

TO: All the Parishioners of St. Mary's
FROM: All the Ursulines who have ever served here and in their name, Sister Margaret, OSU
RE: The future of the Ursuline Convent and St. Rose's School

HISTORY: The Ursuline Sisters have been in Moscow, Idaho since 1908. That was the year when we were invited to come from Ohio to provide Catholic education for the children on the Palouse. Through the years the Ursulines have been involved in education at all levels in Moscow. They have been actively involved in all aspects of the Parishes' lives, Diocesan life as well as the larger Moscow community.

REALITY NOW: Unlike other convents, the Ursuline Sisters have owned and managed the property/convent since the very beginning. Currently, there is only one active (though semi-retired) Ursuline left living in the convent. The time has come to sell the convent and property. The Ursulines of the Western Province are at an age (median age is 77) where energy can be better spent than managing property. We know that the time has come to "let it go". As the foundress of the Ursulines, St. Angela Merici, said to us many years ago, *"If the needs of the time warrant making different choices, do so with prudence and good advice."*

PROCESS IN WHICH WE ARE ENGAGING: We have tried to follow the advice of St. Angela and instead of putting the property on the market immediately, we have been engaged with a group of local persons (Focus Group) who have been assisting Sister Margaret in thinking of some creative ways in which the convent/property could be used, similar to the work/ministry the Ursulines have been doing for the past 109 years. On the back side of this sheet are some of the more viable options the individuals on the Focus Group are pursuing regarding the convent/property. If you would like to know more information or perhaps get involved with one of these areas, or you have an idea on the future use of the facility, let Sister Margaret know at 208-882-4014.

ST. ROSE'S: St. Rose's has been *both* a viable ministry and income for the Ursuline Sisters since 1940. From its very beginning it has been housed in the convent. However, as of Fall 2018, St. Rose's will be moved across the street and housed at St. Mary's School. It will be under the direction of the administration there. It will be the **same great program with the same staff, etc.** The only difference will be the ownership (which is the Parish). Students, ages 3 and 4, will have their educational and childcare needs met by the same wonderful staff that has been at the convent. One difference that will affect parents very positively will be those children, who have siblings in other grades, will now fall under a "family rate" at St. Mary's. The Ursuline Sisters have gifted St. Rose's to St. Mary's for \$10. The Ursulines are very grateful that the wonderful work/childcare will continue for the very young!

SUMMARY: As of next year (Fall 2018), the convent/property will no longer be Ursuline owned. However, relationships with the Ursulines will remain into the future. Sister Margaret will remain in Moscow. Ursuline presence will remain. It just won't be at the convent.

OPTIONS BEING PURSUED REGARDING THE USE OF THE URSULINE CONVENT/PROPERTY:

- A. Talking with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Spokane and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Boise to set up offices to reach out to the greatest needs of the people in this area (Moscow-Pullman) from counselling, meeting emotional needs, family assistance, etc.
- B. Have St. Vincent de Paul use the convent/property for its many outreach programs it does as well as connect with others who are doing similar work locally. The place would be a regional office with outreach in the Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston areas.
- C. Possibly there is someone(s) who would love to buy the property/building so that a cloistered group of Sisters would use it as a "monastery" of prayer place for the people of the Palouse.
- D. Be an art/music center---extension of St. Mary's School.
- E. A group of investors buy the property/convent outright and the needed time to actively pursue the best ministerial use of the building

These are the wonderful options that are being pursued. However, if no buyers come forth to buy the convent/property, it will be put on the open market as of *February 1, 2018*.

Again, if you would like to meet and discuss some one of the above options or other possible options, please call me at 208-882-4014 for a time we can talk. Thank you and please keep this in your good prayers that the right option/persons will come forth to carry on into the next 100 years, the good ministerial work (though in a new way) the Ursulines began over 100 years ago. St. Angela told us, her Sisters to:

***“Do something,
get moving,
be confident,
risk new things,
stick with it,
then get on your knees; then be ready for BIG SURPRISES!!!”***