



Indiana Historical Bureau

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News

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“Saint Theodora Guérin” Indiana State Historical Marker Will Be Dedicated in Saint Mary-of-the-Woods

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2009. The state historical marker commemorating the life and work of Saint Theodora Guérin will be dedicated on the Sisters of Providence motherhouse grounds, located on Grotto Lane directly across from Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. The ceremony will begin at 2:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “Saint Theodora Guérin”:

Born Anne-Thérèse Guérin in 1798 in France. In 1823, she entered the Catholic congregation Sisters of Providence of Ruillé; received the name Sister St. Theodore. Noted for her teaching, she led a mission from France to establish schools and orphanages in the Indiana wilderness; arrived here fall 1840 and established the Sisters of Providence in U.S. Guérin opened a female academy in July 1841, the predecessor of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. Initially, she and the sisters endured anti-Catholic sentiments and harsh frontier conditions. At her death in 1856, she had directed the opening of 11 schools in 9 Indiana towns. Pope Benedict XVI canonized her in 2006, naming her Saint Theodora Guérin.

The public is invited to attend the dedication ceremony for this Indiana historical marker that commemorates Saint Theodora Guérin’s efforts to establish the Sisters of Providence in the United States and her important contributions to education in Indiana.

State historical markers commemorate significant individuals, organizations, places, and events in Indiana history. These markers help communities throughout the state promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. 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 more information about this marker, the state Historical Marker Program, and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau’s website at www.IN.gov/history or call 317-232-2537.

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