

## End Your Quest For Quiet At Grailville

By Lynn Wasnak

Is it time your group got together someplace away from it all, to do a little “think-tank” work, to get to know one another better...or just to get away from the ringing telephones? One place in Ohio where you can do just that—without frills and fanfare—is Grailville, a conference center and retreat located on 360 acres of rolling farmland near Loveland, about 40 minutes northeast of downtown Cincinnati.

Grailville was launched in the early '40s as the main U.S. center for The Grail, an international women's movement. Though started by Catholic women, the movement is ecumenical and does not make political statements of its own. Instead, it serves as a place of dialogue for all views, to encourage the development of the creativity and potential of all people, particularly women.

Though women's and social service groups and educational organizations from around the country have been meeting here for many years, Grailville is becoming a popular “retreat” for business people as well. Both men and women are welcome, as individuals or groups, for day sessions, longer seminars, or simply private rest, relaxation, or meditation.

Grailville consists of several attractive, well-maintained buildings. Don't come here expecting thick carpets and glistening chrome, or waitresses in miniskirts, or liveried doormen. Do expect a genuine natural feeling—lots of wood and natural textures, a calm and friendly resident staff.

Chances are you'll see very little plastic. There is a farm-like simplicity about the place. The “hospitality kitchen” is exactly that—a farm kitchen complete with stove, tea kettle, and cups at the ready. Grailville is an architectural mix, from the sprawling Victorian main house with its modern dining addition, to the wide-windowed expanse of the Caravansary, a gathering place for up to 100 meeting participants. Between the two is an art store/book shop that offers interesting hand-crafted items as well as books on personal development and other appropriate subjects.

Down a path, near the start of the nature trails, is “The Oratory,” a restored barn, redesigned by William Schickle, a local designer. This award-winning structure is Grailville's spiritual center.

Overnight accommodations at Grailville are available for up to 45 people, single occupancy, or 80, double occupancy. Home-baked breads, fresh vegetables and beef raised on Grailville's farm make up the nutritious home-style dining experience. Vegetarian meals are prepared upon request. Alcoholic beverages are optional. (There is no “open bar” at Grailville, but wine is served at some meetings and dinners.)

Each resident building has its own meeting and refreshment center. No more than one group occupies a particular building at any given time, so the space can be customized for specific needs. The buildings and grounds of Grailville are accessible to the handicapped.

All resident groups share meals together in the large dining area, and each visitor is expected to wash his or her own dishes and utensils. Though it may be difficult to picture a top executive washing his own dishes, a group that shares the chores as well as the meal is bound to interact in a cooperative way. For this reason, many management training classes meet here, along with study groups and product development teams.

Grailville is also ideally suited for individual renewal and reflection. When the fast track gets you down, Grailville offers the serenity of trees, flowers, and grassy fields. There are hiking trails to walk, birds to watch, quiet places to sit and think.

Overnight reservations at Grailville are quite reasonable. Day meetings can be accommodated for \$12 per person, per day, including lunch.

And if your business doesn't have a program in the planning stages, but you'd still like to visit Grailville, check out the extensive program list developed by the Grailville staff. Weekend retreats, art fairs, personal development seminars, and workshops take place throughout the year, covering a wide range of interests and activities.