

# WELCOME TO THE



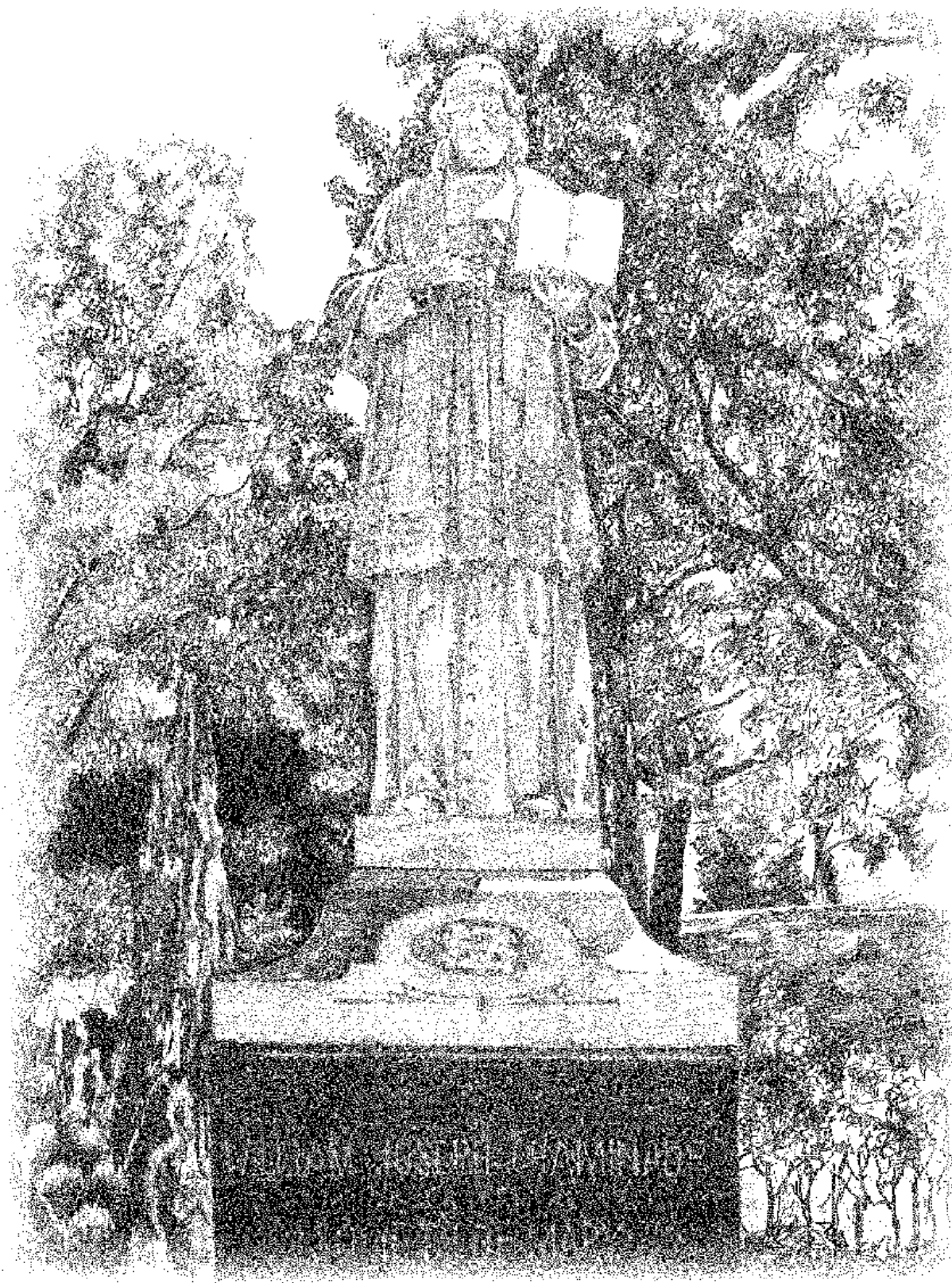


Illustration by Brother Don Smith, SM



## BERGAMO CENTER for Lifelong Learning at Mount Saint John

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4400 Shakertown Road  
Beavercreek, Ohio 45430-1075

Dear Bergamo Guest,

Welcome to Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning. We hope you find Bergamo to be a place to renew yourself and your spirit. We're committed to making your visit fulfilling and enjoyable. This booklet gives you, our guest, a brief overview of our center, points of interest around Mount Saint John, and history of the property and the Marianists.

Thank you for being our guest, and may the spirit of Bergamo be with you as you take leave.

Blessings,

The Bergamo Center Staff

# **The Marianists**

Province of the United States

## **Mission Statement**

Empowered by the Holy Spirit and inspired by the dynamism of Blessed Chaminade's charism, we—brothers and priests—vowed religious in the Marianist Family, live in community as equals. Through lives of prayer and Gospel service, we dedicate ourselves to the following of Jesus Christ, Son of God become Son of Mary.

Wherever we are sent we invite others to share in Mary's Mission of making Christ present in every age and culture by forming persons and communities of apostolic faith that advance justice and reconciliation. Committed to education, we minister with youth and in solidarity with the poor.

## **Bergamo Center**

### **Mission Statement**

Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning: a retreat and conference center founded in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and the Society of Mary, extends hospitality in a spirit of peace and renewal by providing a tranquil, natural environment in which individuals and groups refresh the body, expand the mind, and renew the spirit.

In the Marianist tradition Bergamo Center offers holistic spiritual formation programs for youth and adults throughout life that deepen self-awareness, develop interior life, and elicit a personal and communal faith response to changing times.

## **Bergamo Center Founders**

### **The Society of Mary (Marianists): Who They Are**

The Society of Mary (Marianists) is an international religious order of brothers and priests founded in 1817 in Bordeaux, France, by Blessed William Joseph Chaminade. In collaboration with Venerable Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon and Venerable Marie Thérèse de Lamourous, Father Chaminade founded the Marianist Family, which is comprised of the Society of Mary (Marianist brothers and priests); the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (Marianist Sisters); Lay Marianists; and the Alliance Mariale, a secular organization. Today the Marianist Family numbers close to 9,000 people with over 1,200 brothers and priests, over 400 sisters and over 7,000 Lay Marianists serving in over 30 countries.

Marianists have had a U.S. presence since they first arrived in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1849. In 1908, the American Province was divided into two: The Province of Cincinnati and the Province of St. Louis. The Cincinnati Province was divided in 1948 to form the Pacific Province and again divided in 1961 to form the New York Province. On July 1, 2002, the four provinces united as the Province of the United States, headquartered in St. Louis. Today more than 600 Marianist brothers and priests minister in the Province of the United States, which in addition to the US includes Eastern Africa, India, Ireland, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines.

In the United States, the Marianist Province sponsors three other retreat and spiritual centers located at Cape May Point, New Jersey, St. Louis, Missouri and San Antonio, Texas. The Marianists also sponsor the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio, St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, Chaminade University in Honolulu, Hawaii, over 18 primary and secondary education institutions, parishes and numerous ministries in areas such as social justice, spiritual formation, art, and the environment.

Marianists believe faith is best communicated through experiences of personal relationships and service to others. The quality and depth of community life is the foundation of Marianist ministries. Service is defined not by what Marianists do, but by how they do it.

Traditionally, education has been one of the Marianists' most active ministries. However, Marianists have brought their gift of faith formation and community to parishes, retreat centers, and the arts.

Marianist life is distinguished by a special charism, or gift given by God for the benefit of the Christian community. This charism guides all Marianists and programs. Characteristics that flow from the charism are:

### **People of Faith**

As spiritual individuals, Marianists carry out God's will in their service to others.

### **Followers of Mary**

Marianists view Mary as the model of discipleship. Just as Mary gave birth to Jesus, Marianists seek to bring the presence of Jesus to life within themselves and others.

### **People of Community**

Marianists believe that living, praying and supporting one another in community enriches their faith and strengthens their ability to meet world challenges especially problems associated with poverty and ignorance.

### **Discipleship of Equals**

Brothers and priests share equal status within the Society of Mary. This sense of equality has been expanded to include all members of the comprehensive Marianist Family. Leadership and structure develop out of specific needs within the community and for the benefit of the community.

### **Leader in Mission**

The Marianist mission is to bring Christ to the world and to work for the coming of His kingdom.

# Mount Saint John History

Mount Saint John is a 150-acre property that the Society of Mary has been a steward of since early 1900.

Mount Saint John has been a place of prayer since the earliest times. The first people to care for this land were hunters, ancestors of the late Indian nations, for whom this was part of their sacred hunting grounds between the Miami rivers. These inhabitants included Adena Indians (about 1,000 BC), Hopewell Indians (1,500 years ago), and Indians of the Fort Ancient Group (950 to 1700). In 1700 Miami Indians settled here, along with the Shawnee. Among the first Euro-Americans to arrive in this area were John Patterson and his family, who provided the land on which the Watervliet Shaker Community was founded in 1806.

The Shakers were marked by simplicity and spirit. The stained glass windows of Roncalli Assembly are reminiscent of the hip-roofed design of barns that once dotted this land. The Shakers are so named because they prayed in silence waiting to be filled with the Spirit. Once filled, they would “shake” or “dance” with the Spirit.

In mid-1800, the Society of Mary arrived in Cincinnati and came north to Dayton and founded St. Mary's School for Boys in 1850. Today, St. Mary's is known as the University of Dayton. The Society of Mary established their first North American province on Mount Saint John after it purchased the first 80 acres of the East Farm of the Shakers in 1910 from Orange A. Ozias.

Mount Saint John is now home to other ministries of the Marianist Family. In addition to Bergamo Center, there is Gallery St. John, Marianist Environmental Education Center, North American Center for Marianist Studies, the Marianist Mission and Mount Saint John Facilities. The Society's North American novitiate is located here, as is Meyer Hall, and Queen of Apostles parish.

# **Mount Saint John Ministries**

**Gallery St. John** (<https://www.facebook.com/GallerySaintJohn>) Provides a showcase for the Marianist Family of artists and other local artists. The gallery serves as an educational outreach of the Marianists to the Dayton community. A variety of original artwork is for sale at the gallery. Additionally, the gallery provides creative space for artists working in the areas of painting, photography, ceramics, liturgical design, furniture design, and design fundamentals.

**Marianist Environmental Education Center** (<https://meec.center/>)

The center is an education ministry in the Catholic tradition and is the steward of 100-acres on Mount Saint John. The center helps to increase awareness of the importance of the earth's life-sustaining processes through land restoration, ecological research, service learning, and educational programs.

**Marianist Mission** (<http://marianistmission.marianist.com/>)

The Marianist Mission is a card and gift ministry that provides income and outreach on behalf of the Society of Mary, and assists in the spiritual development of friends and benefactors.

**Marianist North America Novitiate**

Serves as a community for new members joining the Society of Mary.

**Meyer Hall**

As men of faith, prayer, and action, this community of brothers and priests is involved in a variety of local Marianist ministries.

**North American Center for Marianist Studies** ([www.nacms.org](http://www.nacms.org))

Provides a variety of resources to the brothers, sisters, priests, and laypersons who belong to or who are interested in knowing more about the Marianist Family. Through research, programs, publications, and its special library collection, the center strives to link the vision and rich heritage of the Marianist Founders to the contemporary Church and world.

**Queen of Apostles Chapel** ([www.qac-ohio.org](http://www.qac-ohio.org))

This place of worship is a non-territorial Catholic parish and community center founded in the light of the liturgical reforms of Vatican II.

# Mount Saint John Points of Interest

We invite you to walk the property and explore the Nature Preserve's 1.5 miles of trails or spend time in reflection at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, the Sacred Embrace, the Labyrinth, or one of the many statues located on the property.

## Sacred Prayer Space

**Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto** (across the street from Bergamo's main entrance)

The inspiration for this shrine came from Brother Michael Mertz, SM, who felt there should be a symbol of devotion to Mary that would be appropriate to the Society named in her honor. Perhaps one of the most scenic prayer spots on the property, the grotto, which is a replica of the Grotto in Lourdes, France, has its own small fishpond and is constructed of more than 230 tons of tufa rock and spans 110 feet. Each season brings a unique beauty to the grotto unlike any other found on the property. Today the grotto stands as a quiet place for prayer and for pondering the work and presence of God.

**Sacred Embrace** (at the main entrance to the Nature Preserve near Sieben Hall parking lot)

At the entrance to the Sacred Embrace is a gate with a blossom-like design that repeats the earthwork's shape. The gate is a symbol of the visitor's conscious choice to enter a journey of discovery. Once through the gate, the path unfolds revealing more than 38 species of plants that enhance the beauty and sacredness of the area. On the path, you are invited to ascend the meditation mound and pause for reflection.

**Labyrinth** (open grass field in front of the Novitiate)

The sacred symbol the labyrinth represents is found in religious traditions in various forms around the world for more than the past 4,000 years. This labyrinth is shaped into Mount Saint John's savanna grassland and is a replica of a labyrinth found on the ground floor of the Chartres Cathedral in France.

## Statues

1. **St John the Evangelist** (courtyard between Queen of Apostles Chapel and Marianist Center) the patron of the original Mount Saint John.
2. **Our Lady of the Pillar** (turnaround circle in front of Queen of Apostles chapel) famous Marian shrine in Saragossa, Spain, where Father Chaminade was inspired to found the Marianists.
3. **Blessed William Joseph Chaminade** (courtyard between Sieben Hall and Queen of Apostles Chapel) Founder of the Marianist Family, which is comprised of the Society of Mary (Marianist brothers and priests); the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (Marianist Sisters); Lay Marianists; and the Alliance Mariale, a secular organization
4. **St. Joseph** (in front of Meyer Hall) a patron of the Marianists
5. **Sacred Heart of Jesus** (entrance to the Nature Preserve across from the Sieben Hall parking lot) a popular devotion to the person Jesus
6. **Our Lady of the Eucharist** (Near the entrance of the Meditation Grove) Sculpted by Francis Grisez, S.M.
7. **St. Joseph the Worker** (courtyard between the grotto and art gallery) patron saint of the Marianists, Sculpted by Robert Koepnick.
8. **Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto** (in the Grotto) a replica of the famous shrine in Lourdes, France.
9. **Our Lady of Grace** (across the street overlooking the Queen of Heaven Cemetery since 1962 the burial place of Marianist religious) a popular statue of Mary. Sculpted by Robert Koepnick.
10. **Pope John XXIII** (inner courtyard of Bergamo Center) the sculptor, Henry Setter designed this stylized dove to reflect the Pope's letter to the bishops, "Peace on Earth". The spirit of Pope John XXIII is the spirit of Bergamo Center.
11. **Sacred Heart of Jesus** (near Parking Lot B) Sculpted by Robert Koepnick.
12. **Abstract Metal Sculptures** around the campus created by Bro. Mel Meyer, S.M.

# Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning

The Bergamo Center was opened in 1967. It was named after a town in northern Italy. Two famous individuals came from there: Maria Montessori (Montessori Method of teaching) and Saint Pope John XXIII (Giuseppe Roncalli). Bergamo was founded in the spirit of this man whose vision and charism were embodied in the famous ecumenical council known as Vatican II.

The naming of the Center's meeting rooms also has some significance.

The **Roncalli Assembly Chapel** is named after Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, later known as Saint Pope John XXIII.

The **Darby Room** is named after Father James M. Darby, SM, who was the Provincial during the major building expansion on Mt. St. John in the 1960s.

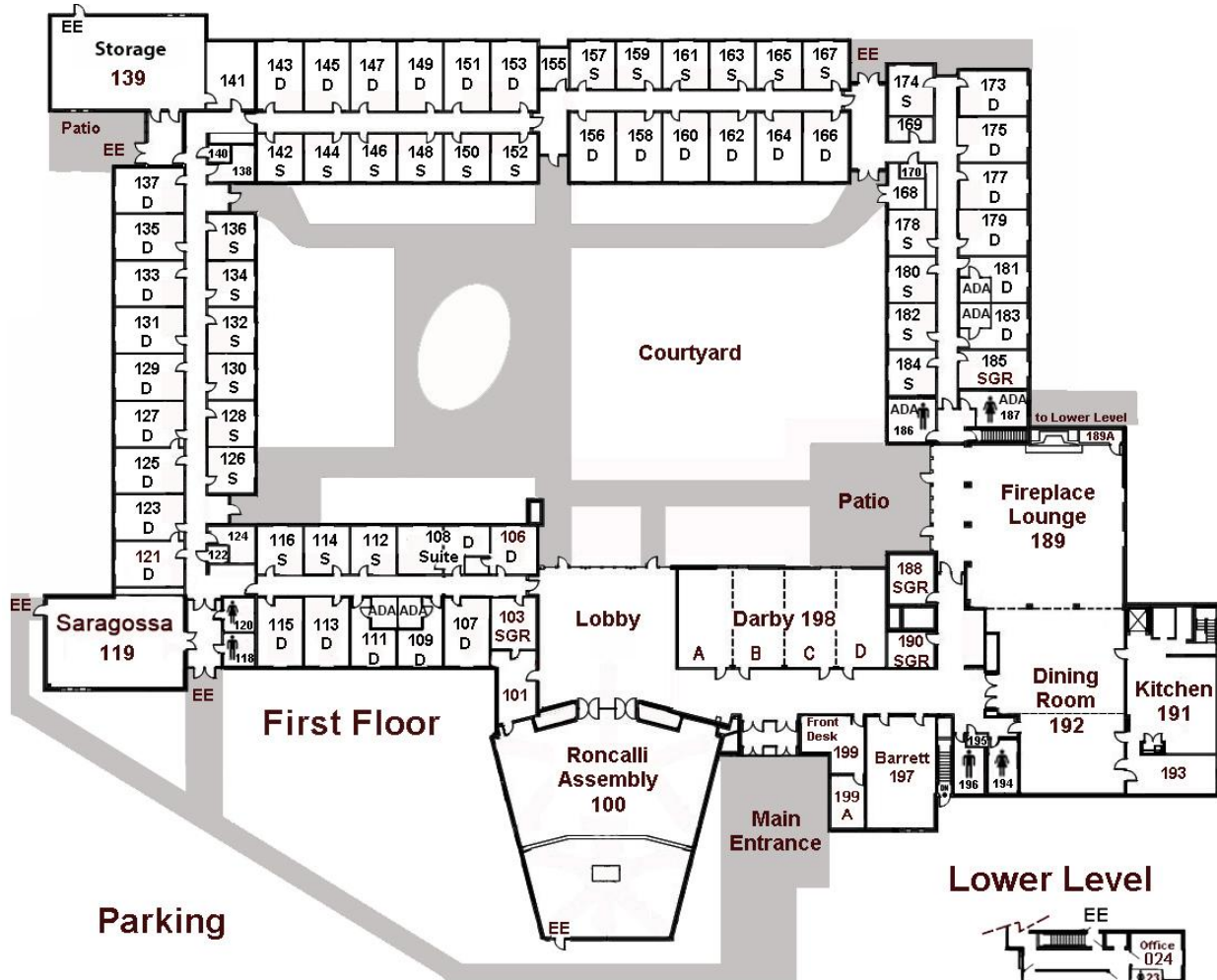
The **Barrett Room** is named after Father George Barrett, SM, who was the first director of the Bergamo Center. Father Barrett's office was part of the Barrett conference room.

The **Saragossa Room** is named after Saragossa, Spain where Blessed William Joseph Chaminade lived when he was exiled from France during the French Revolution. This is where he was inspired to devote his life to Mary and found the Society of Mary.

The **Hoelle Room** is named after Father Phillip C. Hoelle, SM, who served on the Bergamo staff in the religion department and also as the resident priest on staff for more than 25 years.

**Mary, Mother of Mercy Chapel** on the lower level of the Bergamo Center was named in 2015 to mark the Jubilee of Mercy.

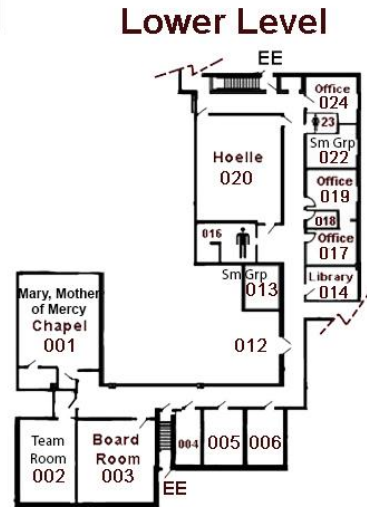
# Map of Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning



**Bergamo Center**  
4400 Shakertown Road  
Beavercreek, OH 45430

## Key

- D - Double Bedroom
- EE - Emergency Exit
- ADA - Accessible
- S - Single Bedroom
- SGR - Small Group Room



Rev. 3/1/23

# MOUNT SAINT JOHN

## INTERIOR CAMPUS



### MAP KEY:

- VISITOR PARKING LOTS
- BUILDINGS
- WALKING PATHS

### BERGAMO CENTER

*Conference & Retreat Center*

### CHAMINADE CENTER

North American Center for Marianist Studies  
Madeleine Room

### MARIANIST MISSION

*Prayer & Religious Card Ministry*

### MARIANIST RESIDENCES

Meyer Hall  
Novitiate

### OUTDOOR PRAYER SPACES

Chaminade Park  
Grotto & Stations of the Cross  
Labyrinth  
Bro. John Soehnel SM Meditation Grove  
Sacred Embrace

### QUEEN OF APOSTLES CHAPEL

*Non-territorial Parish Community*

### QUEEN OF HEAVEN CEMETERY & CHAPEL

*For Marianist Religious*

### SIEBEN HALL

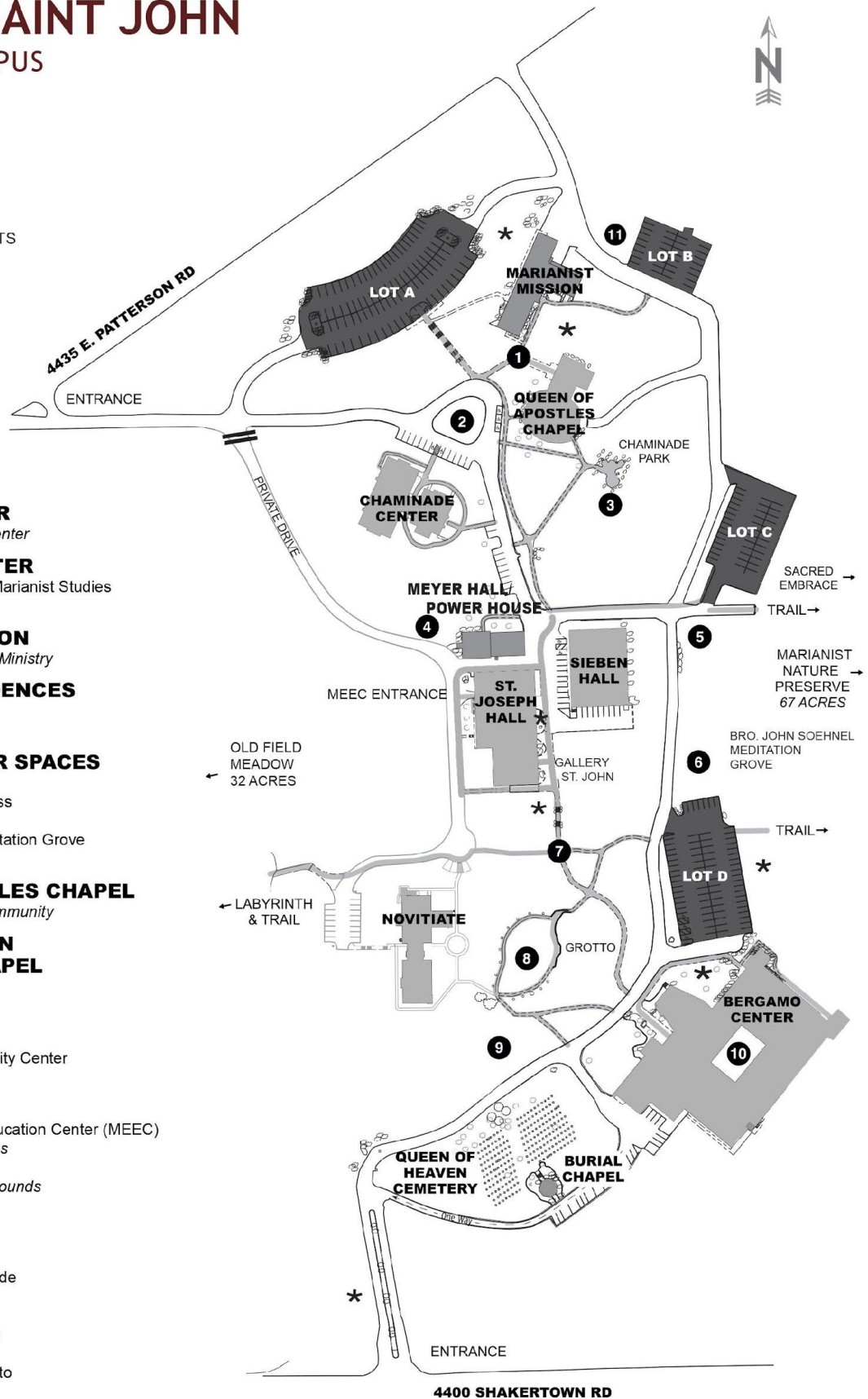
Gymnasium  
Queen of Apostles Community Center

### ST. JOSEPH HALL

Gallery St. John  
Marianist Environmental Education Center (MEEC)  
*Stewards of Natural Areas*  
Mount St. John Facilities  
*Stewards of Buildings/Grounds*

### SCULPTURES

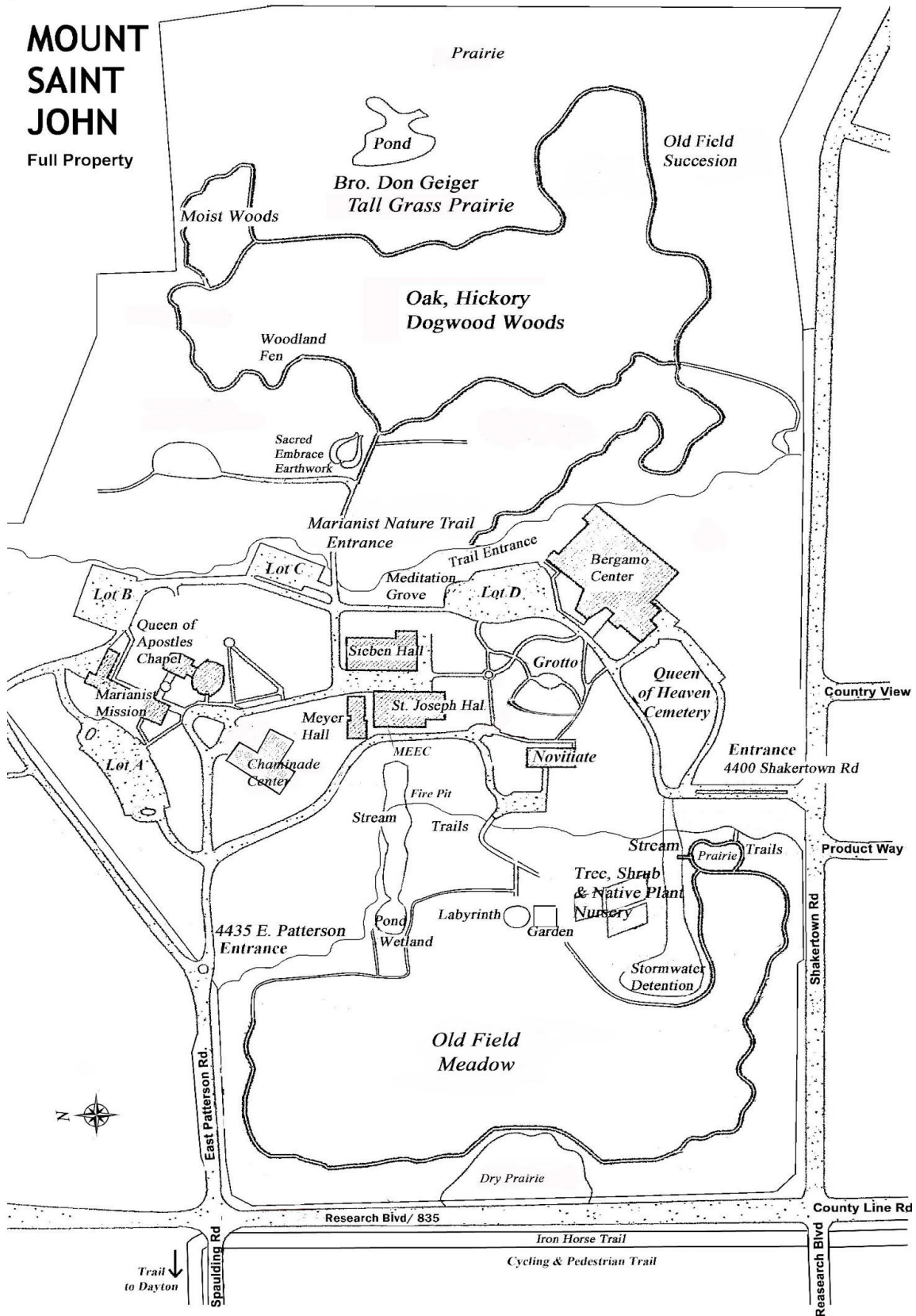
- ① St. John the Evangelist
  - ② Our Lady of the Pillar
  - ③ Blessed William Chaminade
  - ④ St. Joseph
  - ⑤ Sacred Heart of Jesus
  - ⑥ Our Lady of the Eucharist
  - ⑦ St. Joseph the Worker
  - ⑧ Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto
  - ⑨ Our Lady of Grace
  - ⑩ Saint Pope John XXIII
  - ⑪ Sacred Heart of Jesus
- ★ Bro. Mel Meyer, SM Sculptures



Interstate 675

# MOUNT SAINT JOHN

Full Property



# Guest Information

<b>Check-in / Checkout</b>	Check-in is 5 PM Checkout is 9 AM. Please return your key to the front desk.
<b>Front Desk</b>	The front desk hours vary from day to day and with groups. If you need assistance with purchasing items, use of technology, phones, fax or mail service, need additional linens, searching lost and found or have problems with your lodging these are all matters that can be addressed at the front desk. If no one is at the front desk please use the house phone and call 2239, 2227 or 2247 to contact a staff person. Alarm clocks are available upon request.
<b>Emergencies</b>	Please report all emergencies to the front desk. After closing time, use the desk house phone dialing 9 then 9-1-1. For non-emergency needs, use the front desk house phone and follow instructions to get the night manager.
<b>Fireplace</b>	The gas fireplace may be lit for groups and creates a nice ambiance for gatherings and socials. Please ask a Staff member to assist in lighting the gas fireplace.
<b>Keys</b>	Carry your room key at all times because your room locks automatically. The key also opens the main entrance. Please keep the key card away from phones and other electronic devices as it may become demagnetized.
<b>Pillows/Blankets</b>	Extra pillows, blankets and towels and some toiletries are available at the front desk.
<b>Recreational Facilities</b>	Maps and information on the Bergamo/Mount St. John nature preserve are located at the main desk. The preserve consists of a 1½ mile nature trail and 80 acres of woods, marsh and prairie habitats. Two guest bikes are available for adults to borrow.
<b>Room Temperature</b>	Each room has its own thermostat on the wall which guests can adjust for their personal comfort. It is a challenge to keep conference room temperatures comfortable for every individual. We recommend that guests bring a sweater or light jacket just in case.
<b>Small Appliances</b>	Per health department regulations, fire codes and insurance concerns all cooking is done by staff in the kitchen. No additional cooking devices (crock pots, toaster ovens, coffee pots) are permitted in the bedrooms, lobbies or conference rooms. Meals are served in the dining room. Coffee is available upon request in the dining room for early risers.
<b>Special Needs</b>	If you have any special needs or questions, please inform the front desk.
<b>Valuables</b>	Bergamo Center cannot be responsible for any valuables or articles left behind in the rooms. Please check your room carefully before leaving. Remember to lock your car and secure your valuables.
<b>WIFI/Technology</b>	WIFI access is available throughout the building on the MSJ Guest network. No password is needed. Mount Saint John actively logs & blocks specific categories of websites (such as hate crime, pornography, fire arms, etc.)

## Stay in Touch with the Bergamo Center

WIFI access is available throughout the building on the *MSJ Guest* network. No password is needed for WIFI.



Visit the [Bergamo Center Website](http://www.bergamocenter.org/)  
at <http://www.bergamocenter.org/>



[Contribute to Bergamo's](https://bergamocenter.givingfuel.com/bergamo1)  
mission with a donation  
through Giving Fuel:



<https://bergamocenter.givingfuel.com/bergamo1>



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The official Bergamo Center facebook page is:

**Bergamo Center – Non-Profit Organization**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bergamo-Center/1536533589960554>



Stay in touch with Bergamo  
through [Constant Contact](#)



You may subscribe to our regular Bergamo Center "*The Open Window*" newsletters through Constant Contact via this QR code or link from our Newsletter page on our website.

Thank you for your stay at the Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning.

**Please leave this Welcome booklet in the bedroom.**

If you would like a free complimentary copy of this welcome booklet you may obtain one at the front desk or download one from the Bergamo home page.