



## St. Philomena's Convent in Crisis

### **Crisis #1: Too Much Mold**

- ◆ In July of 2024, the Sisters of the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary had to do an **emergency evacuation** of their convent due to a mold infestation that was seriously affecting the health of multiple members of the Community. They squeezed themselves into the upstairs guest quarters of their main school building.

### **Crisis #2: Not Enough Space**

- ◆ Barely a week after evacuating their convent, the Sisters received a new postulant. Even if St. Philomena's Convent were livable, with nine Sisters and only eight cells—**they have outgrown it!**

## How Bad Is the Mold Problem?

**It's bad.** The Sisters have had the convent evaluated by several professional companies and individuals. They have received the following assessments:

- ◆ Built in 1995 and gifted to the Sisters in 2009, the convent was constructed without step-flashing. **The mold inside the walls is now between one to two feet high.**
- ◆ One wing of the attic is **overrun with black mold** due to an inadequate ventilation design.
- ◆ **Extent of interior mold—and the structural damaged** caused by it—is still to be determined.

## What Would It Take to Fix the Convent?

### **Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of exterior work:**

- ◆ Remove the bottom two feet of **exterior walls and zip boards and put on weather-proof siding with mold-resistant coating.**
- ◆ Remove the **sheathing** that has been on since 2019, following our first attempt at convent repairs, an effort which could not be continued due to lack of funds.
- ◆ **Replace the many studs** that have been corroded by mold.
- ◆ Pull out and replace old **insulation.**
- ◆ Install **air circulation system:** either a dehumidifier or air conditioning.

### **Countless hours and tens of thousands of dollars of interior work:**

- ◆ Repair sections of damaged **dry wall.**
- ◆ Rip out **carpeting in chapel** and replace with hard flooring.
- ◆ Remove and replace **kitchen sink.**
- ◆ clean/store or dispose of every single piece of **porous furniture, all the books in the library, and everything in mold-ridden attic.**

# OPERATION CONVENT RESCUE

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## Addressing the Crisis of Space

Even if they were able to raise the money to clean and repair the convent, the Sisters **still need more room for their growing Community!** Here are the options they are investigating with the help of experts:

- ◆ **Building a new convent** from scratch. This could entail purchasing a piece of land (soon to be for sale) adjacent to the property they already own.
- ◆ **Building additions** onto their current convent.
- ◆ **Finishing the already-approved addition to their Immaculate Heart of Mary School** building project of 2012, and reassessing how the main buildings (now IHM School and workspace) could be made to fit their current needs.
- ◆ **Purchasing the three-story, 6,684-square-foot house** located at [70 Tully Brook Road](#)—*the same street as their current convent*. This property went on the market only weeks after the Sisters' evacuation. It's expensive but it could be made to accommodate their needs *beautifully*.

## Operation Convent Rescue!

The Sisters need help! If you are reading this flyer, it is because someone you know shared it with you in the hope that you can make **a one-time, tax-deductible donation of \$50, \$100, \$200 or more to help the Sisters out of their convent crises.**

- ◆ You can **donate online** by going to **the Sisters' website:** [saintphilomenaconvent.org](http://saintphilomenaconvent.org).
- ◆ **Checks can be made payable to the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary;** to earmark these donations, write "Convent" on the memo line.
- ◆ **The Sisters are a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization and will happily provide a tax letter** to anyone who requests it of them.
- ◆ Please keep St. Philomena's Convent and the Sisters' current crises **in your daily prayers**, and know that we are praying for you, too!

