

# in Every Thing give Thanks



*Nestled in the heart of Iowa corn country lies an out-of-the-way, private refuge for committed End Times Christians. Once a year they gather together for community, prayer, and worship. When they return home, they are spiritually fortified to resume the battle for souls.*

The 2022 WFRN Pilgrimage was a great experience for everyone attending in-person or watching on-line. The WFRN members, the 'Hailstones', have much to be thankful for.

First and foremost, we owe gratitude to **GOD** for answering our many prayers for safe travels, good weather, *and miracles!* The LORD's gracious provisions for this year's wonderful pilgrimage cannot be overstated, and our firm trust in His faithfulness toward the Remnant church has been well rewarded.

Sincere appreciation goes out to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of this multi-day spiritual gathering. At the risk of overlooking someone (apologies in advance), here are the contributors who deserve public recognition.

At the head of the line is **William Tapley**, to whom we tip our hats for having the audacity early this year to propose the preposterous possibility of another pilgrimage! Undoubtedly, hosting this pilgrimage over an extended weekend demanded his considerable self-giving efforts, especially in terms of stamina and expenditures: ongoing communications with volunteers or speakers, confirming reservations at restaurants, readying his refuge for guests, buying all sorts of essentials—as well as paying for several airline tickets. We are deeply indebted to his generosity, his hospitality, and his leadership.

Next, we extend praise and thanks to **Sandra Lavini** for her steadfast efforts planning and keeping track of each day's events and attendees. Without her able assistance, attention to detail, and superlative organizational skills, the pilgrimage would not have run as smoothly. Sandra reported that pilgrimage attendance grew from last year's 24 to this year's total of 43. It was very heartening how the newcomers were treated like long-lost friends.

Also, we are grateful to Mr. Tapley's nephew **Father James Schultz** for celebrating Holy Mass, hearing confessions, and enrolling pilgrims in the Brown Scapular. His consecrated presence was an extra-special grace. And let's not forget his brother **Tim Schultz**, who helped Father in every way, setting up the altar and assisting at Mass. Everyone felt really blessed when GOD the Father said, in a message to John Leary, that Fr. Schultz was a “holy priest”.

Of course, without **Sam Fisher** serving as our very own I.T. Specialist, the Hailstones who were unable to attend the pilgrimage in person would not have benefited from the live-streamed presentations. Sam's undisputed expertise with electronics was heavily utilized during much of the pilgrimage, particularly as he ensured the successful transmission of broadcasts—which, providentially, captured the moments when Rachael realized that her Rosary beads had changed! And, as an amusing treat, Sam entertained us with his amazing ability to mimic bird songs!

And speaking of bird songs, WFRN's very own songbird, **Peter Perrine** deserves a shout-out for his *a cappella* singing of the “hymn of the day” after each morning's live-streamed Rosary, and for leading the Hailstones in various songs around the campfire at night. He helped enrich our prayer time, our sense of community, and our joy. As we had hoped, he sang “Peace in the Valley,” a la Elvis. It so happened that during the singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Sunday evening, Tapley was inside his house; he could hear everyone singing, and it struck him several times that their voices sounded sweet as angels. After the pilgrims finished praying the sung version of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Peter sang Tapley's “Hail Mary, Hail Mary”, adding vocal embellishments to everyone's delight.

Our main speakers were **John and Carol Leary**. The Hailstones were blessed and thankful that they fit our pilgrimage into their busy 2022 speaking schedule, and for their openness to linger in Osage for 5 days! The heavenly messages, which were received during their participation in the pilgrimage and shared with WFRN, have edified and encouraged us in our faith during these incredible End Times. Everyone commented on how down-to-earth, good-natured, and humble the married couple were. “I especially appreciated how Carol laughed out loud at every one of my corny jokes,” Mr. Tapley remembers.

We also convey our appreciation to two other speakers:

**Kathleen Christine Di Valerio** shared her in-depth knowledge of the miraculous and mysterious tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe. She used a full-size reproduction of the tilma as a visual aid, along with other resources, during her thorough presentation.

**Frank LoCascio** gave an overview of the sensitive topics contained in his forthcoming book, *The Great Resets*. Also, he proved to be a valuable newcomer to our team by setting up a very professional sound and public-address system for our use. And, surprisingly, he coaxed Mr. Tapley to sit for a life-mask—much to Tapley's chagrin and everyone else's enjoyment—as Tapley squirmed for twenty minutes under a thick layer of rubber, breathing through his nose.

Thanks go out, as well, to **Sister Renee**, for welcoming members of our group (on the opening day of the pilgrimage) to tour her nearby refuge, dedicated as a sanctuary for clergy.

Last, but certainly not least, **everyone who “only” attended** are entitled to our rousing applause—for without an audience, what's the point in welcoming speakers! Many attendees went to great pains and probably expense to make the trip to Iowa, and many also drove up to the shrine in Wisconsin. Travel can be arduous, but even more so when covering unfamiliar territory. So, kudos to *everyone* who braved through any apprehension and signed up for this pilgrimage!

Chances are good that many of you pitched in during the various events, helping in obvious or unnoticed ways. “Many hands make the burden light.” Well, you all were definitely the LIGHT of our WFRN world! We want to thank all the **men** who helped set up and tear down the tents. (Mr. Tapley especially enjoyed meeting 'Scrantonman95', a retired police officer and security agent, who has been encouraging Tapley ever since the very first video posted on YouTube back in 2008!) And we thank all the **women** who did such a great job managing the picnic and dealing with the cleanup afterwards. There was a lot of camaraderie and banter among the participants. Someone remarked that the pilgrims were like the early Christians, whom non-Christians would note in astonishment, “*See how they love one another!*” Tapley believes it is no coincidence that our End Times Remnant church is a mirror-image of the very early Church.



Several attendees also visited side attractions, such as the County Fair and our famous Osage thrift shop, which they reported was quite large and contained an unusual variety of bargain 'treasures'. Since our pilgrimage stretched out to five days this year, we sampled a variety of local eating spots. And a few pilgrims drove to other Iowa attractions: specifically the Field of Dreams, Dubuque, and the Grotto of the Redemption in West Bend.

Without a doubt, the high point of this year's pilgrimage was when Rachael revealed after the Sunday night Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet that her wooden Rosary beads had miraculously changed appearance: The Immaculate Heart of Mary images on three of the Our Father beads changed to two images of Madonna and Child and a beautiful picture of St. Therese, the patron saint of the Tapley refuge! This miracle, along with John Leary's messages connected with the pilgrimage, are signal graces from Our LORD, to assure us that He is pleased with our spiritual efforts.

In conclusion, even if we never have another pilgrimage, this one was surely special. Tapley said, "It's amazing the great distances that most everyone had to travel to reach Iowa. I'm beginning to think that the LORD brought me here to this central location so that our WFRN network could attract visitors from all over: Florida, Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kansas, Illinois, Minnesota, etc."

