



Summer 2009 Newsletter

Volume 22, No. 2

Communities Collaborate on New Facility

For many religious institutes, providing appropriate care for members with memory loss is among the most challenging and costly aspects of retirement planning. Increasingly, an environment and programming structured specifically for those with memory-related disorders is understood as being essential to an individual's overall wellness and quality of life. Yet, numerous religious institutes lack the necessary resources and/or facilities to furnish this type of specialized care.

In recent years, two religious institutes in Wisconsin have faced escalating health care and facility costs, especially for members with memory loss. To address these concerns, the School Sisters of St. Francis and the School Sisters of Notre Dame have developed an innovative partnership to create a memory-care facility. Planning and Implementation Assistance from the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) is helping to make their vision a reality.

School Sisters of St. Francis

Founded in 1874, the School Sisters of St. Francis (SSSF) are celebrating their 135th anniversary. Their campus in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is home to both their international headquarters and the U.S. provincial offices. The motherhouse, now known as St. Joseph's Center, and the adjacent Sacred Heart Center make up the School Sisters of St. Francis campus. Together these structures house administrative offices, retired sisters' residences, and 12 non-profit organizations.

The community has over 630 members with a median age of 79. Most retired sisters live either on the St. Francis campus or at a community facility located 50 miles outside of Milwaukee. On the main campus is St. Joseph Convent, an independent and assisted living residence, and Sacred Heart Convent, a nursing facility offering skilled care.

Roughly 55 sisters at Sacred Heart Convent are enrolled with Community Care, Wisconsin's only authorized provider for the Program of All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE). Community

Care, whose offices are located at Sacred Heart Center, provides the equivalent of twelve hours of care per day.



Leadership Team for School Sisters of St. Francis

Contents

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| • Planning Assistance | Page 3 |
| • Workshop Dates | Page 3 |
| • Director's Message | Page 4 |
| • Calendar | Page 5 |

In addition to the retired sisters living in Milwaukee, 147 sisters reside at St. Joseph Convent Retirement Home in Campbellsport, Wisconsin. This 200-bed facility offers skilled and memory care as well as assisted and independent living. St. Joseph Convent-Campbellsport was originally built in the late 1800's. Although various modifications have been made over the years, the building is no longer suited to the community's needs, and renovation is not a viable option.

Campbellsport is located in a county that does not accept PACE, so the cost of care, especially skilled care, is quite high. Although the county has a program that reimburses the sisters for 3.5 hours of services per day, this assistance is far less than the twelve hours a day available through Community Care.

Approximately five years ago, the School Sisters of St. Francis determined that they could not afford to maintain this facility, and began seeking

School Sisters of Notre Dame

The headquarters for the Milwaukee province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame is located in Elm Grove, a suburb of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Currently, the community has 411 members with a median age of 75. Like the School Sisters of St. Francis, the School Sisters of Notre Dame realized several years ago that their retirement facility, which is also located in Elm Grove, was becoming far too expensive to maintain and would not meet their long-term needs.

In the early 1990's, the community made the painful decision to move approximately 30 sisters requiring skilled care to a nearby nursing facility. During the years that followed, they gradually renovated the retirement center at Elm Grove: rooms were enlarged, accessibility was improved, and private baths were added.

In 2004, the School Sisters of Notre Dame began working with Community Care. They were able to enroll the sisters living in the nursing home in the PACE program and eventually to move them back to Elm Grove. As with the School Sisters of St. Francis, Community Care funds 12 hours of care per day for qualified members.

About PACE

PACE is a managed care program that offers frail older adults comprehensive medical services and integrated Medicare and Medicaid financing. PACE strives to empower patients to remain in their homes and their communities for as long as possible. PACE providers assume responsibility for all of a patient's needs and employ a multi-disciplinary, team approach to patient care.

long-term alternatives. With the support of Community Care, they realized that they could accommodate everything except memory care at their Milwaukee campus. The community decided to phase out the Campbellsport facility and to find a better situation for sisters with memory-related illnesses. They invited religious institutes in the Milwaukee area to join with them in brainstorming a common solution. The School Sisters of Notre Dame, longtime friends and neighbors, answered the call.



Leadership Team for School Sisters of Notre Dame

Today, 150 retired sisters reside at Elm Grove. Roughly 120 live either independently or with some assistance. Thirty sisters receive skilled or memory care in a designated wing of the center. Unfortunately, the community is unable to furnish appropriate space and programming to address memory-related illnesses. "Right now, our sisters are cared for essentially according to their physical conditions," notes Sister Joanne Armatowski, SSND, Provincial Councilor. "Our goal is to offer our sisters with memory impairment the enhanced quality of life that can be realized in an environment structured specifically for their needs."

The Plan

After years of planning and discussion, the School Sisters of St. Francis and the School Sisters of Notre Dame are moving forward with an initiative to create a memory-care facility. The two communities are underwriting construction and collaborating with local health care providers to bring the overall project to fruition.

One of the project partners is Clement Manor, Inc., a faith-based, continuing care retirement community and a sponsored ministry of the School Sisters of St. Francis. Clement Manor, which is located in a suburb of Milwaukee, is donating land on its campus for the new facility. When the facility opens, Clement Manor will provide basic services, including meals, housekeeping, and security. The remaining partner, Community Care, has a long history with both religious institutes and has committed to furnishing round the clock care.

The vision for the new facility is to provide person-centered memory care tailored to the specific needs of women religious. Forty-four private rooms with baths will be divided into themed neighborhoods clustered around multi-purpose common areas. Programming areas will facilitate memory stimulation in a low-stress environment, and care will be structured to emphasize the rhythm of daily life. Amenities include a common dining room, secured outdoor and garden areas, and a day clinic/wellness center furnishing a variety of medical services and healthy activities. In addition, a special area will be designated for liturgy and worship services.

The School Sisters of St. Francis and the School Sisters of Notre Dame project that together they will have enough members to fill the facility for the first 10 to 15 years. The steering committee is working on a transition plan to open the facility to other religious and to diocesan priests, when and if there are available spaces.

Planning and Implementation Assistance

The project received \$80,000 in Planning and Implementation Assistance from the NRRO. This helped fund such necessities as preliminary architectural work and legal services. The distribution, however, is just one part of the new Planning and Implementation Assistance, which also furnishes targeted consultative support. This past April, representatives from the two communities attended the NRRO's Planning Workshop and appreciated the opportunity to work together and with their assigned consultants. Sister Helen Butzler, SSSF, Corporate Treasurer, notes, "Our consultants really helped us to think broadly and to tackle tough questions. We continue to benefit from their insight and experience in monthly status calls. They motivate us to find solutions to the project's inevitable challenges."



Left to right: Sr. Joanne Armatowski, SSND; Sr. Helen Butzler, SSSF; Sr. Liz Heese, SSSF; Fr. Joe Morrissey, OSFS, Consultant. At right edge just out of sight, Sr. Hertha Longo, CSA, Consultant

Ultimately, the two communities seek not only to construct a high-quality memory-care facility but also to disseminate a programming and finance model that can be replicated by others. Sister Joanne reflects, "As we move forward, there is so much that we can share—most importantly, how to ensure that spirituality lives on in each individual, even as the body diminishes. This is a life issue that affects everyone, not just religious."

Planning and Implementation Workshops

Dates have been scheduled for our 2010 and 2011 workshops. They are as follows:

January 22-24, 2010
January 21-23, 2011

April 20-22, 2010
April 5-7, 2011

September 21-23, 2010

Locations and details are still being finalized. Additional information will be posted on our website, www.usccb.org/nrro, as available.

Message from the Executive Director

In his letter to the Philippians, St. Paul reminds us to live gratefully and to turn our worries over to God: “Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God” (Phil 4:6). This is a message I tried to take to heart, both as we approached the 2008 collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) and in the months that followed as the donations were tallied. With our country facing the worst economic downturn in decades, it was definitely difficult not to worry. But no matter the results, I knew I had plenty for which to be thankful. The prayers and support, not only of religious, but also of countless lay men and women, filled me with gratitude and reminded me that the mission to support elder religious is shared by Catholics across the nation.

As usual, St. Paul was right. Our prayers were answered; and even in these trying economic times, donations to the RFR totaled over \$28 million. Although down a bit from 2007, the collection still kept pace with our twenty-year average.

Once again, I am both grateful and overwhelmed by the support for the RFR. Religious institutes are also thankful and continue to flood our office with letters of appreciation. One religious writes, “This loving concern makes life beautiful because it makes the Lord’s Presence so real...” I only wish I could share this outpouring of gratitude with each person who contributed to the RFR.

I also give thanks for our elder religious and for their faithful witness to God’s deep and abiding love. These women and men nurture my own faith and, by their example, underscore my belief in life-long fidelity to the vows I professed. I know their influence reaches far beyond their convents and monasteries. The remarkable generosity of the RFR donors speaks clearly of the impact they have had and continue to have on countless lives.

Recently, a faithful RFR donor expressed his gratitude for the religious in his life and wrote, “Thank you for the Christian witness of your life and service to the world around you. It really encourages me to seek God’s face first and foremost.” In the end, that is what religious life—and every life—is really about, seeking God’s face first and foremost.

Please join me in thanking God for our elder religious and all of those who so willingly **Share in the Care**.

May our loving Lord bless each one abundantly!

Sr. Janice Bader, CPPS



National Religious Retirement Office
3211 4th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017-1194
Phone: (202) 541-3215
Fax: (202) 541-3053
www.usccb.org/nrro
or
www.retiredreligious.org

Executive Director
Sister Janice Bader, CPPS
jbader@usccb.org

Associate Director of Funds and Distribution
Brother Hank Sammon, FMS, JCL
hsammon@usccb.org

Associate Director of Planning & Education
Brother Bob Metzger, SM
rmetzger@usccb.org

Database Administrator
Monica Glover
mglover@usccb.org

Administrative Assistant
Jean Smith
jsmith@usccb.org

A Future Full of Hope

Copies of *A Future Full of Hope—Planning in Religious Institutes* are still available.

To order, please visit our website at

www.usccb.org/nrro -

click on

"*Resources for Religious Institutes*,"

then click on

"*A Future Full of Hope Order Form*."



If you would like to make a bequest or restricted gift to the National Religious Retirement Office, the following information should be used:

To the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Incorporated for the exclusive purpose of assisting Roman Catholic religious orders in the United States to provide for the retirement needs of their elderly members.

→ Don't FORGET!

Please send changes in address, phone, E-mail or congregational leadership to NRRO c/o Jean Smith (jsmith@usccb.org), so that we may keep our records and mailing lists up-dated.

Thank You!



CALENDAR

LCWR Assembly, New Orleans, LA

August 11-14, 2009

CMSWR Eucharistic Congress, Washington, DC

September 11-12, 2009

Consultant In-Service Training, Plymouth, MI

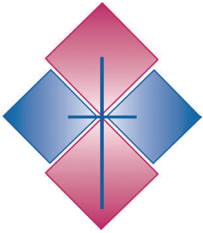
September 17-20, 2009

Planning and Implementation Workshop, Marriottsville, MD

September 28-30, 2009

RCRI National Conference, Atlanta, GA

October 20-23, 2009



National Religious Retirement Office
3211 4th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017-1194
Phone: 202-541-3215
Fax: 202-541-3053
Website: www.retiredreligious.org
E-mail: retirement@usccb.org

The National Religious Retirement Office coordinates the national collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious and distributes these funds to eligible religious institutes for their retirement needs.

The National Religious Retirement Office supports, educates and assists religious institutes in the U.S. to embrace their current retirement reality and to plan for the future.



NRRO Staff: L-R, Sr. Janice Bader, CPPS; Jean Smith; Br. Bob Metzger, SM; Br. Hank Sammon, FMS, JCL; Monica Glover

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
National Religious Retirement Office
3211 4th Street N.E.
Washington, DC 20017-1194

U.S. Non-profit Organization
US Postage Paid
USCCB