



3:00 Welcome

Fran

“Good afternoon; joining me in welcoming all of you to our groundbreaking ceremony are the members of our leadership team: Sr. Mary Whited our president, Sr. Carol Boschert, Sr. Marie Orf, Sr. Carmen Schnyder, and me, Sr. Fran Raia. We are blessed to have our friends, consultants, partners and dignitaries as we begin the groundbreaking ceremony for the Village of St. Mary’s.

We are happy to see members of the press and media with us this afternoon and are grateful to them for their fine coverage of our journey.

Today, there are many people we want to recognize and we’ll do that as we move along in our program.”

Prayer:

“Let us pray: Loving Creator, thank you for your guidance in this journey that began many years ago. We thank our foremothers and previous leadership teams, whose wise choices, clear insight, and courage has brought us to this day. We are grateful for our advisors who having our best interest at heart have spent countless hours and perhaps sleepless nights discerning the next steps. We are grateful for our partner who walks hand in hand with us risking, hoping, planning, and working hard to make our joint vision a reality for the future. We are grateful to our sisters and employees who patiently adjust to changes in their daily lives. Be with us, God as we move on. Let the church say, Amen!”

3:05 Sr. Mary Whited, President, Srs. Of the Most Precious Blood

**Sister Mary’s Remarks
GROUNDBREAKING
February 12, 2009**

This is a memorable day as we gather to break ground for *The Village of St. Mary’s*. In 2007, when the Sisters decided to enter into partnership with McEagle, we did not envision that two years later we would be wearing hard hats on our heads and holding shovels in our hands. It has taken a village of dedicated people, along with the prayers and encouragement of our Sisters, to bring us to this moment. What a significant moment it is!

I’m sure Chris McKee would agree with me - that, when we began this partnership, none of us anticipated the complexity of issues we would be facing. Yet, here we are – beginning to renovate these buildings, which date back to 1874, and looking toward the development of the rest of the land, when the time is right. To reach this day has required a lot on the part of many people – vision, creativity, ingenuity, hard work, a few sleepless nights, and an unusual determination to make *The Village of St. Mary’s* a reality.

The Village of St. Mary’s is beginning to take shape with the renovation of these historic buildings for a continuum of care community for seniors. *Villa Theresa*, named after Theresa Weber who founded the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, will provide one- and two- bedroom apartments, licensed

skilled nursing care, and patio homes for seniors. We look to the expertise and person-centered care that St. Andrew's Management Services will provide to those who reside here. Plans for the remainder of the property include single family homes and office and retail space. A peace garden is included in our plans. The Sisters' administrative offices, chapel, and our cemetery will remain here as well.

The Village of St. Mary's is about this land and these buildings. Even more, it is about people who seek to live, work, play, and/or pray together. It has taken a village of dedicated and wonderful people to bring the project this far. Sr. Fran will acknowledge many of you. However, I want to especially mention

- Gerry Hempstead, who has been a faithful companion and consultant even before this project was begun,
- loyal friends like Joe Cavato, and John Wuest,
- Partners-In-Mission of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood,
- most especially our leadership Team: Srs. Fran, Carmen, Carol, and Marie,
- our Sisters who are so supportive of these endeavors.

The Sisters who live here anticipate the time when they can settle in and share the space with others.

We would not be where we are today were it not for the commitment of Chris McKee and the very competent staff at McEagle. Chris, you and your associates bring to our partnership a wealth of knowledge, experience, and the capacity to develop the land and renovate these historic buildings. Even more, you bring a determination to make this dream a reality. For this we are truly grateful.

We are also grateful to Mayor Morrow, the City Council and Staff of the City of O'Fallon. You have supported this endeavor from the very first day we talked about our plans. Developing this land will allow us, the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, to remain on this land and continue to be good neighbors to you. As we have in the past, we will be able to continue our service to the City of O'Fallon and the County of St. Charles and to be an integral part of Assumption Parish as well.

In 1874, our Sisters settled here in a log cabin on the southwest corner of this property. We settled in across from Assumption School in order to provide education to German immigrant children. Our early Sisters would not have envisioned all that has taken place here in 139 years, much less what is still to come.

By remembering our roots, we, the Sisters, are reminded that we stand on the shoulders of those leaders and Sisters who have gone before us to prepare the way. In celebrating the present, we commit to the continued presence of Sisters of the Most Precious Blood on this site and to the people whose lives we will continue to touch.

In looking toward the future, we extend a hand of hospitality to those who will share this space and further the vision of *The Village of St. Mary's*. There is a saying "It takes a village." "Thank You" for your presence and for being a part of *The Village of St. Mary's*.

3:15 Thank you, Sr. Mary, and now I would like to introduce our partner in this joint venture, Chris McKee, President, McEagle Properties

(Chris and Joe: a presentation to Srs. Mary and Fran)

3:20 Thank you, Chris and Joe, we are happy to be your partner!

I will now introduce more members of our team:(please keep applause until finished with intros.)

McEagle Properties: Paul & Midge McKee, Rob Lochner, Jim Eisenhart, Russ Caplin, Bruce Sokolik (anyone else, please stand)

Paric Corporation: Joe McKee, Todd Goodrich, Steve Meeks, Bill Lowery, Brian Arnold, Bruce Paluch, (anyone else, please stand)

Cole and Associates (engineering): Kevin Riggs, President (anyone else)

Our architects for the project are from the Lawrence group and Susan Bruker will speak about their role on the team:

3:25 “Thank you Susan.” (all stand from Lawrence Group)

“We would not be here today without the expertise of the following consultants. In 2004 the leadership team asked Gerry Hempstead, Behr, McCarter, & Potter, to meet with us and help us with the first steps in planning what to do with our 42 acres. Gerry continues to advise us as well as Joe Cavato from Community Program Development Corporation; John Wuest & Matt Nordmann from St. Louis Equity Fund; Carl Desenberg, Polsinelli: Shalton, Flanigan, Suelthaus; (all your associates please stand)

Having our buildings on the Designation for Historic Sites was accomplished through the work of our Sisters Virginia and Mary Joan with Karen Bode Baxter and Ruth Keenoy. (Please stand)

We want to recognize our financial partners, Vihar Sheth from US Bank; Jennifer Saeger/Skip Coburn from Bank of America; Tom Berry and Mike Dressig from Sabino and Company; Jeff Pass and John Klevorn from Stolar Partnership, , and the Missouri Housing Development Corporation. (Please stand)

“Phase One of the Village of St. Mary’s is renovating the present buildings for senior apartments for our sisters as well as being open to the public. Villa Theresa St. Andrew’s Senior Services shares our value of community and care for seniors and are playing a major role in helping us with all the stages of Villa Theresa. From St. Andrew’s, I would like to introduce Mary Alice Ryan, Diane Maetheany, Maureen Cindy Forbis, Executive Director Villa Theresa, and all others from St. Andrew’s please stand.

3:30 I am happy to recognize Mayor Donna Morrow and to thank her for her encouragement as we walked this journey, for her assistance with information and resources, and for her enthusiasm about our future plans. Mayor Morrow will share with us.

3:35 Thank you, Mayor Morrow. There are a number of officials from St. Charles, Steve Ehlmann and Don Boehmer, as well as Senator Scott Rupp and O’Fallon City Council persons, Pierce Conley, Bill Hennessey and Bill Gardner. Will you please stand as well as all those from City Hall and Police Department.

3:35 “We want to thank our spiritual guides, Fr. Joe Kempf and the priests from Assumption Parish who share their gifts by celebrating Mass with us and providing spiritual assistance. Please stand.”

Special thanks to all those who helped put this event together: Sr. Dory Obermann, Leah Wand, Ro Margiotta, Julie Gee-on, Donna Gamche and our dietary and maintenance staff.

(Ask all the sisters to sing the blessing song)

“Finally on our program is the turning of the earth outside. The Leadership team will be using a shovel from the Archives that our sisters used until 1970 for burials. But this time, we are turning the earth for the future; for the new life we will see on this property for generations to come. Please join us outside if you wish or you can watch the brief ceremony from the St. Joseph foyer. Our sisters from St. Joseph and St. Anne communities are watching from the porches of 2nd and 3rd floors.

Sr. Mary and Chris McKee will lead us out to the earth for the blessing that is included in your printed program. After that we will have refreshments in the dining room. Thank you for coming.

BLESSING OF THE EARTH:

Sr. Mary: “As we move from this space we will hear the bells from the church in Steinerberg,

Switzerland, where the first sisters gathered in 1845. We praise God who has guided us to this moment with so many friends and advocates.”

3:40
prayer:

Mary and Chris lead outside for turning the earth and leading the following

All respond: “BLESSED BE!”

LEADERS: Blessed be the works of your hands, O Holy One

ALL: Blessed Be!

LEADERS: Blessed be these hands that turn the earth,

ALL: Blessed Be!

LEADERS: Blessed be the earth that gives life and nourishment,

ALL: Blessed Be!

LEADERS: Blessed be the rain and, sun that nurture the soil,

ALL: Blessed Be!

LEADERS: Blessed be all who have toiled respectfully on this earth, who blessed it by their sweat and labor,

ALL: Blessed Be!

LEADERS: Blessed be the earth that will give us a solid foundation in our new buildings and hopes for the future,

ALL: Blessed Be!

LEADERS: Blessed be the workers, supervisors, managers, contractors and all who will work with renovation,

ALL: Blessed Be

LEADERS: Blessed be the planners, organizers, leaders who fashion the direction for the future,

ALL: Blessed Be! AMEN!

