



Catholic Alumni Clubs International
Discover Minnesota Magic
Minneapolis / St. Paul, Minnesota
July 12 – July 18, 2020

Post Convention
July 18 - 21

Big cities, small picturesque towns, bluff country, historic landmarks, modern-day attractions. We are looking to show you a little of each of these. Minnesota has often been called the land of 10,000 lakes. But did you know there are actually 11,842 lakes in Minnesota. We will show you just a little bit of water compared to all that is in the state.

Join us to **Discover Minnesota Magic** at the 61st (that's a lot of conventions and, yes, that means this is the 60th anniversary) annual Convention/Vacation of Catholic Alumni Clubs International that will be held in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area of Minnesota from Sunday, July 12 to Saturday morning, July 18, 2020. And a Post Convention, a Mississippi and Voyager Park Adventure, is planned for July 18 – July 21.

We will be staying at the DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington-Minneapolis South, a 568-room facility with free parking, complimentary shuttle to/from the MSP International Airport and Mall of America, an on-site restaurant and lounge, fitness center, indoor pool, and microwaves and refrigerators in every guest room.

The convention week package includes six nights at the hotel, five buffet breakfasts, four hotel banquet dinners, and an evening at world-renowned Mall of America where you will see America like never before with a virtual flight FlyOver America, and Hawaii, after which you will be on your own to enjoy the Mall with eating at one of the 50-plus restaurants, shopping (clothing and shoes are tax-free) at its 520-plus stores and visiting any of its many attractions. The Mall is home to the nation's largest indoor amusement park at 7 acres (and it's Nickelodeon themed), the 1.2 million gallon aquarium at SEA LIFE Minnesota Aquarium, a couple of miniature golf courses, and an indoor zip line to name just a few of the attractions. Also included with our vacation/convention are liturgies, dances and after hours parties.

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport is a major hub of the Upper Midwest. Minnesota is only about an hour away by air from most Midwest cities, and a two or three-hour flight from the East and West coasts.

There is so much to see and do in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, also known as the Twin Cities, that it is impossible to do a combined tour. So we are offering separate tours of each.

Tours are planned (see enclosed flyer for details and registrations) to help us Discover Minnesota. Minneapolis is surrounded by 13 lakes, the Mississippi River and two waterfalls. On Sunday and Monday explore Minneapolis on an escorted tour aboard a motorcoach to see famous Minneapolis landmarks such as the television home of Mary Tyler Moore, the Sculpture Gardens (see its iconic sculpture, "Spoonbridge & Cherry"), the Guthrie Theater, St. Anthony Falls, the famous Nicolet Mall skyway network of downtown (the longest connected skyway system in the world at nine miles), the Stone Arch Bridge (a national historic engineering landmark), Minnehaha Falls, and more. Stretch your legs with a walk across the

historic Stone Arch Bridge, one of the best ways to enjoy the view of St. Anthony Falls. Minnehaha Falls is Minnesota's oldest tourist attraction and has been immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "Song of Hiawatha."

On Monday evening we will go to the Mall of America to experience FlyOver America and Hawaii and then to explore and enjoy the Mall on your own and expose your taste buds to the many eating places there, shop for tax-free clothing and shoes and/or enjoy the Mall's other attractions.

On Tuesday let our private motorcoach escort you to the Mill City Museum Tour and Mississippi Riverboat cruise. Beginning in 1880 and for 50 years thereafter Minneapolis was known as the "Flour Milling Capital of the World" and at peak production ground enough flour to make 12 million loaves of bread in a day. The flour milling industry fueled the growth of Minneapolis. Ride the Flour Tower elevator and enjoy rooftop views. Next we will board a modern replica of a historic sternwheeler for a cruise on the mighty Mississippi River and travel through the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock.

Wednesday we will travel to Stillwater...Birthplace of Minnesota on the Minnesota/Wisconsin border of the St. Croix River. We will have a riding tour of this enchanting old river town, one of America's most picturesque towns (USA Today Travel). Stillwater lays claim to be Minnesota's oldest town and the birthplace of the Minnesota territory in 1849. We will enjoy a delicious lunch at the famed Lowell Inn. Since 1927 this famous "Mount Vernon of the Midwest" has been a hotel known to serve the finest food. After lunch you can explore on your own. Main Street is on the national historic registry.

We haven't seen St. Paul yet. So on Thursday, enjoy a guided motorcoach tour of Minnesota's charming historic capital city. We will drive along Summit Avenue, home to the longest stretch of intact Victorian architecture. The home of F. Scott Fitzgerald and the Governor's Mansion are just a couple of the homes along Summit Avenue. Visit the magnificent Cathedral of St. Paul. One of the most impressive cathedrals in the United States, it sits on a hill overlooking downtown Saint Paul and the Mississippi River. It is the third largest Catholic church building in the country. Glimpse into the lives, culture, and customs of the 1870's at the Alexander Ramsey House, one of the nation's best-preserved Victorian homes. Visit Wabasha Street Caves, learn about a prohibition past and Saint Paul's past as a hot bed for whisky bootleggers and criminals like John Dillinger and Ma Barker. The caves are on the National Register of Haunted Places. Snoop around – Be on the lookout for Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus, and Lucy. Statues that honor Saint Paul native Charles Schultz, author of America's most famous comic strip "Peanuts," can be found all around town.

Friday our motorcoach takes us to Wabasha (not the caves). We will stop by the National Eagle Center in Wabasha along the banks of the Mississippi River in southeast Minnesota's beautiful Bluff Country. The Eagle Center offers visitors an up-close encounter with this majestic bird. Wild bald eagles can be spotted through two-story, floor-to-ceiling windows, or from the terraced plaza outside. A private live bird demonstration is included for us. Next, we are off to Red Wing, a lovely, historic community situated along the Mississippi River and surrounded by beautiful bluffs. We will enjoy a historically narrated tour of Red Wing, including a birds-eye view of the town from Sorin's Bluff. In downtown Red Wing, the world's largest boot is constructed of the same materials used to make the famous Red Wing shoes. We'll stop by the Red Wing Pottery Museum for a 30-45 minute guided tour.

Another possible tour if there is enough interest -- St John Abbey, established by the Benedictine monks in 1856 has been immensely involved in the liturgical movements which resulted in the liturgical reforms of Vatican II. The architectural design of this building was well established before the council. Many of the buildings of the campus have been put on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1979. While there, CACers will be able to participate in mid day prayers with the monks in the church. The abbey also operates the national Liturgical Press. We will also be able to view the St. John Bible. This is the first completely hand written and illuminated bible to have been commissioned by the Benedictines since the invention of the printing press. This bible is located in the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library. There will also be time to explore the grounds, and the pottery studios and a tour of the Great Abbey Church. The cost at the present time is only \$5.00. The cost of transportation will depend upon the number of CACers interested. A great time to visit the site of the early beginnings of today's liturgy. Please indicate on the tour page if you are interested. No cost yet at this time.

The Twin Cities has a METRO Light Rail which one can catch at the airport or Mall of America and take it to Minneapolis downtown zone and St. Paul.

Eat a Juicy Lucy. This iconic Minnesota burger is served in many ways but it always refers to a juicy burger with molten cheese in the middle.

For the adventurous there is a separate trip planned for *Wednesday*, July 15. **Jet Ski and Zip Line** Cost \$175 (Transportation extra). Take advantage of Minnesota's 10,000 lakes with four hours (10-2) of **jet skiing!** You'll be doubling up with a CACer on a two-person Yamaha Jet Ski zooming along 14,000-acre Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota's ninth largest. You'll be the captain of the ship when you take a turn driving your jet ski around this magnificent lake, where resplendent homes dot the landscape. But don't dip your toe too deep as you speed by — those piranhas can be nasty! Afterwards, we'll stop for lunch (not included) at a local eatery before it's off to **zip lining** (5-7:30 p.m.)! You'll have to traverse not three, not four, not five, but 14 zip lines! The zip line tour soars you up to 175 feet and covers over one mile of the Minnesota River Valley. These lines get progressively higher, longer, and faster and include a beastly, 900-foot zip line they call (gulp) "Kong." At day's end, after all the jet skiing and zip lining, feeling drained, sapped, worn out, and totally depleted, all you'll want are the Last Rites. (Note: Price jumps by \$50 after April 15).

So plan now to Discover Minnesota Magic with CACI in July!

For further information contact:

Convention Coordinators:	Janet Yntema	Phone: 313-882-0990	email: janety602@aol.com
	Don Luebbering	Phone: 502-263-3793	email: donluebbering@fuse.net
Reservations:	Sue Gentile	Phone: 330-261-8065	email: suetaz1989@yahoo.com
Post Convention:	Mike Kappel	Phone: 618-397-2320	email: mikek21798@aol.com

Discover Minnesota Magic

July 12 – 18, 2020



Spoonbridge and Cherry



Cathedral of St. Paul

*Post Convention
July 18 - 21*

CACI – Discover Minnesota Magic
c/o Janet Yntema
3862 Grayton
Detroit, MI 48224