

Groundbreakings



Groundbreaking. Throughout the years a shovel full of dirt has come to hold much meaning in our world: new endeavors, innovative plans, fresh ventures, significant steps. All of these come with plenty of unknowns, which require much trust, prompting one to focus on the hope of what is to come. Along with pondering the goodness ahead, as we break ground for our aging-in-place facility, we would be wise to look back to our beginnings also. This new venture builds upon fifty years of the Lord accompanying us in His faithful presence and sustaining us through His loving and generous providence. These memories powerfully remind us of the Father's life-giving nature. Through Bishop Flavin, the Lord labored to establish us and through the help of countless others He sustains us in our mission: that Christ may reign. Groundbreaking moments are

anti-climactic unless they continue to fruition. Thus, we need to rely on the Lord's grace as we continue to labor alongside Him in our mission of prayer, communal life, and Catholic education. Another beautiful aspect of groundbreaking ceremonies is that they are composed of ordinary, every-day objects: a shovel and dirt. God seems to work in this way, taking what is so basic and common and manifesting Himself in it. Our daily prayers and work can often seem so routine and insignificant, and yet He is there, reigning as King and furthering His Kingdom. Reflecting on the groundbreaking moments in our history and in these current days, as well as the string of moments and days that amount to fifty years, we remember Bishop Flavin's desire, "that Christ may reign throughout Southern Nebraska and throughout the world."



2025-26 Annual Report and Appeal of the School Sisters of Christ the King



*School Sisters
of Christ the King*

Villa Regina Motherhouse
4100 SW 56th Street
Lincoln, NE 68522-9261
www.cksisters.org

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*Joyful Fidelity to Christ the King:
Great is His Faithfulness*

Lam. 22:23

Forty-six years ago, on July 22, 1979, the first Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters stepped foot on Nebraskan soil. Sister John Evelyn, Sister Mary Lorraine, and Sister Joseph Fidelis flew from Philadelphia and, having never seen Nebraska, expected to land in a cornfield! They were sent to begin a venture that was not ultimately meant for their own Community but was to be entrusted to the new Community of the School Sisters of Christ the King. These three Sisters were given the daunting task of opening St. Joseph School and, in doing so, to further the Church's mission to evangelize through education. They had one month to gather supplies, choose a curriculum, hire teachers, and promote enrollment. The work was overwhelming, but they were impelled by a burning zeal to bring the love of Christ to children. In this endeavor, the Lord did what He often does. He chose three strangers, what

seemed like an insufficient amount of time and materials, and a small group of children to be the seed that would bring Him to life in souls. One year ago, in August of 2024, our Sisters joined the faculty at Blessed Sacrament School. The school has been serving families for ninety-nine years since it first opened its doors in 1926. Three Sisters, Sister Marie Caritas, Sister Mary Gabriel, and Sister Edith Marie have been entrusted with the exciting challenge of continuing the Church's mission and imparting the great gift of formation in the love of Christ. The work is certainly daunting at times, but when we have experienced the profoundly personal love of Jesus, it is impossible not to "give our lives for this purpose: that Christ may reign," as Bishop Flavin once said. The mission continues. He who is faithful will always remain faithful.



ABOVE: Mother Joan Paul stands with teachers and students at St. Joseph School.

BELOW: Sister Marie Caritas works with students at Blessed Sacrament School.



To give our lives for this purpose: that Christ may reign.

A Message from Mother Margaret Mary to Our Dear Friends

Dear Friends,
 A year ago when we were preparing this annual report, we were hoping that by now we would hear a lot of noise around here—sounds of building onto our motherhouse an addition for eldercare. Well, we are hearing the sounds of machinery outside as the dirt work and the foundation proceed. It takes a long time to build a firm foundation for a project this size!
 Of course, that can be so readily applied to our community as well as to our buildings. “You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ,” (1 Pt. 2:5). God has been building this community for nearly 50 years now, and we pray that we will cooperate ever more faithfully with this building project, living more and more our royal priesthood and spiritual motherhood. We thank God, too, for you, our family, friends and supporters, through whom God has so lavishly blessed us. With your help we have been able to continue to receive new vocations and prepare them for a life of consecration in joyful fidelity to Christ the King. At the beginning of this month two novices, Sister Mary Kolbe and Sister Mary Vianney, professed first vows. On the same day Sister Maria Luce began her novitiate, receiving the habit and her religious name. Today, on the feast of the Queenship of Mary, Maggie McDermott of Brookings, South Dakota entered our community as a postulant, and we expect another postulant to enter soon. We also continue to receive women into our Epiphany House program and offer them an opportunity to live intentional community with one

another and to grow in their spiritual lives together, under the guidance of the Sisters. Our Lay Association, Friends of Christ the King, is taking shape as we enroll new members and begin a more formal program with established occasions for gathering and praying together. Spiritual and professional development opportunities for the Sisters this past year included a retreat at Conception Abbey preached by Father Gregory Dick, O.Praem., Catechesis of the Good Shepherd training, and the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education national conference, which was held in Lincoln this summer. On September 24 Sister Peter Marie and Sister Fiat Marie leave for a year of study at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome. The program is co-sponsored by the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) and housing is offered at the CMSWR house of studies in Rome, where several Sisters from different religious communities in the United States live and pray together while they study or work at the Vatican.

Again, we express our gratitude and awe to you who have been such a loving and faithful support to us over these years! We remember you in prayer and we look forward to opportunities to pray, celebrate and serve with you in the years ahead. May Christ our King reign in your hearts and in the hearts of all!

In the Heart of Christ our King,
Mother Margaret Mary, C.K.

The School Sisters of Christ the King



M. Margaret Mary
 *Valley, NE - 1986



S. Mary Angela
 Cedar Rapids, NE - 1992



M. Joan Paul
 Tekamah, NE - 1976



S. Anne Joelle
 Pleasant Dale, NE - 1977



S. Maura Therese
 Gordon, NE - 1978



S. Mary Clare
 North Bend, NE - 1981



S. Marie Jacqueline
 Lohrville, IA - 1981



S. Mary Alma
 Ithaca, NY - 1984



S. Mary Michael
 Ravenna, NE - 1984



S. Mary Fidelis
 York, NE - 1990



S. Mary Cecilia
 Nebraska City, NE - 1995



S. Edith Marie
 Leigh, NE - 1999



S. Mary Faustina
 Milford, NE - 2000



S. Mary Maximilian
 Lincoln, NE - 2001



S. Mary Agnes
 York, NE - 2002



S. Mary Guadalupe
 Lincoln, NE - 2002



S. Marie Caritas
 Omaha, NE - 2004



S. Mary Gabriel
 Camp Point, IL - 2005



S. Regina Marie
 Lincoln, NE - 2006



S. Mary Ruth
 Fargo, ND - 2007



S. Mary Jacinta
 Blue Springs, MO - 2008



S. Teresa Marie
 Columbus, NE - 2009



S. Peter Marie
 Overland Park, KS - 2009



S. John Marion
 Kearney, NE - 2012



S. Fiat Marie
 David City, NE - 2012



S. Marie Annata
 St. Albans, VT - 2013



S. Mary Chiara
 Gretna, NE - 2018



S. Mary Kolbe
 Laurie, MO - 2022



S. Mary Vianney
 Bennett, CO - 2023



S. Maria Luce
 Fairhope, AL - 2023



Maggie McDermott
 Brookings, SD - 2025



*50 Years of Joyful Striving to Share the King:
 Great is His Faithfulness*