



NEWS RELEASE

Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities
East Coast Region

49 Jackson Avenue ~ Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. 10706
Telephone 914.478.3930 ~ Fax 914.478.5470
Web site and online resources: www.sosf.org

Release: Immediate
Contact: Lorraine Wesolowski, OSF
(412) 821-2200, x 214 phone
(412) 606-4258 cell
(412) 821-3318 fax
lwesolowski@sosf.org

SISTERS CLOSING IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CONVENT IN HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

Hastings-on-Hudson, April 26, 2011 – The Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, formerly the Sisters of St. Francis of the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin, located in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. will be closing Immaculate Conception Convent on Jackson Avenue. The building, housing 35 sisters, is closing due to the declining number of sisters. The sisters will be moving either to the Wartburg Senior Living Complex in Mt. Vernon, N.Y. or Villa St. Francis in Peekskill, N.Y. depending on their individual need for care. Sisters will remain in their current ministries as well as continuing in prayer and presence in the archdiocese of New York.

The congregation is studying what might be the future uses of the building and property, including the Franciscan Retreat Center.

The sisters have been at Immaculate Conception Convent since the 1950's. At one time the building was home to approximately 100 sisters who served in various capacities in the Archdiocese of New York. The sisters are especially known for their ministry at Mount Loretto in Staten Island, one of the largest child care facilities in the city, founded by the Rev. John C. Drumgoole in 1881. They currently sponsor Nazareth Nursery Montessori in Manhattan and St. Francis Hospital and Health Centers in Poughkeepsie. Sisters also minister in a variety of capacities in the archdiocese in education, pastoral and care and healthcare.

The sisters in Hastings-on-Hudson are part of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities. The new entity was formed in 2004 through the union of three autonomous Franciscan congregations in Hastings-on-Hudson, Syracuse and Williamsville, N.Y. Subsequently a merger with the Franciscan congregation in Pittsburgh, PA occurred in 2007. Historically, all these congregations share the same Franciscan heritage. Today the congregation has more than 500 members across the United States, Puerto Rico, Peru and Africa.