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**CELEBRATION OF
FATHER JUSTIN BELITZ'S
60 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
OF SERVICE**

JUNE 13, 2021



ORDINATION DAY - JUNE 13, 1961

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WELCOME TO THE CELEBRATION OF FR. JUSTIN'S
60TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION.

Justin has touched the lives of thousands (and possibly millions) of people during the past 60 years, and you are one of them!

Thank you for joining us today! We all have a special part to play in God's plan, and today is another opportunity to play your part. Today, of course, the lead character is Justin, but we are all supporting characters that continue to live and spread his message of meditation and love.

So, share your story today, not only by reminiscing with Justin, but share it with someone else who has also been touched by this kind and loving man. Don't be shy. Be sure to mingle with the other attendees and share your stories of how we are all connected.

On behalf of the Hermitage Board, I welcome you and sincerely thank you for your presence today, and also for your love and support for the ongoing mission of The Hermitage.

Greg Vargo
Chairperson, The Franciscan Hermitage Board of Directors

Today At The Franciscan Hermitage

10:00 am

Mass of Celebration on the Lawn with Special Music
Fr. Justin Belitz Officiating

11:00 am

Open House
—Visit with Fr. Justin
—Share Your Memories
—Enjoy Small Plate and Beverage from the Kitchen
—Watch Slide Show in Library
—Enjoy Background Music with Jay Skinner

12:30 pm

Fr. Justin in Concert - Enjoy the Accordion

2:00 pm

Open House Concludes



Fr. Justin's First Mass After 1961 Ordination



The Hermitage was founded in 1985 by Fr. Justin Belitz. The house was built in 1927 and sits on approximately 7 acres of mostly wooded grounds adjacent to Fall Creek. The house was originally the home of the Roberts Dairy Family. The chimney at the rear of the property is what remains of the Roberts' country cabin. The cabin was built in the early 1920's and used as a weekend place of relaxation before the main building was constructed. The property was along Millersville Road which originally was a Native American trail.

The floor inlay in the entry and dining room that resembles a swastika is a Native American Peace sign. The Roberts family were aware of the Native American history and wanted to memorialize the original inhabitants of the area. (For clarification, the German swastika points in the opposite direction and did not come into existence until after the house was built. The sign itself: whether constructed in one direction of the other, is an ancient form of a cross.)

The parquet floor in the foyer was donated to the Hermitage by Mick and Marcia Wick. The framed pieces to the right and to the left of the front door are the creations of Millie Shortridge. She was 94 when she produced these pieces as well as quilted and crocheted work throughout the building.

The wall racks in the foyer were built by the father of Dr. Joe Bottorff. Dr. Bottorff is a Methodist minister and was the first Director of the Hermitage.

The St. Francis statue behind the gate in the foyer depicts an incident in the life of Francis when his father locked him in the family dungeon.

The chapel is interfaith and holds symbols and pictures of several religious traditions. The stained glass windows were created by Frank Godek (Justin's cousin) and are a memorial to Fr. Justin's mother, Helen Belitz.

The painting above the fireplace in the parlor was done by Mrs. Roberts. It depicts her favorite flowers. She presented this painting to the Hermitage when the building was dedicated in the Spring of 1985.

The coo-coo clock in the upstairs foyer was donated by Nancy Cassetta, of Alliance, Ohio.

The altar was a gift of several volunteers including Francine Kiefer and Mae Elkins of Indianapolis, as well as Dr. and Mrs. John Matoole of Omaha, Nebraska.

The office and bathroom at the rear of the main level were originally a veranda. It was converted to a bedroom suite when Mr. Roberts could no longer navigate the stairs. The rope accessories on the wall and railing of the main foyer are the work of Mr. Roberts, an avid seaman.

The statues on the stair landing between and main and upper level were donated by Fr. Mario DiCuccio, OFM when he was the Director of the Hales Franciscan High School in Chicago.

Kitchen renovations were done by members of the Doyle family of Carmel, Indiana.

Welcome to the serenity, peace and love that the Hermitage offers!