

Press Release

Little Sisters of the Poor to Rebuild Holy Family Home, Philadelphia, PA.

(October 3, 2019) – Today the Little Sisters of the Poor announced that they are beginning a process to rebuild Holy Family Home, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At a gathering of residents, families, staff, volunteers and friends, the Little Sisters shared plans for the construction of a new Home on the same property at 5300 Chester Avenue where Holy Family is located.

“As part of a strategic plan aimed at strengthening our ministry and the quality of our religious and community life, we Little Sisters have recognized the need to dedicate our resources to much-needed upgrades and reconstruction projects in a number of our Homes,” said Mother Alice Marie Jones, lsp, Superior Provincial of the Little Sisters’ Brooklyn Province. She added that “The newly constructed Holy Family Home will provide the elderly the same compassionate care to which we have been dedicated since our founding in France in 1839.”

The Little Sisters of the Poor arrived in Philadelphia from France in 1869 and in August celebrated 150 years of continuous service to vulnerable elderly of the region. Originally they operated three homes for more than 600 frail elderly throughout the city — Saint Mary’s Home at 18th and Jefferson Streets, Saint Michael’s Home on East Church Lane in Germantown. Sacred Heart Home began at 42nd and Baltimore Avenue, with a permanent Home being constructed at 5300 Chester Avenue in 1902. All three homes were eventually consolidated into the one residence known as Holy Family Home in 1973.

The Little Sisters of the Poor serve in 172 homes in over 30 countries. They remain committed to the care of the elderly of Philadelphia and to their presence in the city. The Sisters have engaged senior living design firm SFCS as architects for their building plans and Corna Kokosing Construction Company as construction manager. The firm, Plante Moran Living Forward, will serve as Owner’s Representative for the Sisters. Working with the Little Sisters of the Poor, this team will oversee the construction of the new home, building it in phases so as not to displace current residents as the work progresses.

The project will be financed through a fundraising campaign seeking support from people throughout the city of Philadelphia and the surrounding communities, according to Mother Catherine Frain, lsp, Superior and administrator of Holy Family Home.

“The people of Philadelphia have continuously supported our work here since 1869,” said Mother Catherine. “Trusting in Divine Providence, we are confident that through the generosity of benefactors and friends, we will be able to bring the project to completion and provide a home for our residents for many decades to come.”

Acknowledging all who have supported Holy Family Home and the Little Sisters of the Poor for so many years, Mother Alice Marie expressed special gratitude to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for its leadership in promoting and supporting the mission of

the Little Sisters for the past 150 years. She asked for prayers and support for the success of the project, and she assured everyone of the prayers of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

For more information, please contact Fr. Mark Cregan, Esq. 917-767-2772.

The Little Sisters of the Poor are an international congregation of Roman Catholic women religious founded in 1839 by Saint Jeanne Jugan. Together with a diverse network of collaborators, they serve the elderly poor in over 30 countries around the world. Continuing the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan, their mission is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.