From Our Provincial Minister

Dear Friend in Christ,

In 2009, God’s providence guided us to new “frontiers of need” and allowed his will to be done through the unification of the eight North American provinces into Our Lady of Hope Province. We thank him for making us instruments of his divine will and providing us with the resources and support we need to continue to minister to his most vulnerable people.

As we reflect on 2019, we are reminded that we do not accomplish anything alone. Your prayers and support, in all of the forms it takes, are the sustenance which fuels our ministries. Without them, our Sisters would not be able to make themselves so totally available to those in need. Your care for us translates into the care we can give to others, and for that we are grateful.

Today, Felician Sisters of North America serve in ministries across the U.S. and in Canada and Haiti, and everywhere we serve, we seek to accompany those in need. In our many roles as educators, spiritual leaders, health care providers, cantatelles, social workers, counselors, communicators, advocates and more, we walk in solidarity with our neighbors, being truly “present” to them.

With faith and hope, we are eager to move forward in our mission to “cooperate with Christ in the spiritual renewal of the world,” and with your support we will continue to serve where we are needed. This publication is meant to share just a glimpse of our ministries and preview the reality of their vocations and needs of the time.

Yours in Mary, Our Lady of Hope,
Sister Mary Christopher Moore, CSSF
Provincial Minister

I wish I could multiply myself a thousand times and travel to all parts of the world bringing God’s love and mercy to all people.
— Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska

Celebrating Our 10th Anniversary
Reorganization Unites and Strengthens

The date Nov. 21 holds great significance for the Felician Sisters. They were founded in Poland on Nov. 21, 1855, and on the same day in 1874, the first five Felician Sisters to serve in North America arrived at their new home in Polonia, Wisconsin. Once in North America, their charism and ministries spread into eight provinces throughout the continent.

More than a century later, on Nov. 21, 2009, the Felician Sisters made the bold move to unite their eight provinces across North America into Our Lady of Hope Province. This allowed for a pooling of resources — the most important of which was the Sisters themselves and their desire to follow the directive of Felician Foundress Blessed Mary Angela to “serve where you are needed.”

When Fr. Dabrowski reached out to the Felician Sisters for help ministering to the growing immigrant population of his parish in Wisconsin, five brave women stepped forward and left their home in Poland to answer the call, and with each new call, the Felician Sisters extend and evolve their ministries to meet the needs of the time.

With the unification of the provinces under one governing body, more Sisters have found themselves free to minister in “total availability” to the most vulnerable of society. Currently, the Sisters are launching several new initiatives, including Deo Gratias Ministries in inner-city Detroit and the Our Lady of Grace Affordable Housing Community in Newark, Delaware. In addition, some of their current ministries, such as the Blessed Angela Spirituality Center in Pomona, California, and St. Felix Centre in Toronto, Canada, are expanding to meet the needs of victims of human trafficking, migrant families and those who are homeless.

In a time when there is so much need, the Sisters continue to listen to the cries of the poor and respond. In doing so, they have been innovative, creative and sometimes even counter-cultural. They continue to serve immigrant families, on the border and in U.S. detention centers. They not only minister to the marginalized and those living in poverty, they live among them. In the spirit of St. Francis, they go where no one else will go, bringing compassionate service to those society would seemingly prefer to forget.

Millennial Felician Sister Shares her Vocation Journey

On September 17, Sister Desiré Anne-Marie Findlay appeared on the nationally syndicated Tamron Hall Show as a member of a panel of young women discussing society’s misconceptions about religious life. She and the three sisters who joined her talked about the reality of their vocations and offered assurance that young women continue to be called to vowed religious life.

Sister Desiré, who professed her perpetual vows in the Felician Sisters in July of 2019, said, “I could have gone anywhere or done anything, but the Lord knew my heart and knew this would allow me to flourish in exciting and unexpected ways.”

Sister Desiré was also featured in a video series by America magazine called #BeyondtheHabit, in which she discussed her fears that she would have to give up some of who she was to become a sister, including her life-long love of dance. To her surprise, instead of giving up dance, she watched it transform into a meaningful form of prayer and celebration of the Lord.

As the Vocation Outreach Coordinator for the province, Sister Desiré meets many young women who are discovering a vocation as a sister. “If I am being called,” she said, “then God is still calling.”

You can read more about Sr. Desiré on our website or on her blog, Religious Life for Beginners, at sistalogue.blogspot.com.
Our Lady of Hope Province
Ministries and 2019 highlights across the continent

* Felician Ministry
* Felician Ministry Highlighted in 2019
* Felician Ministry to Watch in 2020 (see back page for descriptions)

**Blessed Mary Angela Spirituality Center Expands Services**
The Blessed Mary Angela Spirituality Center, a Felician ministry that serves the homeless and those living in poverty in Pomona, CA, has expanded its scope by partnering with Ending the Game. This collaborative initiative of the LA District Attorney’s Office, Pomona Municipal Court Judges, Pomona Police Department, Purpose Church and the Felician Sisters works to provide resources for victims of human trafficking.

**Felician Leadership Conference Expands Its Reach**
Since 2014 Seeds of Hope, has been empowering young women to be servant leaders by providing guidance and mentorship.

**First Volunteers Arrive in Tulita**
Felician Mission: Tulita in the Northwest Territories of Canada, recently welcomed two long-term Felician Volunteers in Mission. Alongside Sr. Celeste Goulet, they will minister to the Slavey people of the Dunve group, a First Nations people indigenous to the region.

**Heritage Center Groundbreaking**
On May 19, Madonna University broke ground on their Welcome Center that will house the Felician Sisters of North America Heritage Center and Archives. As part of the hub of the University, the Heritage Center will allow students, staff and visitors to learn about and be inspired by the work (past and present) of the Felician Sisters.

**Our Lady of Grace Village Affordable Housing Opens**
Once the site of a Felician-run orphanage, the Our Lady of Grace property in Newark, DE, is now home to an affordable housing complex.

**Felician Center Distributes Over 200 Pairs of Shoes**
A “New Shoe Festival” for adults, launched on October 4. Sister Susanne Dziedzic, Director said, “Wouldn’t the poorest Franciscans be pleased?” She added, “More than $12,000 were raised so we can buy new shoes with comfort, supports and arches, too. Many folks have hurting backs and feet, and cheap shoes do not address this health issue.” She explained that, in the South, dressing up for church on Sundays is very important and men especially need “church” shoes or they just won’t go. Other folks come on Sundays for shoes for burials, funerals and job interviews.

**Felician Centre Provides Safe Haven for People and Pets**
PAWS (Pet Accommodating Wishes and Support) was established by St. Felix Centre to allow guests to stay with and get care for their pets, who provide them with much-needed companionship and comfort.

**Our ministries are asked to uphold the FIVE CORE VALUES that are hallmarks of our Felician culture and identity:**
- Respect for Human Dignity
- Compassion characterized by an empathetic consciousness toward others expressed in caring service
- Transformation characterized by an open heart and mind, leading to continuous improvement of all involved in our ministry
- Solidarity with the Poor ensuring that the needs of the poor and vulnerable are met through advocacy and action
- Justice and Peace fostering right relationships, recreating a sustainable environment, promoting the common good - all in the pursuit of peace.

**Where there is need Felicians Respond**
The Felician Sisters of North America are launching a monthly e-newsletter called Living the Mission featuring news from around the province. Join our mailing list at www.felicianministers.org.

Deo Gratias Ministries in inner-city Detroit, MI, include a community garden and an evangelical café. Plans for a ministry serving victims of human trafficking are also in the works.

Deo Gratias Ministries (Eagles of the Desert) to be a resource for other families whose loved ones had gone missing.

At first, they were only able to send out a search party once a month. They mostly found and buried bodies of migrants who succumbed to the desert, placing a simple white cross at their grave as a reminder that every life matters. Their dream, however, was to operate as a search and rescue team.

Smugglers often tell migrants it’s only a two-day walk once they get to the U.S. In fact it is a 10- to 12-day walk — 120 miles with temperatures often in excess of 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37 degrees Celsius). The Felician Sisters know this story well.

They have ministered to the poor and homeless of Pomona, California, for 11 years through the Blessed Mary Angela Spirituality Center. Many of those they serve are migrants who survived a trip across the border. Many are homeless and have used their life savings to come to the U.S. and now they have nothing.

After learning of the Águilas del Desierto, our Sisters’ hearts were shaken. Wanting to help, the Sisters began making crosses for the search teams, but they wanted to do more.

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The Sisters at Felician Mission: Haiti are exploring ways to empower Haitian women through job training. They have already begun collecting sewing machines to open a sewing school.

Madonna University in Livonia, MI, is partnering with the Grand Rapids-based Hope Network to open a Center for Autism that will include applied behavior analysis (ABA) services, a type of therapy for children on the autism spectrum to help improve specific skills like communication and reading.

Felician Village in Manitowoc, WI, is introducing Felician Village at Home, a membership program offering regular check-ins with individuals living alone in Manitowoc County.

Villa St. Francis in Milwaukee, WI, is making enhancements to Angela’s Crossing, a residential memory care program for individuals with dementia.

Angela Hospice in Livonia, MI, will add three new grief support programs for children and adults in the community who are struggling to cope with loss: Suicide Loss Support Group, Music Therapy for Kids and Parents Who Have Lost a Child.

Felician University in Lodi, NJ, has received a $100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), to launch “Prism Paterson,” a new interdisciplinary Humanities Program offering courses focusing on the literature, music, art and photography of Paterson, NJ.

Felician Sisters of North America 2019 Year in Review

What to Watch in 2020

Look for these ministries on the map inside.

MISSION MINISTRY
Felician Mission: Haiti Jacmel, Haiti
Felician Mission: Tulita Tulita, Northwest Territories, Canada
PASTORAL MINISTRY
As an evangelical community of consecrated women religious, we commit ourselves to the universal mission of the Church. We are diocesan vocation directors, case work, counselors and youth ministers. We serve on diocesan marriage tribunals, organize retreats, direct youth leadership programs, help facilitate social services and work on diocesan newspapers. We serve as pastoral associates in pastoral ministries, helping to prepare for liturgical celebrations, leading sacramental preparation classes, leading adult faith formation classes and visiting hospital and home visits.

EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE
Early Childhood
Enfield Montessori School Enfield, CT
Felician Children’s Center Jackson, MI
Montessori Center of Our Lady Livonia, MI
Sister Celeste Child Development Centre Tulita, Northwest Territories, Canada
St. Joseph Academy Milwaukee, WI
St. Mary Child Care Center Livonia, MI
High Schools
Immaculate Conception High School
Lodi, NJ
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School Coraopolis, PA
Holy Name of Mary College School Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Colleges and Universities
Felician University Lodí, NJ
Madonna University Livonia, MI
Villa Maria College Buffalo, NY
AT-RISK YOUTH PROGRAMS
Mooncrest Neighborhood Programs Coraopolis, PA
United Stand Family Center Chicago, IL

ENRICHMENT AND OUTREACH PROGRAMMING
Jericho House Ontario, Canada
Maryville Retreat Center Holly, MI
Seeds of Hope Felician Youth Leadership Conference Holly, MI
MINISTRY TO THE MARGINALIZED AND THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY
Blessed Mary Angela Spirituality Center Pomona, CA
Deo Gratias Ministries Detroit, MI
Felician Center Kingstown, SC
Our Lady of Grace Village Newark, DE
St. Felix Centre Toronto, Canada
St. Felix Pantry Rio Rancho, NM
CARE FOR THE ELDERLY AND INFIRM
Angela Hospice Home Care Livonia, MI
Felician Adult Day Center Enfield, CT
Felician Village Manitowoc, WI
Good Samaritan Hospital Mount Vernon, IL
Marywood Nursing Care Center Livonia, MI
Response to Love Center Buffalo, NY
Senior Clergy Village Livonia, MI
St. Anne Home Greensburg, PA
St. Francis Residence Enfield, CT
S. Ignatius Nursing & Rehab Facility Philadelphia, PA
St. Mary’s Hospital Centralia, IL
St. Francis Milwaukee, WI
Villa St. Francis Milwaukee, WI
MINISTRY TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
McGuire Memorial New Brighton, PA