

Dear Friends,

Throughout the years I have written many letters about many topics, but today I write a very special letter to you. This message is about wonderful, hopeful news and yet the very hope contains a great challenge. As you know, the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist were founded in 1973. Since that time we have grown into a community living and working in 13 Centers in the United States, Italy and the Holy Land. Our Motherhouse is in Meriden, Connecticut.

During our early years we established residences for the Sisters and founded apostolic works to be of service to the people of each local area. Here in Meriden, a counseling center and a home care and hospice care agency were established. Through the years we have raised funds to develop buildings and campuses for these programs. Now, forty years later, our outreach programs serve thousands of people in many states and overseas.

As the work of the Community has grown, our number of Sisters has increased. At this time our lives are full of hope for the Community as well as for the Church as young women join our ranks. As I said, our very hope has become a challenge. We have completely outgrown our House of Formation at our Motherhouse.



Our plans include building an addition to our existing House of Formation, which is a beautiful brick building, built in 1928. It is our intent to add 12 bedrooms, a dining room and kitchen as well as a recreation space, laundry and summer kitchen. It also will require a complex sewer system.

Our chapel has been too small for years. At this time a larger chapel is under construction. The Chapel will seat 150 persons and have an expansion space in the connected meeting room for larger ceremonies when necessary. Since our chapel is often a place of comfort for persons who have lost a loved one, we have decided to have the chapel become a Family Memorial Chapel. We intend to place the names of persons to be remembered in a special book or on a Memorial Plaque. These persons will be remembered daily in our prayers and liturgies. Contributions for the Chapel have already been made in memory of particular persons and many will be added as we endeavor to pay for the chapel.

Through the past few years Sisters have asked for donations instead of gifts for either of these building projects as they celebrated Jubilees and Final Vows. And we have been blessed with other generous gifts, of both money and in-kind building materials. We are now seeking to raise additional funds to complete both projects.

This is the challenge. We ask you to consider helping us build for the future which is bright and hopeful. If you wish to know more about the projects and are interested in a special memorial, please call me and we can share more with you.

In St. Francis,


Mother Shaun Vergauwen, FSE

Help Us Build for the Future