

CRBFI – IN THE NEWS

ARCHBISHOP FABRE VISITS CARDINAL RITTER BIRTHPLACE

Louisville's new Archbishop Shelton Fabre made a visit to the *Cardinal Ritter Birthplace* on May 25, 2023. The CRBFI board of directors welcomed this opportunity to share with him the restored birthplace of the man who planted the seeds of school desegregation in America in the early 20th century.



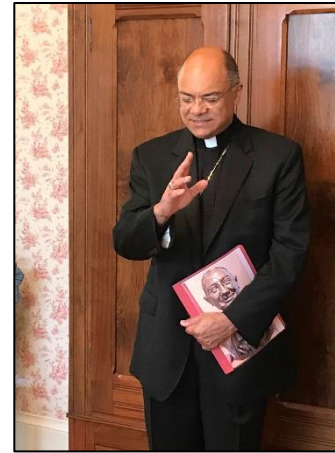
Ray Day (CRBFI Board Secretary/Archivist) discussing the history of Cardinal Ritter with Louisville Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre in the Ritter Museum. Fabre became archbishop of Louisville one year ago and kindly accepted our invitation to visit. The bronze in the photo was created by renown local sculptor Guy Tedesco.

A brief video, *The Life of Cardinal Ritter* was shown. (The video is available for viewing on our website at <http://www.cardinalritterhouse.org/archive/in-the-news-stories/> . In the *Ritter Museum Room*, Archbishop Fabre viewed panels telling the story of Ritter's youth and ordination, his desegregation efforts in Indianapolis and St. Louis, his ground-breaking ecumenical outreach to other denominations, and his rise to the rank of Cardinal and his participation the Second Vatican Council. The archbishop was also introduced to our bronze bust of the cardinal and a scale model of a proposed future Cardinal Ritter legacy monument (far right in photo). Several board members then escorted the archbishop to the historical marker near the front entrance of the Birthplace.



L to R - Andrea Byrne, Pat Stumler, Greg Sekula (Board Emeritus), Friar Mark Weaver (St. Mary's Parish Pastor), John Blocker, Archbishop Fabre, Ray Day, Fr. Steve Banet, and David Hock.

The group gathered in the newly restored *Ritter Museum Birth Room*. Where archivist Ray Day told the story of the restoration. The archbishop graciously accepted the invitation to bless the room, asking God to protect the cardinal's legacy, those who were involved in preserving it, and the well-being of all who visit the site.



Archbishop Fabre blessing the Ritter Museum Birth Room

L to R - Ray Day (CRBFI Board Secretary and Archivist), Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre,

Friar Mark Weaver (St. Mary's Parish Pastor), David Hock, and Fr. Steve Banet), proudly show the Ritter Museum Birth Room. Cardinal Ritter was born here on July 20, 1892. The room was restored to that period two months ago, and features photos of Ritter's parents, Bertha & Nicholas Ritter.

The group returned to the Neighborhood Resource Center for a relaxed Q & A session where light refreshments were served. As his 90-minute visit came to an end, he was invited to return sometime as a guest in our speaker series. His response was a broad smile and an affirmative nod.

The Louisville community is fortunate to have Archbishop Shelton Fabre as its spiritual leader. Members of the *Cardinal Ritter Birthplace Foundation, Inc.* are deeply grateful for his visit.



May 2023, Ray Day