

# Pilgrimage Draws More Than 200

## *Sisters of the Precious Blood*

For seven years it's been going strong and still growing: the annual *Stepping Up the Call* pilgrimage across portions of Mercer, Auglaize and Shelby counties in Ohio to foster awareness of vocations. And despite some drizzle and gray skies, this year's may have been the best attended. More than 200 pilgrims, first-timers and regulars, took part in some facet of the 8-mile walking and/or driving pilgrimage on May 7.

The 2011 pilgrimage included stops at five churches and shrines, with prayer and witness talks at each of the sites.

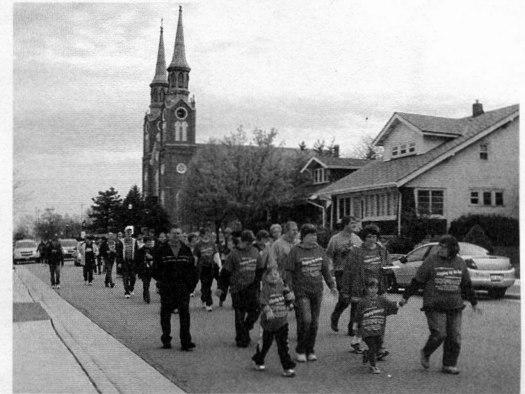
Presenters from the C.P.P.S. included Fr. Rick Nieberding, C.P.P.S.; candidate Matt Keller; Fr. Vince Wirtner, C.P.P.S.; and Br. Tim Cahill, C.P.P.S.

The pilgrimage began

with morning prayer at St. Augustine Church in Minster, Ohio. The Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics, the first mother-house of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, was the site for lunch, presentations and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The closing Mass was celebrated at St. Charles Center in nearby Carthage.

In addition to praying for vocations at each stop, participants heard talks on the various expressions of Catholic Christian vocations: married and single life, diocesan and religious order priesthood, the diaconate, and religious sisterhood and



**Pilgrims set out from St. Augustine Church in Minster, Ohio, during *Stepping Up the Call*.**

*(Photo by Sr. Regina Albers, C.P.P.S.)*

brotherhood.

*Stepping Up the Call* is co-sponsored by the Sisters and Missionaries of the Precious Blood and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.