

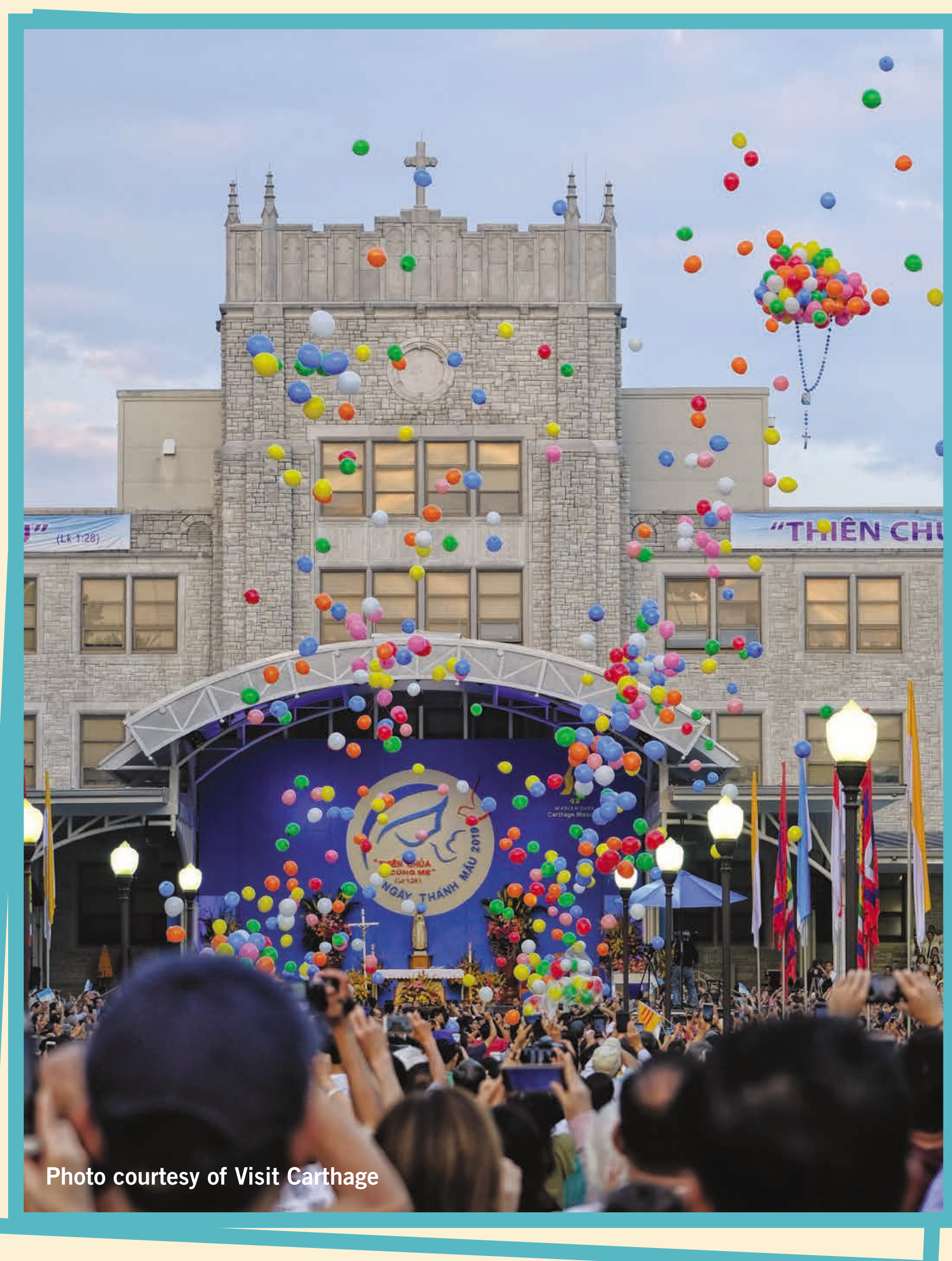


DIWALI

Diwali is a five-day festival of lights primarily celebrated in early autumn by Hindus, Jains and Sikhs. While each faith celebrates differently, the festival has a consistent symbolism of light triumphing over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. Diwali mela (gatherings) are often held at college campuses or as community events. Gatherings feature music, arts performances, food, crafts, and cultural celebrations.

MARIAN DAYS

In 1975, during the Fall of Saigon, a group of Vietnamese Catholic priests and brothers escaped Vietnam. The congregation settled in Carthage, Missouri, with sponsorship from the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. In gratitude, the congregation began Marian Days, an annual festival and pilgrimage for Vietnamese American Roman Catholics. The four-day celebration, held in early August, draws tens of thousands of attendees to Carthage from across the globe each year.



LUNAR NEW YEAR

Lunar New Year, which has been observed for thousands of years, is the most celebrated Asian festival in the world. The largest celebrations take place in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam, Korea, and Malaysia. The holiday marks the beginning of the year in the lunisolar calendar, usually in late January or early February. Annually, the State of Missouri recognizes the holiday and hosts a celebration.

CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS AT THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

Since 1977, the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis has hosted an annual Japanese Festival. Local Japanese American organizations gather to provide authentic Japanese music, art, dance, food and entertainment.

Since 1996, the garden has also hosted Chinese Culture Days. This annual celebration features a grand parade, authentic regional cuisine, martial arts and more. Special garden tours focus on the symbolism of many plant species and architectural details.

