# Tour Dachau to live the horror of camps

By MAUREEN NEVIN DUFFY

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The main road to Dachau, the Dachauerstrasse, is a two-lane, tree-lined road that flows directly from downtown Munich. At the turn into the camp road is a huge modern building housing a Chinese restaurant and sports market, offering tae kwon do lessons. But this seems the only modern addition to the town of Dachau, which dates back to 805, the time of Charlemagne, founder of the Holy Roman Empire.

By tour bus, which leaves from Munich train station, the trip to Dachau is just 45 minutes.

At Dachau, the two-hour guided English tours, which start at 12:30 p.m., are recommended. There is also a 25-minute English-language documentary film shown at intervals. The first room of the museum, which opened in May 1965, features walls filled with the names of Nazi concentration camps across

These numbered walls open onto others one can walk through, like a very tall book, with giant photos of the propaganda that prepared the German people for the assault on the Jews and other "undesirables," from political rallies, photos documenting the rounding up, marching, warehousing and the experiments on and executions of the Nazis' victims.

Visitors are free to explore the large outdoor complex of barracks, gas chambers, ovens and other horrors.

It is worth the trauma of going there if for no other reason than discovering, in chilling reality, how deliberately and methodically this highly successful human extermination plan unfolded. Among the most haunting points made by the exhibit are the clear evidence of the press's role in all of it, what was called the "Politi-

cally Coordinated" German press, and the collusion of industrial leaders, Adolf Hitler's first financial backers.

A Catholic order of nuns now lives on the site.

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