

Local hero

Portland Catholic helps write JVC founder's posthumous memoir.
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Refugees saved

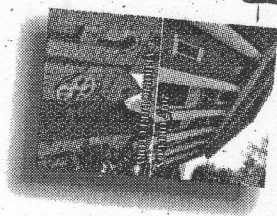
An Iraqi family finds a home in Oregon.
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Ed Langlois/Catholic Sentinel

Chatting with Archbishop John Vlazny in front of St. Mary Cathedral are students and a chaperone from Biskupské Gymnázium, a Catholic high school in Zdar nad Sazavou, Czech Republic; Terezie Juránková, Zita Jahodová, Jaroslava Retická, Tomáš Bláha and Bernardeta Fabiny.

Czech hosts become guests

By Ed Langlois

OF THE CATHOLIC SENTINEL

Gladly returning a favor of hospitality, Blanchet Catholic School in Salem and Archbishop

John Vlazny last month hosted 19 Czech nationals, including 15 students from Biskupské Gymnázium, a Catholic high school in

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Czech guests

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Zdar nad Sazavou, a city of 24,000 near the center of the Czech Republic.

In fall of 2015, Archbishop Vlazny joined Cardinal Ann Manz, Blanchet's music and performing arts teacher, in leading a tour in the Czech Republic and Austria for Blanchet's music group, Inspire. The welcome in Zdar nad Sazavou, home of the Pilgrimage Church of St. John of Nepomuk, was memorable. Even Cardinal Dominik Duka made the trek from Prague to attend the concert put on by the visiting Oreganians.

"It was an unforgettable experience for our students and adults, one that certainly expanded the horizons of their imagination and potentials for friendship and collaboration," recalls Archbishop Vlazny, retired leader of

the archdiocese and a descendant of Czechs.

The Czechs' visit to Oregon included a dance at Blanchet, an American Halloween, a tour of Mount Angel Abbey, a trip to the Oregon Coast Aquarium, a tour of Marist High in Eugene and a look at the Oregon Capitol.

One memorable event was a Czech-inspired Mass at the East Salem Community Center. The Czech students, who are vocalists, joined in leading song.

"Since I was asked by Archbishop Sample to preside at the celebration, I was especially delighted to have the opportunity to greet all the students, but especially the curious, happy and talented youngsters from the homeland of all my four grandparents," Archbishop Vlazny said. edl@catholic sentinel.org