, 'But

how can I teach them when I know so little myself?' And then Our Lady instructed her to go and fear nothing for she would help her."

Brise, who arranged to have a school and a chapel built at the site, died in 1896 and is buried on the grounds. The Vatican approved the location as a Marian apparition in 2022 — making it the first and only official Marian apparition site in the U.S.

Pilgrims traveling to St. Augustine, Florida, can find the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche. Established by Spanish settlers in 1609 to honor Our Lady of La Leche, the shrine contains a famous image of the Blessed Mother nursing the infant Jesus. La Leche is Spanish for "the milk."

It is oldest Catholic shrine in the U.S. and was named a national shrine by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2019.

In the western U.S., pilgrims gravitate to the Spanish missions. There are 21 missions stretching 800 miles from San Diego to Sonoma that were established by St. Junipero Serra and other Franciscan missionaries.

Peter Bahou, founder and president of Peter's Way Tours Inc., said U.S. pilgrimages are important to budget-conscious travelers. "Being closer to home is very important for the elderly who cannot travel and for people who do not have the means to travel overseas," he said.

Catholics can find shrines all over the country

dedicated to saints. The National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, located in Emmitsburg, Maryland, includes a basilica, the saint's original stone house and a museum — all in memory of the first American born saint who established the country's parochial school system.

Rohrecker said she was impressed with shrines in Philadelphia, including the National Shrine of St. John Neumann, that she saw on a pilgrimage. "I didn't know these shrines existed. It was wonderful to see them. I learned so much about the Catholic Church in America," she added.

One of the largest collections of religious relics outside of the Vatican can be found at St. Anthony's Chapel in Pittsburgh. The chapel houses 5,000 items.

A trip to Ave Maria Grotto in Cullman, Alabama (55 miles north of Birmingham), offers visitors the chance to see miniature reproductions of 125 famous religious structures, like St. Peter's Basilica.

The most important part of a pilgrimage is attending Mass, said Bahou, who added that a pilgrimage is a spiritual journey, not a vacation.

"A daily Mass is a must at the shrines and it's also a must to find a local guide who can give an explanation of the dynamics of the shrines. Those are the two elements you need in a pilgrimage," he explained.

American Saints Validate Catholic Presence in U.S., Historian Says

by Paula Katinas, Senior Reporter

PROSPECT HEIGHTS — With the nation's 250th birthday fast approaching, Catholics can mark the occasion by reflecting on the contributions of American saints.

According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), there are 11 American saints.

The USCCB counts those who were American-born, naturalized Americans, or missionaries who served in the U.S. or its territories. The list includes well-known names like Sts. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Elizabeth Ann Seton, Katharine Drexel, Junipero Serra, Kateri Tekakwitha, and John Neumann. Others are Sts. Marianne Cope, Damien de Veuster of Molokai, Théodore Guérin, Isaac Jogues, and Rose Philippine Duchesne.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917), who was canonized in 1946, is the first naturalized U.S. citizen to become a saint. She was born in Italy and became an American citizen in 1909.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821) is the first saint born in the United States. She was born in New York City, two years before the Declaration of Independence.

The most recently canonized American saint is St. Junipero Serra, a missionary whose canonization took place in 2015.

Overall, sainthood for an American is "a very recent phenomenon," said Kathleen Cummings, a history professor at the University of Notre Dame and author of "A Saint of Our Own: How the Quest for a Holy Hero Helped Catholics Become American."

"One of the reasons the United States didn't have a saint for a long time is because they had so little wealth and influence in Rome," explained Cummings. "You actually needed that to move a cause forward."

But in the 19th century, Catholics started to develop a desire to see American saints. "What a cause for canonization does is to affirm someone's holiness. It also affirms that holiness can exist in particular times and places. And people started to say, 'We want a saint who lived on our land and walked where we walked,'" Cummings explained. "It was a way to validate themselves in the eyes of the universal Church and prove that holiness was incarnate on American soil."

By gathering evidence of someone's holiness, "they were also gathering evidence of their own relevance," Cummings added.

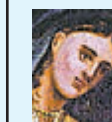
The path to sainthood differed for St.



St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
(1850-1917)
Founded numerous schools, orphanages, and hospitals in immigrant communities.



St. Rose Philippine Duchesne
(1769-1852)
Opened the first free school for girls located west of the Mississippi River.



St. Kateri Tekakwitha
(1656-1680)
Known as "Lily of the Mohawks," she was the first Native American saint.



St. Katharine Drexel
(1858-1955)
Founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and established schools for African Americans and Native Americans.



St. John Neumann
(1811-1860)
First American male saint. He was the fourth bishop of Philadelphia and founded the first diocesan school system.



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
(1774-1821)
Founded the Sisters of Charity and established the U.S.'s first Catholic school for girls.



St. Théodore Guérin
(1798-1856)
Founded the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in Indiana.



St. Marianne Cope
(1838-1918)
A Franciscan sister, she cared for lepers in Hawaii.



St. Damien de Veuster
(1840-1889)
He served patients stricken with leprosy in Hawaii.



St. Isaac Jogues
(1607-1646)
Missionary worked with Native Americans and was martyred in upstate New York.



St. Junipero Serra
(1713-1784)
A Franciscan friar, he founded several missions along the coast of California.

Frances Cabrini and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

St. Frances Cabrini was canonized in 1946, less than 30 years after her death in 1917, when supporters first proposed sainthood for her.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, on the other hand, had a longer road to sainthood. "Seaton's cause was first proposed in 1882, and it took a really long time," Cummings said.

It wasn't until 1940 that her cause for sainthood was officially opened, and it took another 35 years after that for her to become a saint in 1975.

One saint whose journey to sainthood was relatively quick was St. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955), a native of Philadelphia who founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacra-



ment. Her cause for canonization opened in 1964, nine years after her death. She was canonized in 2000.

"It wasn't too long. That had a lot to do with Philadelphia and the cardinal there, Cardinal (John) Krol, who really pushed for it," Cummings said.

Canonization can be a complicated process, often fraught with drama, she noted.

"Canonization is about holiness, but it isn't just about holiness. And it interacts with what Catholics think is important at any given time," she explained.

However long or short the road to sainthood, it doesn't diminish the holiness of the saints, Cummings added: "I think it magnifies it because holiness shines through all the politicking."