

# Contents

## Feature Stories

---

### Marion Amberg

is an award-winning Catholic author from Santa Fe, New Mexico.

### Emily Cavins

is an author, Bible archaeologist, and Catholic pilgrimage tour host who lives in Minnesota with her husband, Jeff.

### Will F. Peterson

is the founder and president of Modern Catholic Pilgrim, a non-profit organization with the mission to deepen faith and build community across the United States through pilgrimage in the Catholic tradition.

### Father Jim Schmitmeyer

is a priest of the Diocese of Amarillo, Texas. He is the co-author of the blog, "Priesthood from the Inside Out," and director of the Diocesan Rural Life Committee.

### Father Paul Check

is the Executive Director of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

### Matt Hess

is the Director of Ministry and Hospitality for the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics in Maria Stein, Ohio.

### Melissa Miscevic Bramble

is the Director of Operations at the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha National Shrine & Historic Site. She and her family raise heritage-breed livestock in New York.

---

*Rural Spirituality: A Pilgrimage of Faith*

### Country Gems of Faith

*Rural holy sites across America*

— By Marion Amberg

12

### Kateri Tekakwitha

*A saint who knows all about pandemics*

— By Emily Cavins

16

### The Spiritual Pilgrimage

*Walking toward heaven*

— By Will Peterson

20

## Stories

---

### Pray for me, Brother

*A letter to Blessed Stanley Rother*

— By Father Jim Schmitmeyer

7

### Pilgrimage to the Everlasting City

*Ancient devotion is a reminder of our true home*

— By Father Paul Check

8

### Maria Stein Shrine

*Sustaining faith, supporting farmers*

— By Matt Hess

10

### St. Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine

*Place of faith and history*

— By Melissa Miscevic Bramble

18

### CRL Expansion Plans

*Endorsed by planning study participants*

— By CRL Staff

22

## News and Notes

---

CRL News

4

In This Issue - Executive Director James Ennis

6