

NARÓD



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PRCUA to Help the Felician Sisters Build a Brighter Tomorrow

The Felician Sisters have served the Polish American community in the United States for 135 years! Now, the Felician Sisters are turning to the PRCUA, and its members, to support the renovation of their Provincial House in Western New York so that it can better accommodate the retired Sisters.

The Felician Sisters were founded by Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska (1825 - 1899) in Warsaw, Poland in 1855.

In 1874, five sisters left Poland for America in response to Father Joseph Dabrowski's invitation to the Felician Sisters to teach in his parish school in Polonia, WI. There, the Polish pioneer sisters established the first Motherhouse of the Felician Sisters in America.

In 1881, three Felician Sisters came to Buffalo, NY to teach at St. Stanislaus Parish. From humble beginnings in Cheektowaga, NY, the sisters - through the generosity of benefactors - built a Provincial House on Doat Street and Pine Ridge Road. The Immaculate Heart of Mary Province, known to many as Villa Maria Convent, has been home to 925+ sisters since its dedication in 1929.

For more than 125 years, the Felician Sisters have played an important role in the lives of the people of Western New York. They have been the

tireless teachers who have worked in the Polish American community to maintain the highest academic standards for our children. They have also made an unwavering commitment to the poor and the defenseless.

In 2008, many of the Felician Sisters of Western New York reached personal milestones as they celebrated their Jubilees of Sisterhood: 80 years in the convent for **Sr. Mary Lauretta Lepkowski** of St. Casimir in Erie, PA; 75 years in the convent for **Sister Mary Ezechielle Szczepanski** of St. Florian, Buffalo, NY; **Sr. Mary Carissima Kociolowicz** of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in North Towanda, NY; and **Sr. Mary Adorata Pawlak** of St. Casimir Parish in Elmira, NY; 70 years for **Sister Mary Celestine Mysliwiec** of St. Stanislaus in Buffalo, NY; **Sr. Mary Rachel Krauza** of Holy Trinity in Erie, PA; **Sr. Mary Hope Zalewski** of Holy Trinity, Erie, PA; **Sister Mary Doloria Piorkowski** of Holy Trinity, Erie, PA; **Sr. Mary Marcilia Slomka** of Assumption Parish, Buffalo, NY; **Sr. Mary Rosette Kubisty** of Transfiguration Parish, Buffalo, NY; **Sr. Emily Marie Jurecki** of Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Syracuse, NY; and **Sr. Mary Sabinie Boczar** of St. John Gualbert, Buffalo, NY; 60 years for

Sr. Mary Teresita Langowski, Holy Trinity, Erie, PA; 50 years for **Sr. Mary Kevin Szeluga** of St. Stanislaus, Buffalo, NY; **Sr. Paula Marie Skalski** of Holy Name of Jesus, Buffalo, NY; **Sr. Maureen Helak** of St. Stanislaus, Buffalo, NY; **Sr. Mary Louis Rustowicz** of St. Casimir's, Buffalo, NY; **Sr. Mary Ambrose Wozniak** of Holy Trinity, Erie, PA; and **Sr. Mary Raymond Kasprzak** of St. Adalbert, Buffalo, NY.

All of these Felician Sisters are of Polish descent. They have unselfishly dedicated their entire lives to teaching and serving in the Polish parishes of Western NY.

It is appropriate, then, for we, the Polish American community, to help our own by demonstrating our sincere appreciation for the Felician Sisters' 125 years of compassionate work by generously supporting the renovation of their Provincial House in Cheektowaga, NY, where 192 active, semi-retired and retired Felician Sisters live. Of this number, 42 Sisters require skilled care and reside in the Health and Wellness Center. The old six-floor Provincial House is no longer adequate to house the aging Sisters. Although the structure is secure, the long corridors and the lack of sufficient elevators, a fire safety system, a reliable heating and cooling system

and the long distances between the living quarters and the chapel, laundry, and dining room, create difficulties for the Sisters as they get up in age.

The newly-renovated Provincial House will provide the Sisters with a Chapel, 2 skilled nursing floors, 8 residential living areas, some administrative offices, a centralized food service area, a secure reception area, 2 visiting parlors, a wake room and a meeting room.

The cost of the project is \$15 million. The Sisters' investment in environmentally friendly "green" practices makes the project a model for urban renewal. The energy for the heating and cooling systems, for example, will be provided by an underground geothermal well field. Relying upon a mechanical system that uses free, limitless 100% renewable energy from the earth, will drastically reduce future operating costs.

As the Felician Sisters continue taking bold, brave steps with their eyes on the future, they look to Polonia - specifically organizations such as the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America - to provide the support that is needed to accomplish their Provincial House Renovations.

The Board of Directors of the PRCUA have responded to the Sisters' heartfelt appeal by creating

a Matching Funds Program by which the PRCUA will match, dollar for dollar, donations made by PRCUA members and friends, to the Felician Provincial House through the PRCUA during 2009, up to a maximum of \$14,500. This amount, when doubled, should be enough to pay for two rooms. The names of donors will be published in *Narod Polski*.

The Felician Sisters have dedicated their entire lives to serving Polish Americans. Let us respond in kind by donating as generously as possible to this meaningful endeavor.

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PERIODICAL POSTAGE
PAID AT CHICAGO, IL

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PRCUA to Help Felician Sisters...

(Continued from page 1) Perhaps each PRCUA Society can hold a fund-raiser on behalf of this project. The total proceeds from such a fund raising event could be donated to the PRCUA Matching Funds program so that the Society's donation will be worth DOUBLE!

There are many occasions coming up in the next few months that can provide excellent opportunities for fund raisers - for example, perhaps your Society could sponsor a Paczki (Doughnut) Day Sale, a pierogi sale, a bake sale, a meatless community dinner on a Friday during lent, a St. Patrick's corned beef and cabbage dinner, a candy Easter egg sale, an Easter egg decorating workshop, a Bingo game, a raffle, etc.

IMPACT OF THE NEW YORK FELICIAN SISTERS' COMPASSIONATE CARE TODAY...

Presently, 45 sisters from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province in Cheektowaga, NY are serving as principals, teachers, directors of religious education, a librarian, a professor of theology, an assistant professor, a director of the Franciscan Center for Social Concerns, executive directors and administrators of the Cantalican Center for Learning, and officers, administrators and instructors at Villa Maria College of Buffalo.

Five sisters are health care providers; seven sisters serve in parish social service ministries caring for poor and needy families as caseworkers and counselors. Forty-two sisters are involved in prayer ministry, devoting daily prayers and countless hours in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament to those who request intercession. Eighteen sisters serve in pastoral ministry and six sisters serve on the Leadership Team of the Province.

Twenty-six sisters are semi-retired and serve the needs of the Province as receptionists and pastoral care team members. Each and every one of the Province's 192 sisters is intimately involved in providing compassionate care for others in whatever way possible.

May their devotion touch the hearts of each and every member of the PRCUA. May their love for Christ, and His people, tug at your heartstrings and awaken in you a desire to donate to this most worthwhile cause on behalf of the selfless Felician Sisters. The Felician Sisters have helped so many. Won't you please return the kindness by donating whatever you can and encouraging others to also do so?

All contributions to the campaign are tax deductible for those who itemize their deductions. Those who are financially able to consider giving a major gift are asked to contact 716-892-4141 Ext. 118 regarding the types of major gifts available in the Felician Sisters' **Capital Campaign**. For more information, go to the Internet website:

www.cssfbuffalo.org

Felician Sisters' Provincial House Renovation Project PRCUA Matching Funds Donation Form

____ Yes, I want to help to provide the Felician Sisters with a home that will meet the needs of the aged sisters. Please accept my donation of \$ _____. Make check payable to: **Felician Sisters Capital Campaign**

Name _____
Street _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

**Please send your donation to:
President Wallace Ozog
PRCUA
984 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL 60642-4101**