



Restoration and Preservation: "The Way"  
to the National Shrine Grotto  
of Our Lady of Lourdes



## The Way Forward

### "THE WAY"

Preserving our holy grounds and upholding the serenity of our beloved national shrine by restoring "The Way," the path between Mount St. Mary's Seminary and the National Shrine Grotto.

The National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes is in the midst of an invigorating process of dreaming, exploring innovative ideas and planning. The National Shrine Grotto seeks to utilize both time and resources in an efficient manner to preserve our holy grounds, uphold its serenity and nurture the site as a place of prayer and consolation through restoration and growth.

One particular area of focus is a very special path between Mount St. Mary's Seminary and the National Shrine Grotto, trodden by hundreds of thousands of individuals over more than 200 years, known as "The Way" to Mother Mary's grotto on the hill.

Today, we can hike up an overgrown, stony path among the trees on a mountain behind Mount St. Mary's Seminary, to a natural setting formed more than 200 years ago, a place dedicated to the devotion of the Blessed Virgin Mary. For hundreds of years, this path has been a pilgrimage of reflection and prayer for many, including the first native-born American to be canonized



"That all whose steps are raised upon these stairs  
may mount in spirit too upon this holy mountain,  
to tread the holy way where saints have walked  
along the years to Mary's grotto on the hill."

*Found on the plaque installed at the bottom of the path, near  
the Mount St. Mary's Seminary, on May 12, 1948*

a saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, who prayed and celebrated Mass with the Rev. John DuBois, founder of Mount St. Mary's College and Seminary, and much later the first U.S.-born martyr, Blessed Stanley Rother, S'63, who along with hundreds of seminarians assisted in the care of the National Shrine Grotto and its holy grounds after it became a national shrine.

An objective of preserving and restoring The Way is to create a stronger, geographical connection between Mount St. Mary's University, the seminary and the National Shrine Grotto. This pathway is in need of care and sponsorship to facilitate a more prayerful journey from the seminary to the National Shrine Grotto. As seminarians, students and pilgrims climb up the stairs seeking peace and inspiration at our beloved national shrine, we aim to offer places of reflection with benches and saint memorials to help them experience Christ along the way.

By helping with The Way, you are assuring the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes will move forward and continue to draw pilgrims of future generations by giving them the same opportunity you experienced—the unique intercessory power of prayer on these holy grounds.

## For more **information**

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