

Dear Friend,

Does your family have a special and cherished place within your home? The heart of our home here at Holy Family Motherhouse is our Chapel. I could never begin to measure the time our Sisters and I have spent in prayer in our Chapel over these many years! But now, not only am I praying in the Chapel ... I'm praying for your help to safeguard our Chapel.

Sadly, we're dealing with a troubling (and worsening) situation.

The slate roof that has served and protected our Chapel so faithfully for more than 80 years is well past the end of its life, and fading fast. The contractor says we must replace it immediately or risk catastrophic damage to our worship space. The total cost is estimated at \$175,000.00 — a significant financial worry for us.

Friend, your past support meant so much to all of us. Would you renew your support today with a donation of your most generous offering, to help replace our Chapel roof and protect our spiritual home? I am so very grateful to the caring friends like you who made it possible for us to renovate our Chapel in 2020. Unfortunately, the issues with the roof didn't surface until after that interior work was done. And, as the contractor explained, once slate roofs begin to deteriorate, they do so quickly. *The need for a new roof is truly urgent!*

I want to assure you, we take our commitment to stewardship very seriously. We budget carefully and do our best to spend wisely. Taking on a major expense like this happens only after extensive research, collaboration with trusted partners, and a lot of discussion and reflection.

What we must now do is clear: Our Sisters and our students at the Academy of the Holy Family truly need us to preserve the worship space that knits our community together.

As you surely know from your own home, the longer you wait to make a repair, the more costly it becomes — and the more damage you incur. We need this new roof ASAP!

## **Our Spiritual Home for Eight Decades**

Every time the snow falls during the winter here, I ask God to hold up our roof and keep our Chapel safe.

My Sisters and I cannot imagine our Motherhouse without our Chapel.

Our Chapel seats 300 people, but the space is so much bigger than that — it holds the prayers, joys, fears, tears, hopes, and promises of the Sisters and students who have worshipped there since the Chapel was built in 1941.

The Chapel is where we are officially received into the Congregation as novices. It is where we dedicate our lives to God forever in our Perpetual Vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. It is where we gather each day as a Community at morning and evening to praise God, pray for the needs of the world, and pray for good friends like you. It is where we retreat on our own during the day to renew our spirit and open ourselves to God's love and goodness.

And it is from our Chapel that our Community sends us home to God when we come to the end of our lives.

## **The Danger Is Real, and the Need Is Urgent**

Now, as the roof has reached its own “end of life,” as the contractor told us, our beautiful spiritual home is under serious threat. A leaky roof could cause massive damage.

- Ceilings and walls could stain, bubble, or deteriorate.
- Electrical hazards might arise if water reaches wiring, fixtures, or outlets.
- Rafters and beams could rot and weaken.
- Dangerous mold could develop, harming air quality and causing illness.

- Our pews, statues, or tabernacle could be destroyed by water damage.
- The many labors of love that went into our 2020 Chapel renovation could be undone.

## **Friend, Your Gift Today Will Make You a Protector and a Partner**

Your generosity will help preserve a vital piece of our Congregation's history and honor more than 80 years of faith and service.

You'll help us prevent exponentially higher costs later by allowing us to act on expert professional advice right now.

And you'll partner with us in our many ministries that take place on our campus and in our local community.

You see, prayer is the source of our strength. Whether we enter the Chapel for a few moments of individual reflection, attend Mass as a family, or kneel before the Lord in silent Adoration, prayer sustains us for the important work we do each day.

Prayer guides us as we educate young women at the Academy of the Holy Family and nourish the minds of young students in the Catholic elementary schools where our Sisters teach.

Prayer fortifies us as we care for the elderly at our Perpetual Help Center here at the Motherhouse and at St. Elizabeth Home, our nursing home in Janesville, Wisconsin.

And prayer revitalizes us to face the growing daily challenges as we feed the poor at our Holy Family Food Pantry... assist immigrants through our Hispanic Ministry... and serve mothers and their children at our Holy Family Home & Shelter.

## **We Need Your Support and Your Prayers**

The time we spend in our Chapel is essential to our mission of sanctity and service. And your support is essential to our ability not only to replace our Chapel's roof now, but to safeguard that sacred space for future generations of Sisters and students.

We've long known the day would come when our Chapel roof would need to be replaced. We just didn't expect it to come so soon and with such urgency!

Now that the day is here, I humbly thank you for your support of our mission and ask you to help us during this challenging time. Your generosity today will make a lasting difference to all our Sisters and to the people we serve.

Please keep us — *and our ailing roof* — in your prayers. God bless you!

Gratefully in Mary, Mother of the Church,  
Mother Mary David, SCMC  
Superior General

P.S. I hope to hear from you soon. Your generous offering would be truly and deeply appreciated. It is an honor for me and my Sisters, especially those who are ill or aging, to pray for you and your needs. Please submit your intentions through our online prayer submission form and share them with me today. My Sisters and I will remember you with fondness and gratitude when we pray in our Chapel.