



Indiana Historical Bureau

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NEWS

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“Cardinal Joseph E. Ritter” state historical marker will be dedicated in New Albany, Indiana

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker is scheduled for July 22, 2007. The state historical marker recognizing Cardinal Joseph E. Ritter will be dedicated at the Cardinal Ritter Birthplace, 1218 East Oak Street, New Albany at 4:00 P. M. Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “Cardinal Joseph E. Ritter”:

Born in New Albany 1892. Was ordained 1917 after graduation from St. Meinrad College and Seminary and assigned to his first parish in Indianapolis. He advanced in the church, becoming Bishop of Indianapolis 1934 and first Archbishop of new Archdiocese of Indianapolis 1944. In the 1930s, he championed the rights of African Americans in Indiana. He was named Archbishop of St. Louis 1946. In 1947, he desegregated five Catholic St. Louis high schools amid protests. In 1961, he was elevated to Cardinal by Pope John XXIII; only Roman Catholic Cardinal from Indiana. Was an outspoken, progressive participant in all three sessions of Vatican Council II. Died 1967; buried in St. Louis.

Everyone is invited to attend this dedication ceremony for a state marker that commemorates the life of Indiana’s only native-born Catholic Cardinal.

Historical markers commemorate significant Indiana individuals, places, and events, and they help communities throughout Indiana promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. Via the Internet, that history reaches a worldwide audience. For more than 90 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1947, the marker format has been the large roadside marker, which has the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of the state of Indiana at the top. There are approximately 500 of these markers across the state.

For a digital version of this release and further information about this marker, the state Historical Marker Program, and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau website at www.IN.gov/history or call 317-232-2537.

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