

Danville, Ill.

COMMERCIAL-NEWS

Home provides Catholic retreat

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FYI

For more information, call St. Anthony Catholic Church in Hoopston at 283-6211.

BISMARCK — As the man in charge of the emergency rooms at the Hoopston Community Memorial and Iroquois Memorial hospitals, Dr. John Timmons works 60 to 70 hours a week.

Apparently he was not busy enough, because he and his wife, Mary Timmons have begun using their weekends to play hosts to events for spiritual reflection on their heavily wooded property along Illinois Route 1 near Bismarck.

"The Timmons are hoping that one day (their property) will be a wonderful place for retreat," said the Rev. Bowan Schmitt of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Hoopston. "They are in contact with the (Peoria) Diocese to see if this can grow to that level."

The Timmons own 230 acres, 15 acres of which they have set aside as an area for spir-

itual reflection.

The Timmons are using the land to promote the Apostolate for Family Consecration, which is connected with the Roman Catholic Church.

"The mission of the Apostolate is to help the family grow in knowledge and faith" together, Mary Timmons said.

A finished barn is at the center of their plans. The building features eight bedrooms, three bathrooms and two central areas for spiritual discussion and reflection.

The Timmons' family-oriented message is drawing the interest of local Catholics.

About 80 people attended an event called Holy Family

Retreat

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Adventure Weekend on the property. The hosts were happy with the turnout.

"Being our first one, we didn't want to be overwhelmed, so the 16 families who came was a very manageable number," Mary Timmons said.

The event was a blend of faith and recreation.

"The weekend included a mix of religious devotion — such as Mass, devotions, rosaries and talks given by priests — mixed with family fun," she said.

Family activities included a treasure hunt, nature walks and flower planting.

St. Anthony's helped sponsor

and promote the weekend event.

"It was to help Catholic families thrive and flourish in our modern world," Schmitt said. "I was there for (almost) the whole weekend and was impressed by how organized it was and by the fruits of their efforts."

Although it was their first weekend-long event, the Timmons have been holding religious sessions for almost a year.

"If you include holy hours, we've had 28 events here," John Timmons said.

The Sunday afternoon family hours include viewing a video from the Apostolate for Family Consecration and saying a rosary.

The Timmons' main goal is to help Catholic families grow in their faith in communion with the Catholic Church.

"I think their vision is wonderful," Schmitt said.

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