



Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
U.S.-Ontario Administrative Centre

November 19, 2012

Dear Friends,

We are writing to you as friends of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. Since we first acquired property in Los Gatos more than 65 years ago, we have provided education, housing and long term health care for both younger and aging Sisters on our Los Gatos campus. The convent can accommodate more than 120 Sisters, with 66 Sisters currently living on the property, most of whom are retired and need either skilled health care or some assistance. Since 1952, we have served countless Sisters, visitors, and residents of the Town through retreats, masses, celebrations, pastoral and other activities at the convent and in the community. The Sisters also helped found St. Mary's School in Downtown Los Gatos in 1954 and have educated thousands of children as both teachers and administrators there. For nearly 30 years, we also sponsored Casa Maria Montessori School at the Los Gatos convent, providing education for hundreds more children each year.

Given the age of our Sisters, the many changes and advancements in health and eldercare delivery in our society, and the age and condition of our buildings, we have spent the past two and a half years focusing on future care and housing for our Sisters and evaluating options for our Los Gatos property. Because our expertise and experience has been focused on our mission of education, we are looking to others with the needed expertise to manage the increasing long term health care needs and housing of our elder Sisters. After an extensive process involving consultation with our Sisters and trusted advisors, proposals from other organizations, and reflection on our mission and values, we have chosen a plan to care for our elder Sisters in California.

Our original hope was to remain on the property at Los Gatos and either remodel the existing buildings or partner with one or two organizations to build a full service continuing care retirement community and moderately priced housing for seniors. Through careful discernment, examination of every available option, and the opportunities and constraints of the property, we eventually determined that it was not feasible to achieve our goals of sustainable, affordable health care and housing for our Sisters on the Los Gatos property. So, after more prayer and discernment, we have chosen two retirement communities not far from our present site for skilled care and assisted living for our Sisters. We currently plan to begin transitioning Sisters from the Los Gatos campus in spring and summer of 2013 and plan to continue to operate the convent for the foreseeable future. In each of the new locations,

we will establish a local community of Sisters and ensure pastoral and community support from other Holy Names Sisters.

We plan to work with the Town of Los Gatos and our neighbors over the next couple of years on the transition of the convent property as well. Because of the residential character of the neighborhood, we are planning to return the property to its traditional lotting pattern, consistent with the surrounding neighborhood, the existing zoning, and the Town's General Plan. We will have more information to share in early 2013.

As we approach this time of Thanksgiving, we are grateful for many blessings including being part of this community and will keep you and your families in our prayers.

Blessings and prayers,

Maureen Blaser, SJM Kathleen Hilton, SJM
Marcia Frudege, SJM Mary Ellen Holohan, SJM
Jane Hubbard, SJM

The U.S.-Ontario Province Leadership Team