



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR THEIR FUTURE IN
MANKATO, MINNESOTA**

Mankato, Minnesota (March 14, 2022) - The School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) Central Pacific Province announced today next steps for sisters living at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, Minnesota, and their property there.

Following much prayerful discernment, research, dialogue and due diligence, SSND announced that sisters living at Our Lady of Good Counsel will move to Benedictine Living Community in Shakopee, Minnesota. In addition, the SSND announced they are in negotiations with a developer for the purchase of the property at Our Lady of Good Counsel.

“As School Sisters of Notre Dame, we are committed to meeting urgent needs,” said Sister Debra Sciano, Provincial Leader. “That often includes change. Our congregation’s history has been full of change and so will our future. We rely on prayer to lead us always, especially in times of transition. We count on your support and prayer during these times and assure you of ours.”

Since 2014, the SSND have been working on a Visioning Process based on continuing their mission in light of current realities. “Of utmost importance is the sustainability of our mission guided by dialogue, collaboration, community life, service, prayer and communal discernment, ecological sensitivity, and openness to change,” said Sciano.

“The initial goal of the SSND Good Counsel Work Group was to find quality healthcare, ideally in the Mankato area, in a facility that kept the sisters together and was financially feasible,” said Sister Mary Kay Gosch, Campus Administrator. “In time, through interviews, tours and other research, it became evident that the hope of living in one facility, at Our Lady of Good Counsel or elsewhere in Mankato, was not possible.”

The move of SSND from Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato to Benedictine Living Community in Shakopee will situate the sisters between Mankato and the Twin Cities. SSND also has some history of community and ministry in Shakopee. There are many details to be worked out concerning the move to Benedictine Living Community. No additional details are available at this time.



Regarding sale of the property, there is a Nondisclosure Agreement in place, so no additional details can be shared at this time.

“We sisters are deeply grateful for our long history and presence in Mankato,” said Sister Joyce Kolbet, member of the Work Group and alumna of Good Counsel Academy. “Mankato has been home for several of us since we were fourteen. While many of our sisters will be moving to Benedictine Living Community in Shakopee, some of us will remain here in community and ministry. We are committed to having a presence in Mankato and to the continued relationships with people in the area.”

SSND established Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, Minnesota, in 1912 to serve the educational needs in the surrounding community and the formation of sisters. Originally arriving in the Minnesota River Valley in 1865, the School Sisters of Notre Dame established a Catholic presence and provided opportunities for quality education.

“Being a part of the Mankato community has been a great gift to SSND,” said Sciano. “We have shared many good times and some challenges. Through our mutual commitment to God, prayer and proclaiming the good news, our unity always made us stronger together.”

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SSND Central Pacific Province is part of an international community of women religious whose mission is to proclaim the good news, directing their entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent. Sisters live and minister in 62 dioceses, 25 states, Ghana, Guam, Italy, Japan, Kenya and Nepal. They continue the sacred work of our foundress, Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, to transform the world through education, giving special emphasis to women, young people and those who are poor.

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