



Father Paul Thunich, now retired, has undertaken the restoration of the grotto grounds and statues.



Newly painted figures anticipate the return of the Christ Child statue in this nativity scene.

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A marble Archangel Michael came from Italy around 1937 and stands guard near the grottoes.

# Grottoes Respond to Restoration

their workshop where they put fresh coats of paint on peeling statues, fix missing fingers or arms and generally improve the appearance of the life-like figures.

The grottoes are a unique series of stone shrines that tunnel through part of the hillside next to the seminary buildings and branch out into a beautiful, small green valley crisscrossed with paths, trees and shrubbery.

They were built by Brother Fridolin Iten, SVD, who was born in Zug, Switzerland and was sent to America by the founder of the Society of the Divine Word, Father Arnold Janssen.

Brother Fridolin completed work on the joyful and sorrowful mysteries of the rosary grottoes before his death in 1939. Several of the glorious mysteries were started sometime after that, but they still remain unfinished.

He also added an extra feature, stained glass

skylights to illuminate some of the scenes.

The Cohesus grottoes were part of several others constructed by Brother Fridolin. He also built them at Divine Word establishments at Techny, Ill., Epworth, Iowa, East Troy, Wis., and Island Creek, Mass.

On the rustic paths leading to and around the grottoes there are several other outdoor shrines including Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Theresa, the Little Flower and patroness of the missions; and the Stations of the Cross.

Father Thunich and the rest of the seminary community take great pride in the work they're doing to restore the grottoes and hope that they will again become a source of spiritual enlightenment for those who visit them.

The grottoes are open to the public now during the day and the community asks that children be accompanied by adults.



The Carrying of the Cross



The Resurrection



The Crucifixion