



St. Mary's Home for the Aged  
Felician Village  
1635 S. 21st Street  
Manitowoc, WI 54220



Sponsored by the  
Felician Sisters

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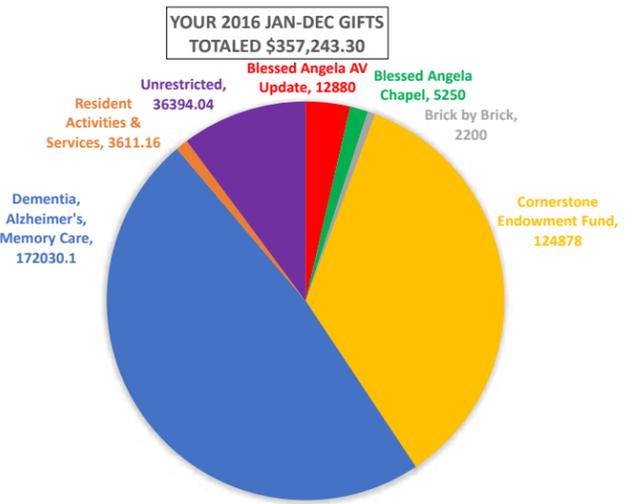
## Carrying on the Mission of the Felician Sisters with a Gift in their Honor!

You make a difference in the lives of our residents when you make a gift to Felician Village. You help our Sisters carry on their ministry of caring for the elderly, infirmed, and often poor residents.

For the last four years we have focused on the following areas of giving:

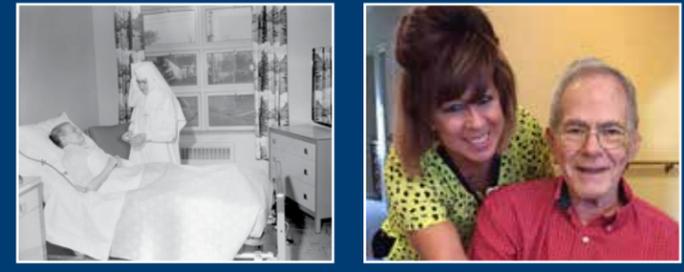
- Dementia Center of Excellence**  
Center which provides unique methodology using a variety of sensory and tactile stimulation for our residents who live with dementia, Alzheimer's, and neurological impairment.
- Cornerstone Endowment Fund for the Poor**  
This fund helps provide resources for residents who are unable to meet all of their necessary needs.

- Enhancements to the Blessed Angela Chapel**  
Upgrades to audio visual systems
  - Unrestricted**  
This fund provides for the immediate needs of our residents and campus
- If you care to learn more about giving opportunities, please contact Renee, Development Officer, for more details: 920-684-7171, ext. 381, rthompson@felicianvillage.org.**
- Thank you for your generosity!*



“Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”  
(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

# Development Matters



This year we celebrate the Felician Sisters past and present who have served St. Mary's at Felician Village for 130 years. Our organization continues to show faithfulness and honor to God through the ministry of the Felician Sisters. Five young nuns set sail from Poland and arrived in North America in 1874. When several years later, some of the nuns moved to Manitowoc, the legacy of services and care for the poor began.

From our earliest roots, providing care to our community was the foundation of St. Mary's. A 10-bed home has evolved into a full continuum of care for senior living on 22 acres. While our dwelling has certainly expanded, our mission to continue the healing ministry of Jesus by providing compassionate care that respects the dignity of each person we serve remains. I invite you to read this newsletter and travel with us on the long journey.

Peace and All Good,  
*Frank S. Soltys*  
Frank S. Soltys  
President/CEO

## Our History, Our Heritage

Father Zdislaus Luczycki, founder of St. Mary's Home was born, raised, and ordained a priest in Poland. Historical records point to the potential arrest of him for his faith and religious beliefs at a time of unrest. His friends helped Father "Z" escape from the country to Rome and then to America in 1886. He settled in Manitowoc and was assigned as pastor of St. Mary's Parish, on the south side of town, serving a small group of Polish immigrants.



Sister Mary Veronica, the first Administrator of St. Mary's Home.

Living conditions of orphans, the sick, and the poor were of concern to Father "Z."



Pie for everyone...Sister Nathaniel, Administrator from 1961-1968, cuts a huge homemade pie to the delight of the residents!

In 1887, he rented a two story home where he could care for people. The number of people grew and he needed more help. He wrote to Mother Mary Monica, Provincial Superior of the Felician Sisters, and asked to send Sisters to help him care for the residents of the home and growing community. That year, Mother Monica sent three Felician Sisters (Sister Mary Veronica, Sister Mary Felicitia, and Sister Mary Martha) to Manitowoc.

A second home was rented as the vulnerable population grew. Father "Z" appealed to the community and along with funds from a job he had as a writer, publisher, and printer, purchased 20 acres of land (the land which Felician Village resides) on which they would expand to care for orphans and the aged. In 1888 the second home was under construction and opened later that year.

Under the direction of Father "Z," sixty



Fundraising has long been a part of caring for residents. In 1958 a group of women helped raise funds for new equipment.

residents quickly occupied the home. His intentions remained constant, "to give shelter and care to the crippled, sick, the aged, and the orphans." The original home was "The Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Home for the Aged, Crippled and Orphans." One decade later Father "Z" deeded the Home and property to the Felician Sisters and transferred ownership to them. The Sisters became the owners, managers, and administrators of the Home. One hundred thirty years later, St. Mary's at Felician Village is still serving the community and has grown into the only full continuum care facility in northeast WI. From the Gardens (Independent Living) to Next Step (Rehabilitation), to The Court and The Villa (Assisted Living) to St. Mary's Nursing Home, about 280 employees serve nearly 300 residents.



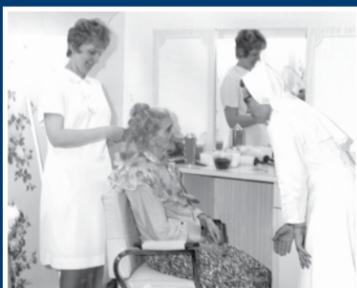
## A walk down memory lane

We invite you to visit the Felician Sisters' Heritage Hall. Walk through the halls of Felician Village toward St. Mary's Nursing Home and view the archives of our rich history dating back to the mid 1800's.

Thank you to Felician Sisters in Chicago and Michigan who provided many of the photos.



St. Mary's Farm 1938



The Beauty Salon 1972



St. Mary's Home 1888



Felician Village 2017

## The Five Sisters

Father Joseph Dabrowski was a priest who was exiled from Poland and escaped to the United States where he made his home in an already established Polish community, Polonia, WI. Aware of the needs of the Polish immigrants, and with the help of his cousin, a Felician Sister, he appealed back to Poland for assistance with his pastoral work, as well as seeking teachers who spoke the language. Sophia Camille Truszkowska, who later was known as Blessed Mary Angela, helped provide relief from half way around the globe. She and the General Counsel sent five pioneering women to Wisconsin to assist the Priest.

Yet, adversity such as illness, weather, and confrontation along with other unknowns did not deter five young women for setting sail. A steadfast prayer for safety and arrival was answered.

"We remember the courage, wisdom, compassion and spirit with which the five pioneer Felician Sisters embarked on a journey to create a history of service to God's people in North America. May we adopt that spirit as we continue to form a history with commitment to God's poorest.

*"Pomme na odwage, majdrosc, wspolczucie I ducha, z ktorym piec Felicianek pionierek podjelo wedrowke, aby rozpoczac historie posluziwania ludowi Bozemu w Ameryce Polnocnej promsmy o tego samego ducha pizszac dalsza historie oddania sie posludze najubozszym Boga."* Felician Publications

Five months after the Sisters were appealed to, they arrived in Polonia in 1874 after a 28 day journey across the Atlantic. Further travel via rail and horse led them to Wisconsin.

They began their mission and promise to build shelters, convents, hospitals, orphanages, schools, nurseries, and homes for the elderly. Wherever God's needy people were, they committed to care for and provide for them.

In 1887, the Sisters came to Manitowoc and with Fr. Z, began St. Mary's Home for the Aged.

*"Serve where you are needed."* - Blessed Angela



Five determined Sisters left Poland and arrived in Wisconsin.

### Our Mission

To continue the healing ministry of Jesus by providing compassionate care that respects the dignity of each person we serve.

### Our Vision

Our vision is to lead the community in offering seniors personalized services that are life-enriching and wellness focused.

### Core Values

Respect for Human Dignity  
Compassion  
Transformation  
Solidarity with the Poor  
Justice and Peace

## Sisters Serving Felician Village Today

When St. Mary's opened its doors 130 years ago, three Felician Sisters ministered to the orphans, sick, and elderly. Over the years the Sisters have cared for thousands of residents. Traditionally, positions of nursing, dietary, finance, housekeeping, administration, and others were held by the Sisters.

During the 1970's more than 30 Sisters held these positions. Today only four Sisters now serve in a variety of capacities on campus. You know them and their faces well. Each Sister serves where needed.

**Sister Michaeleen** has served residents at Felician Village for 17 years. Born on June 2 in Kewaunee, WI, Sister earned her nursing diploma from Holy Family Hospital School of Nursing. She was also a licensed massage therapist. Sister Michaeleen administers communion and love to thousands of residents on campus.

**Sister Bernadette** was born on July 11 in Santa Monica, CA, and moved to Rockford, IL, as a teen. Her previous career was as a primary teacher. Sr. Bernadette loves her current Quality of Life ministry which includes a variety of activities and crafts with our residents. She has been at Felician Village for 13 years.

**Sacristan Sister Odelle** lovingly referred to as "Ode, the Cook," was born on April 25 in Ironwood, MI. Education was her original career, holding posts as teacher, administrator and principal. She taught in Brazil for three years. Later she became administrator of the retreat homes. Sister's present ministry is sacristan at Blessed Angela Chapel. She has been at Felician Village for 17 years.

**Sister Gabriella** was born on March 1 in Superior, WI and has been at Felician Village for 22 years. She cooked, cleaned, laundered and did a variety of housekeeping duties. Today she serves meals and smiles in the Bistro.

Our Sisters are loved by residents, families, guests, and employees. The Sisters live out Blessed Angela's plea, "where there is a need, fill it." Together they have nearly 70 years of experience at Felician Village.



Pictured (left to right): Sister Michaeleen, Sister Bernadette, Sacristan Sister Odelle and Sister Gabriella.

## 130 Years of Caring

For 130 years, the Felician Sisters have demonstrated tenacity, competence and responsiveness to those in need. They have continued to adapt to the changes in the Church and in the world. Felician Village is a reflection of that continued response and loyalty to the Manitowoc community.

1887 - 2017

**1887** Five Felician Sisters traveled from Polonia, WI, to begin their ministry to the poor, orphaned and elderly, and along with Father Zdislaus Luczycki (Father "Z") established "The Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Home for the Aged, Crippled and Orphans." Sister Mary Veronica was the first administrator.

**1887-1890** St. Mary's served as the first hospital in the community and cared for a total of 147 patients during this time.

**1934** St. Mary's Home started providing care solely for the elderly.

**1954** A new St. Mary's Home and chapel were built.

**1972** St. Mary's Home rotunda, main entrance and swimming pool addition were completed.

**1982** St. Mary's Home towers addition were completed.

**1988-1994** The Gardens independent living apartments were constructed.

**1998** Sacred Heart Court assisted living apartments were built.

**2003** The Villa, a community based residential facility (CBRF), was established accommodating 16 residents.

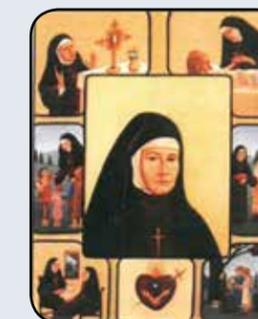
**2005** New name for entire campus was changed to Felician Village.

**2009** Repositioning Project: Village Square and new Villa were completed.

**2010** Repositioning Project: St. Mary's skilled nursing home and 16 apartments were added to The Court.

**2015** Dementia Center of Excellence established.

"Felician Village is extremely blessed to embrace the values of the Felician Sisters. Their Christian values guide us every day and their imprint is etched in our thoughts, behaviors, and actions," said Renee Thompson, Development Officer.



She added, "Your gift helps all of us continue the work that the Sisters began 130 years ago in Manitowoc. On behalf of them, thank you for opening your heart to the ongoing needs of our residents and campus."