

# OUR LADY OF THE RIVERS

## A GUIDE FOR SPONSORS

### WHERE DID THE IDEA BEGIN?

WITH THE DEVASTATING FLOOD OF 1951. PORTAGE DES SIOUX WAS APPARENTLY DOOMED, BY THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER ON THE EAST AND THE MISSOURI RIVER ON THE WEST. FATHER EDWARD SCHLATTMANN, PASTOR OF ST. FRANCIS' CHURCH AT PORTAGE, PROPOSED THAT THE TOWNSPEOPLE SEEK DELIVERANCE FROM THE ONRUSHING WATERS BY PRAYER -- TO MARY -- UNDER THE SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT TITLE, OUR LADY OF THE RIVERS. PORTAGE WAS SPARED.

### WHAT GROUP IS SPONSORING THE STATUE?

A NON-SECTARIAN, NON-PROFIT CORPORATION KNOWN AS OUR LADY OF THE RIVERS, INC., PROPERLY REGISTERED WITH AND RECOGNIZED BY THE STATE OF MISSOURI.

### WHAT IS OUR LADY OF THE RIVERS STATUE?

A STATUE OF MARY. MOST CHRISTIANS BELIEVE SHE IS THE MOTHER OF JESUS. MANY BELIEVE HER TO BE THE MOTHER OF ALMIGHTY GOD. SHE HAS MANY TITLES OF REVERENCE. NOWHERE IS SHE KNOWN AS OUR LADY OF THE RIVERS.

### WHERE DID THE NAME COME FROM?

THREE MAJOR RIVERS -- THE ILLINOIS, THE MISSISSIPPI, AND THE MISSOURI -- MEET NEAR PORTAGE DES SIOUX. THESE RIVERS DRAIN SOMETHING LIKE 1,500,000 SQUARE MILES OF MIDWEST LAND AND ARE FED BY LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF STREAMS.

### WHAT PURPOSE WILL THE STATUE SERVE?

IT WILL BEAUTIFY THE ALTON LAKE. IT WILL PROVIDE A WHOLESOME SPIRITUAL CHARACTER TO ONE OF THE NATION'S BEAUTY SPOTS. IT WILL LINK THIS EXCELLENT RECREATION AREA WITH THE HISTORIC RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS THAT HAVE ALWAYS PREVAILED IN THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY. IT WILL DRAW NATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE ALTON LAKE, WHICH IN EFFECT WILL BE THE BIRTHPLACE OF A NATIONAL SHRINE. (BOTH TIME AND NEWSWEEK AND MANY OTHER NATIONAL MAGAZINES WILL BE REPORTING THE DEDICATION OF THE STATUE). IT WILL PLACE THE ALTON LAKE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF MARY.

WHERE WILL THE STATUE BE LOCATED?

AT THE SOUTH END OF PORTAGE DES SIOUX, IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, CONNECTED BY A 550-FOOT CAUSEWAY TO THE SHORE.

WHY THERE?

THIS LOCATION OFFERS THE BEST OVERALL VIEW FROM THE TOWN OF PORTAGE DES SIOUX, FROM THE RIVER, AND FROM THE ILLINOIS SIDE. AT THIS LOCATION, THE SHRINE WILL BE MORE ACCESSIBLE TO VISITORS.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

LESS THAN \$50,000

HOW MUCH HAS BEEN RAISED TO DATE?

LESS THAN \$10,000 *2,700*

WHY SO LITTLE?

BECAUSE A LARGE SHARE OF THE FUNDS MUST COME FROM PEOPLE WHO USE THE ALTON LAKE. THERE HAS BEEN NO SYSTEMATIC ORGANIZATION OF THE HARBORS TO DATE.

HAS THE STATUE BEEN MADE?

YES. IT WAS BUILT BY A MINNEAPOLIS FIRM, WAS SHIPPED TO PORTAGE IN EARLY SPRING, AND IS NOW STORED AT THE LOCAL FIREHOUSE.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE?

- A. CONSTRUCTION-WISE
- B. FINANCE-WISE *get within 25%*

WHEN WILL THE DEDICATION BE?

IF ALL GOES WELL FUNDRAISING-WISE, DURING THE SUMMER. *late*

WILL ANYONE PROFIT FROM THIS STATUE?

No. ALL FUNDRAISING EFFORTS TO DATE HAVE BEEN HANDLED BY VOLUNTEERS. ALL CAMPAIGN MATERIAL HAS BEEN PROFESSIONALLY WRITTEN AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE SHRINE. ALL PRINTING STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN RENDERED AT COST AS HAS MUCH OF THE MATERIAL THAT HAS GONE INTO THE CAUSEWAY.

IS THE U. S. GOVERNMENT COOPERATING?

YES. THE STATUE WILL BE MARKED AS A NAVIGATIONAL AID ON ALL FUTURE COAST GUARD MAPS.

WHERE CAN I SEND MY CHECK?

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: FATHER SCHLATTMANN, PORTAGE DES SIOUX, MO.