

From Our Provincial Minister



Dear Friend in Christ,

When I was a high school principal, we had a speaker come in to talk to the students about the crisis of hunger in our community. After the talk, a student raised his hand and asked a simple question: "What can we do?"

He recognized that change requires action, and that simple question spurred the establishment of a food pantry on the school campus that continues to serve the community today.

It was a good reminder to continue asking ourselves, "What more can we do?"

During these challenging times, we have been blessed with the capacity to collaborate with other organizations who are trying to answer the same question. From our collaboration with Catholic Charities USA to create an Eviction Prevention Fund to the transfer of sponsorship of St. Anne's Family Services from the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, we have found that we can do more together.

The needs of God's children continue to evolve, and thanks to supporters like you, the Felician Sisters of North America continue to adapt their ministries and find new ways to serve.

Because of you, we can continue to ask ourselves, "What more can we do?"

Yours in Mary, Our Lady of Hope,

Sister Mary Christopher Moore, CSSF
Provincial Minister

Time is given to us
for doing good.

— Blessed Mary Angela Truskowska

A Los Angeles Beacon of Hope Joins the Felician Family

Twenty years ago, Teresa Alvarado was a new mother at the age of 16 who found herself lost in the foster care system. After several failed foster care placements, where she felt families were more interested in her son than caring for her, she became a resident at St. Anne's, a ministry dedicated to serving women, children, and families in need since 1908.

At St. Anne's, located in Los Angeles, CA, Teresa found stable housing and childcare that allowed her to maintain gainful employment. Through the St. Anne's Workforce Development Program, Teresa was also connected with a mentor who provided her with opportunities to learn valuable job skills in accounting, human resources, and development.

Those skills were put to good use when Teresa was hired as a full-time Family Advocate at St. Anne's in 2018. Today, she is a homeowner and is currently working toward her degree in social work.



Teresa is one of many women served by St. Anne's, an organization that recently took the name St. Anne's Family Services to better represent the broad scope of their work. They now offer transitional and permanent supportive housing, early childhood education centers, mental health services, wraparound services, a workforce development program, parenting skills workshops, and additional programs, all in an environment that exudes compassion and respect for the dignity of all persons.

The Felician Sisters of North America are proud to be accepting St. Anne's

Family Services into our family of Felician-sponsored ministries. After decades of sponsorship of this exceptional social service organization that continues to thrive, the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart have entrusted their beloved ministry to the Felician Sisters.

Sister Mary Christopher Moore, Provincial Minister of the Felician Sisters of North America, said: **"Our foundress, Blessed Mary Angela Truskowska, began her ministry by providing compassionate care to women and children in need, so it is a privilege for us now to welcome St. Anne's, an organization with a mission and values so aligned to our own, into the Felician family."**

Learn more about St. Anne's and our other ministries at FelicianSistersNA.org/Ministries.

Doing More to Prevent Homelessness

Felician Sisters of North America Provide Seed Grant to Establish Eviction Prevention Fund

Even in the best of times, many families in the United States are just one paycheck away from homelessness. Now, in the midst of a pandemic, when businesses are forced to close, and unemployment is higher than its been since the Great Depression, even more families are facing the possibility of homelessness. In fact, Columbia economics professor Brendan O'Flaherty projects that another 250,000 people could find themselves homeless in the next year, an increase of 40-45%.



The Felician Sisters of North America have seen the impact of homelessness through the work of their Sisters and ministries. With the threat of an end to the federal moratorium on evictions looming from month to month, they asked themselves "What more can we do?"

"In these uncertain times, we know that many families are suffering the burden of unemployment and food insecurity," said Sr. Mary Christopher Moore, Provincial Minister. "It is unconscionable that families should also face the fear of losing their homes."

Knowing that Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) had a system in place for the quick distribution of emergency funding to their agencies across the country, the Felician Sisters reached out to them to collaborate on the establishment of an eviction prevention fund. Within several weeks, the Francis Fund for Eviction Prevention was created and more than \$100,000 had been distributed to those in danger of losing their homes.

In addition to this fund, eight of our Felician ministries provide affordable housing or services to those experiencing homelessness.

To learn more about how you can help do more, go to FelicianSistersNA.org/WhatWeDo.



Unemployment = Homelessness

14.7% U.S. unemployment rate in 2020

40-45% increased homelessness projected by the end of 2020

800,000 total Americans expected to experience homelessness by Summer 2021



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We livestream to share special events
with audiences around the world.



Sign up to receive our monthly
e-newsletter at FelicianSistersNA.org.






SISTER VICTORIA
MARIE INDYK



National media features Sr. Vicky in **Lives Well**
Lived series: FelicianSistersNA.org/Today.

Our Lady of Hope Province Highlights

We are pleased to sponsor, co-sponsor or support through the presence of our sisters more than 40 ministries throughout North America. To learn more, visit FelicianSistersNA.org/Ministries.

-  = Felician Ministry
-  = Felician Convents
-  = Felician Ministry Highlighted in 2020

In **1908**, St. Anne's began as a home for unwed young mothers with nowhere to turn. 90% gave their babies up for adoption.

Ever Changing to Serve the Community

Over decades, **St. Anne's Family Services** has expanded services to continue to ensure its families are safe, nurtured and resilient from pregnancy to adulthood — most recently by joining the Felician family.

St Anne's Family Services assured that:
659 children ages 0-5 were served in Early Childhood Programs
99% of families in Wraparound Services stayed out of foster care
100% of teens in its foster care program obtained their high school diploma or GED



Welcome Future Felician Sisters

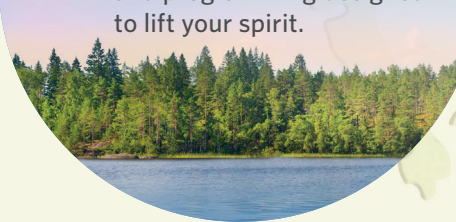
On August 16, at **St. Joseph the Worker Convent** in Pomona, CA, Monica Edaburn made her commitment to the Felician Sisters candidacy program.



27 women are currently in the formation process.

Ignite Hope

Maryville Retreat Center launched a speaker series, weekly prayer sessions, and programming designed to lift your spirit.



Only **64.7%** of students in Buffalo, NY, graduated in 2019.

NEW After-School Ministry

The **Villa Maria Youth Program**, on the campus of Villa Maria College, now provides after-school support to children in second through fourth grades in need of academic assistance in math and reading, and includes a Junior Achievement program.



101 days/year the temperature in Toronto is **32°F / (0°C)** or colder.

Third Respite Site Opens

Despite the pandemic, St. Felix Centre's main sites maintained 24/7 operation, offering 90 additional safe spaces for guests.



Toronto, Canada
 Buffalo, NY
 Greensburg, PA
 Livonia, MI
 Chicago, IL
 Holly, MI



At the Easter Day distribution alone:
200+ families were served;
33 families arrived within 10 minutes of opening

Chicago Sisters Serve During Crisis

Sisters at **St. Turibius' St. Vincent de Paul Pantry** joined Sisters throughout the Province in responding to the increased needs of their communities during the pandemic by collecting food and hygiene items.



With **more than 500k** deaths from COVID-19 in North America, limited human contact and altered grieving processes, grief disorders and depression are on the rise.



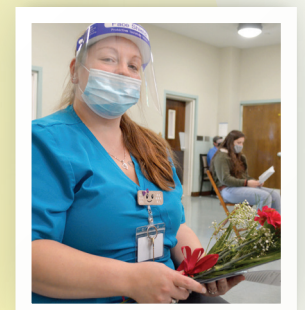
Online Grief Support

Angela Hospice moved their grief support programs, like *Nobody Grieves Alone*, online to ensure that services like their free one-on-one counseling and bereavement support were available during the pandemic.

Due to the pandemic:
82% of healthcare workers felt emotionally exhausted
68% experienced physical exhaustion
39% said they lacked adequate emotional support

Supporting Employees in Times of Crisis

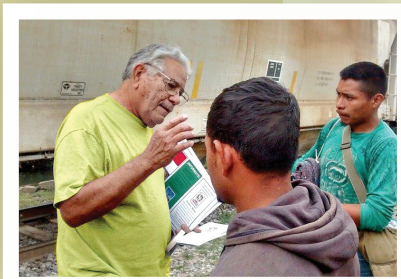
St. Anne Home shared in a grant award from Richard King Mellon Foundation to develop a Crisis Employee Support Program, as a joint initiative with 9 other faith-based senior living communities.



Águilas' searches in 2020 resulted in:
94 lives saved
97 remains recovered
6,150+ calls for help answered

Sisters Support Public Awareness Campaign

Águilas del Desierto (Eagles of the Desert) reached out to potential border crossers with a campaign to inform them of the true dangers of the journey.



Rio Rancho, NM

At **24.1%**, New Mexico has the highest child food insecurity rate in the U.S. due to limited access to adequate food.

Food Rescue

St. Felix Pantry partners with local grocery stores and rescues food that would go to waste, creating a more sustainable community and providing for those in need.

St. Felix Pantry worked to:
 Procure **109,482** pounds of food donations in 2020
 Serve **1,000+** people per week
 Help prepare **30+** graduates to earn their GED
 Be named **#1** nonprofit in Rio Rancho



70% increase in hate crimes in South Carolina since 2013



Hate Has No Home Here

The Sisters of the **Felician Center** stood in solidarity with their community in a rally against racial injustice.

At **\$228/year** on average, Haitian women earn **less than half** of men's wages, though equal to men as head of house.



Sewing School Offers Employment

Haitian women learn job skills through the newly established sewing school at **Felician Mission: Haiti**, enabling them to earn a living.



Our ministries are asked to uphold the **FIVE CORE VALUES** that are hallmarks of our Felician culture and identity:

- Respect for Human Dignity:** exhibited by a reverence for and commitment to promoting and protecting the dignity of all persons;
- 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:** forging right relationships, recreating a sustainable environment, promoting the common good — all in the pursuit of peace.



Sisters Receive Vaccines

Long-time President and CEO of St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, MI, Sr. Mary Modesta Pinowar was happy to receive her COVID-19 vaccination. Some of our Sisters are still eagerly awaiting the opportunity to be vaccinated and return to their beloved ministries. Please pray they can do so soon.

MARYVILLE Retreat Center

MONTHLY PROGRAMS TO

Ignite Hope

Energize your spirit with
uplifting programs at
Maryville Retreat Center.

Programming for adult men and women of faith

Space is limited.
To register call 248-634-5566
or email maryville@feliciansisters.org.



If You Would Like
to Do More

To Support Those in Need
Visit FelicianSistersNA.org.

Felician Sisters of North America 2020 Year in Review

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Bakery Dream Springs Hope

Jobs, Education, and Economic Growth

In 2012, two Felician Sisters arrived in Haiti to begin a ministry of presence when a young child knocked on their door saying, “*Mwen grangou*” — “*I am hungry*”. With only a few granola bars in their backpacks, Sisters Marilyn Marie Minter and Mary Inga Borko started feeding hungry children at their front door. More than eight years later, *Felician Mission: Haiti* has fed, educated, and provided spiritual guidance to hundreds of children who are now young adults in need of higher education, job skills, and employment opportunities in order to be self-sufficient. The Sisters knew they needed to do more.

Dr. Jean-Paul Bonnet, a long-time friend and supporter of the Felician Sisters shared in their dream of building a bakery to provide sustainability for the people of the Diocese of Jacmel. A bakery may sound like a luxury, but **a bakery in Jacmel could be a lifeline. Instead of decorative cupcakes and pastries, this bakery will make bread — a luxury in Haiti, where 30% of the population is food insecure.**

Modeled after a similar bakery in Les Cayes — a four hour drive from Jacmel — the bakery will also provide opportunities for job training and employment, especially for Haitian mothers.

The Les Cayes bakery produces approximately 1,600 dozen rolls per day which are given to women called “retailers” who then sell them. In addition to providing these women with a source of income, the Sisters who operate the bakery also provide them with tuition for one of their children to attend school. They now employ about 40 such retailers.

After years of planning and meetings, the Sisters acquired a piece of land from the Jacmel diocese. The land is now being prepared for construction. For the bakery to work, access to clean water is necessary — a true luxury when most Haitians must walk several miles to the nearest well. To access water, Dr. Bonnet is collaborating with Water for Life,



Making plans for a well on land being prepared for the bakery (left to right): Sr. Marilyn Minter, Mr. Hubert Romain, Dr. Jean-Paul Bonnet, and a Water for Life representative.

a non-profit organization that has drilled more than 1,800 wells in Haiti and will also dig wells for *Felician Mission: Haiti* and a nearby school.

Construction will take some time, but the Sisters at *Felician Mission: Haiti* are beginning to identify women who will be a good fit to train and work in the bakery. More than half of the households in Haiti are supported by women, so the creation of opportunities for mothers to care for their families is a priority. When two of every three Haitians do not have steady work, job creation is essential.

While the construction of the bakery has been delayed by political uprising, Dr. Bonnet is hopeful that it will begin this summer. Sr. Marilyn said, “Praise the Lord! We are getting closer to fulfilling our dream of creating jobs through accompaniment, relationships, and empowerment!”

Rebuilding Haiti, One Student at a Time

Jean Hubert Romain was just a young man when he lost his mother in the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti in 2010, killing nearly 95,000 Haitians. Trying to find a way to support himself and his siblings, he met Dr. Jean-Paul Bonnet, who had come to Haiti to provide emergency healthcare. Dr. Bonnet put Hubert in charge of the maintenance of “*Santé Bus*,” vehicles used as makeshift mobile clinics, a job Hubert performed meticulously.



The same year, the Felician Sisters sent a team to assess the needs and determine the best way to assist the people in recovering. The decision was made to establish a mission in Haiti, but Sr. Mary Christopher Moore, provincial minister, wanting to do more, reached out to Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa, then president of Felician-sponsored Madonna University, with a plan to provide opportunities for higher education in Haiti.

In 2011, Madonna University launched the *Haitian Education Leadership Program*, a three-year online bachelor’s degree program in Business Administration. The only program of its kind in Haiti, it would provide Haitians an opportunity for higher education, to help them become leaders in their communities.

Dr. Bonnet learned of the program, and recognizing Hubert’s potential, encouraged him to enroll. Hubert

became one of the first to graduate from the online university and is now putting his bachelor’s degree to good use.

Hubert is overseeing a project close to the hearts of Dr. Bonnet and the Felician Sisters — the construction of a bakery that will provide the community with job training, employment opportunities, and a food source. In addition to working with the engineers and architects on the design of the building, Hubert is helping to create the business plan.

With average Haitian salaries ranging from \$200 - \$600 per year, Madonna University and the Felician Sisters of North America committed to making the program accessible. The cost of tuition per year is nearly \$28,000, but the Haitian students pay only \$500 per semester. The rest is covered by donors and with support funds from the university and the Felician Sisters.

H.E.L.P. continues to evolve to meet the needs of Haitian students. English as a second language, leadership training, and a community volunteer project have recently been added. The result is an ever-growing list of Madonna alumni located in Haiti who are rebuilding their country.

To learn more, or to support or create a scholarship, visit FelicianSistersNA.org/Haiti.



What to Watch in 2021

The former **Villa Maria Academy** in Buffalo, NY, is being converted into **Angela’s House**, a 67-unit affordable housing community for seniors. Construction is underway.

Seeds of Hope is enhancing its leadership program for young women in high school by providing each participant a year-long mentorship with a successful professional woman. To learn more visit FelicianSistersNA.org/SeedsOfHope.

Felician Mission: Haiti is creating a “Bucket of Love” Wishlist on Amazon to help support our mission with school supplies and needed items that cannot be purchased in Haiti. More to come this Spring.

Work is in progress on **Pause & Reflect**, an app designed to share Felician resources such as reflections, prayers, history, and more. This initiative of the Vocations Team is meant to extend an invitation to the public to share in the Felician mission and spirituality.