



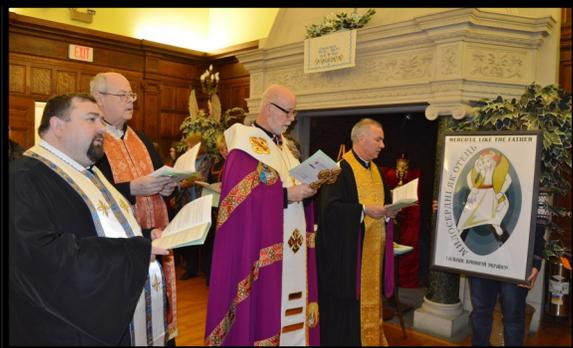
Newsletter of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate

Journeying with Josaphata

Lent 2016



St. Mary's Chapel blessed "Holy Door" for Jubilee Year



On February 7th, Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Eparch of Stamford inaugurated the Chapel door of St. Mary's in Sloatsburg as an Eparchial *Holy Door* for the Year of Mercy, encouraging the faithful to visit the Chapel during the year to pray and celebrate the Holy Mysteries of Confession and Holy Eucharist. Over one hundred people were in attendance participating in this beautiful moleben of the Holy Year of God's Mercy.

The Sisters Servants pray that the chapel may be, as Pope Francis says, " a *Holy Door* that becomes a *Holy Door of Mercy*, through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God, Who consoles, pardons, and instills hope." During the Jubilee Year, the Sisters Servants will include in the diocesan newspapers a series of pictures and articles describing the corporal works of mercy of Blessed Josaphata Hordashevskva, foundress.

In celebrating this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we invite the faithful to come and pray with us on a monthly basis during the year, and at any time you feel the need to come and pray on your own. Our first day of communal prayer will be held on March 13th, with a Divine Liturgy celebrated at 10:00am in St. Mary's Chapel by Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan, Archeparchy of Philadelphia

by Sr. Kathleen



Provincial Chapter to be held June 2016



The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, of the Immaculate Conception Province, have begun preparations for their Provincial Chapter, which will take place from June 20-24 at St. Mary's Villa in Sloatsburg, NY. The purpose of the Chapter is three-fold: to elect a Provincial Superior and Councilors for a five-year term; to discuss important matters of the Province; and to review directives of the Province.

The present Provincial Council is: Sr. Kathleen Hutsko, Provincial Superior; Sr. Stephanie Sema, Assistant Provincial Superior; and Councilors Sr. Thomas Hrynewich, Sr. Natalya Stoczany and Sr. Eliane Ilnitski. The Sisters Servants invite all clergy, religious and faithful to join them in prayer as we prepare for and participate in this Provincial Chapter.

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME!

by Sr. Michele

Many of you, our friends and readers are asking the same burning question that I will hopefully answer in the sentences that follow, "How is St. Joseph's building project coming along"? Please bear with me as I first share a story with you.

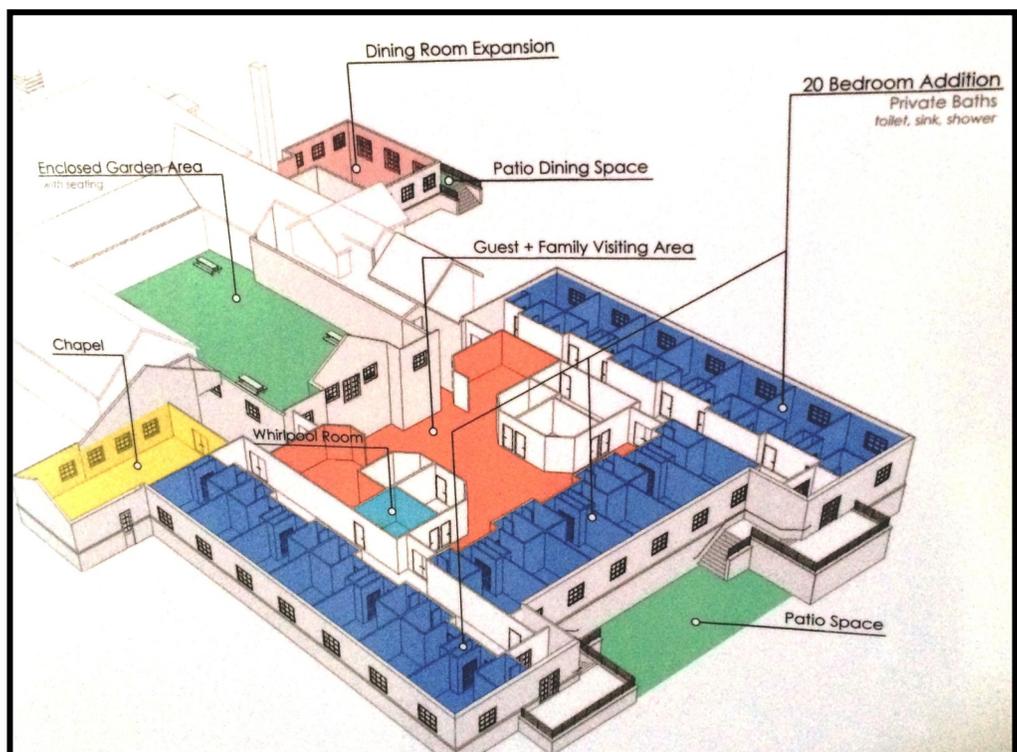
The movie "Field of Dreams" was not the best baseball movie, nor the best performance by Kevin Costner. The film revolves around an Iowa corn farmer who hears voices that command him to build a baseball diamond in his corn field so that the Chicago White Sox can come to play; with lots more to the story. But this is where I come in... I do not hear voices and I do not have a corn field, nor want to build a baseball diamond! I mention this film because of the resounding phrase throughout the film... '**BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME**'. This phrase keeps going through my head as we attempt the building project at St. Joseph's Home... so just maybe I do hear voices too! We Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate have committed ourselves to the elderly – to this dream – to this expansion project. It is not any easy task to achieve, or a dream that seems to be a reality in the near future.

As mentioned in previous articles, the project is between 6-7 million dollars. It is not some fancy lay-out but it does have building codes to uphold and mandates from the state, county and local officials. It is a project that has lasting effects. The elderly who now live here know they are home; those who will come and want to come will realize they belong here!

Many have said, "Oh, if only you break ground and start to build, the funds will come". Maybe that is true. I would like to believe that, but that takes a great deal of faith to start a project of this magnitude and hope, as you go along, that the money will come for each payment needed! Unfortunately I must be realistic. I believe there are generous people out there. I do believe that as we begin to dig ground, hit the first nail, people will believe too and be generous in their offering. I believe this is a worthy cause that merits building and seeing its completion. I firmly believe this is a much needed endeavor for the elderly today whether they be Ukrainian, Irish, German, African American, Creole or whomever.

I am saddened when I hear that someone paid thousands of dollars for super bowl tickets or other sports events. Companies pay millions of dollars for five minute ads, singers are paid millions for a hit, actors are paid millions for a movie gig, millions are given to save the whales, battered animals are given thousands of dollars, and where do we stand in caring for our elderly: the elderly person who was and is someone's mother/father, brother/sister, aunt or uncle!

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SSMI Lay Associates Celebrate 25 Years

by Sr. Natalya



The lay community has always supported the mission of the American Province of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. Members of the parishes to which the Sisters were missioned have worked alongside and helped the Sisters in a multitude of ways. Together, we have embraced the work that God has entrusted to us.

In 1991, three persons made a one-year commitment to embrace the spirituality and charism

of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, becoming the first SSMI Lay Associates. Since that time, more than 35 other men and women have made this same renewable one-year commitment to live the values of the Gospel according to the SSMI charism. This year, the SSMI Lay Associates are celebrating 25 years of service and commitment.

With a bond of commitment to the vision of Blessed Josaphata Hordashevskya and a desire to deepen our spiritual life, the Sisters and Lay Associates have worked, prayed, celebrated and even grieved together for these last 25 years.

Our Associates come from a variety of backgrounds and from



both the Eastern Catholic Church and the Roman Catholic Church—east and west. They are male and female, relatively young and older, working and retired. They come to know one another and share their prayers and their lives with one another and with the Sisters. Some of the associates live a distance from Sloatsburg, but meet for days of prayer 2 – 3 times per year. Each Associate has an individual contact sister

who serves as a support for the associate and a liaison between the associate and the community, keeping them informed of community news. Associates are invited to join the sisters in celebrations and prayers whenever their schedule permits.



The celebration of this milestone anniversary will take various forms throughout the year. The sisters and associates will have opportunities for prayer, enrichment and celebration. The celebration events are still being planned. The greatest gift for sisters and associates are opportunities to grow together and spend time together. Mnohaya Lita to all of the SSMI Lay Associates!

If you are interested in information about our SSMI Lay Associate program, please contact Sr. Natalya at sisternatalya@gmail.com



(continued from page 2) **BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME!**

How difficult it is to raise money for this building project! That is the challenge we face today. We cannot do it alone. We need you. We need your help. That is why we are not further ahead than maybe the last time you saw us. Our goal has not been reached because we do not know that generous movie actor, or famous baseball, hockey, basketball player that we can approach.

I do not regret that the Sisters Servants were founded in Ukraine and founded for the less fortunate, the weak, the downtrodden or the poor. I have no regrets that our ministry is to be where the need is the greatest among the elderly for their care, with children for their well being and enrichment or supporting the marginalized.

God has generously called us to serve His people. We will continue to do just that by God's grace! How wonderful it would be to do it for so many more deserving souls. I say that because a day does not pass when someone calls asking for information about our home or asks to be put on the waiting list, a list that has the possibility of waiting a year!

"Build it and they will come!" I have no doubt that they will come. The elderly have come for the last 74 years to St. Joseph's Home where they have been given loving care. Won't you help us build? If you personally cannot help, do you know of someone who can help us build? Do you know that movie star, the famous singer, the businessman who would like to give ... for God loves those cheerful givers.

Now we can answer that famous question so many ask, "How is the building project at St. Joseph's Home coming along"? It comes along slowly; for it will not move speedily until people realize the necessity, importance and obligation we have to caring and providing for the elderly of our society. **BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME!**

62nd Holy Dormition Pilgrimage

August 13-14, 2016

Theme: "Jesus - the Face of Mercy:

Mary - the Mother of Mercy"

Special Celebrant and Speaker

Saturday, August 13th

Bishop Peter Libasci

Bishop of Manchester, NH

The Sisters Servants celebrate their

2016 Jubiliarians

70 years - Sr. Evelyn Stock

Sr. Oksana Iwasczyczyn

50 years - Sr. Zenovia Chmilar

25 years - Sr. Natalya Stoczany

A celebration will be held in July.

Your Contributions

**Support the work of the
Sisters Servants**

We need your help in continuing to serve where the need is the greatest as Blessed Josaphata commissioned us to do so. Please be a part of our work by making a contribution to:

Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, Inc.

*Have you considered remembering us
in your will or with an annuity?*

If you would like more information about the Sisters Servants, please go to our website: www.ssmi-us.org or contact us at

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