

of  
walls tumblin' down  
and  
walls rising up

Siena on the Lake grows from  
the ruins of Siena Center



# PHASE ONE

SIENA RETREAT CENTER

RACINE DOMINICAN  
RESIDENCE



## **JULY 14, 2011: FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF MOVE**

In preparation for the imminent demolition of D Wing, Sister Pat Mapes, coordinator of Siena Center, announced that sisters living in D Wing will be moving to B Wing. Before this public announcement, Pat had met with the sisters, advising them of the move, and encouraging them to select their rooms in B Wing.

Sisters were given a copy of the following prayer, which set the context and tone for the difficult days and months ahead:

*We sense your presence with us, God of the journey. You are walking with us into a new surrounding and guarding us in our vulnerable moments. You are dwelling within us and promise to be our peace as we face the challenges and changes ahead.*

*Renew in us a deep trust in you. Calm our anxiousness. As we reflect on our life, we can clearly see how you have always been there. You will always be with us in everything. We do not know how we are being resettled, but we place our lives into the welcoming arms of your love.*

*Encircle our hearts with your peace. May your powerful presence run like a strong thread through the fibers of our being.*

*We pray this in your name.*

*Amen*



## JULY 18, 2011 ARCHIVES MOVED

Thanks to the superb organization of archivist S. Shirley Kubat, and the efficient, persevering labor of Mike Holub and Paul Desotel, as well as the men from Bluemound Express Movers,

**the archives were moved in ONE DAY!**

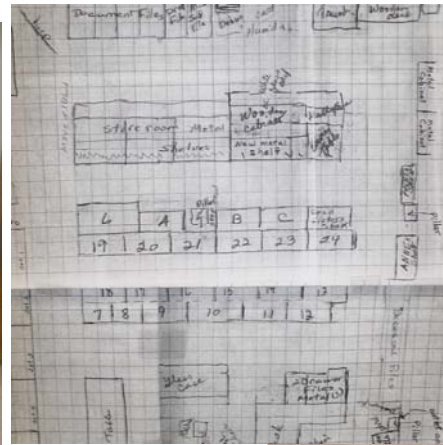
They took up residence in the former art studio of S. Monica Gabriel.

*Removing archives from the rooms in D Wing*



*Staging area outside the former art studio of S. Monica Gabriel*





C - 11 from office  
 #6 - Stacks  
 Then cabinets 24 - 19  
 Take big items down  
 antique desk - Stack  
 Buffet - office  
 Trunk - Storage  
 Wooden cabinet  
 Row

Large Metal Shelf  
 from Storage

*The movers said, "She measured  
 the space for each item down to the  
 centimeter."*



*Getting every item in the right place.*

## JULY 2012 PEACEFUL HEARTS ON THE JOURNEY

In preparation for moving day, S. Joyce Ballweg and S. Jean Ackerman created a prayer service, Peaceful Hearts on the Journey, which acknowledged the pain of letting go and the excitement of looking to the future.

*We gather to acknowledge and celebrate the moves that have happened and those about to take place. Archives are in a new location. Soon the offices and the living quarters of the sisters in D and E will be moved to another area. This experience impacts all of us.*

*Be still my heart! Be still! Be!*

*We stand with our God and one another this morning—to be, to be present and to be keenly sensitive to all that is going on around us and all that is stirring within each one of us.*

*To be attentive to the anxiousness, the excitement, the letting go and receiving something new is our prayer. On this new threshold we stand, live and support one another.*



*S. Marie Burnaby shares her thoughts on letting go.*

### *Litany of Intercessions*

*As we journey through this year, we face fear of the unknown, doubts, hesitations, anxieties and insecurities.*

*As we journey and move along the road of life, we learn what to leave behind and what to take with us.*

*As we journey, may we be open and receptive to moments of breathlessness, to unsought changes, and see the unexpected, wondrous mystery of new life unfold.*

*As we journey, we believe God still desires to create something new in and through us for the life of the world.*

*Sung Response to Each Petition:*

*Spirit of the Living God, breathe afresh on us.*



*Prayer*

*Ever-Abiding, Life-Giving God,*

*Be a source of hope for us as we journey.*

*Be the sparkle of joy in our spirits*

*As we live through the challenges and changes facing us,*

*As we struggle with the pain of letting go,*

*As we embrace our new way of living in this building.*

*Be a strong connector of love for us*

*As we move forward and into the Future.*

*Amen*



*May the angels of beauty and wonder  
Shower streams of blessings on us. Amen*

*May the angels of healing  
Turn our anguish into sources of refreshment.  
Amen*

*May all the angels guard, guide and lead us  
as we journey over this threshold. Amen*

*S. Jeanne Burg reads Scripture during the service.*

## JULY 25, 2011      MOVING DAY: D WING TO B WING



*S. Brenda Walsh organizes for relocation*



*S. Beverly Hebel transports belongings via cart*



*No need to clear book shelves*

*Collect unwanted items for the estate sale*



*S. Beverly Hebel reflects on moving:*

*I considered my move like July 16th in the olden days.\* Moving from two rooms to one. What do I take? What will fit? Where do I put extra clothes? These were the questions I asked myself. I moved to second floor of B Wing from third floor of D Wing. It took me a while to push the right button on the elevator. I was always going to third floor. My room is full to capacity. We were welcomed warmly by the B Wing community.*

*\*In the “olden days,” on July 16, each sister received a small piece of paper, on which was written her assignment for the year. She accepted her assignment “in holy obedience.”*

## SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 THESE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS



*A paraphrased version of “My Favorite Things” from Sound of Music, opened the prayer service preceding the Siena Center Estate/Rummage sale.*

Minnie Pearl (S. Rose Marie Anthony), an avid estate/rummage sale devotee, came from Nashville, Tennessee, to search the acclaimed Siena Center Estate sale. She heard that items included furniture and smaller items left behind by the sisters who down-sized in preparation for their move from two rooms to one. With her Tennessee drawl, she urged her friends to hurry to the sale.

Following readings from the Gospels and the Racine Dominican Constitution admonishing simple living, various sisters spoke to their experience of letting go of favorite things.

*These items may not look like much, but I remembered the people who gave them to me as gifts, and recalled all the treasured memories.*

*All we take with us is the LOVE we have shared, especially with the lonely, poor and unaccepted. You never see a U-Haul behind a hearse.*

*Like many of you, I “put out into the deep” last month. On command, I lowered my net and got so great a catch of belongings that it was tearing—clothing, housewares, books, crafting tools, assorted treasures. I was overwhelmed; I was in danger of sinking. What an abundance I had. And while I am grateful for it all, I will “leave everything and follow” when God calls.*



*S. Dolores Chartrand shares her thoughts*

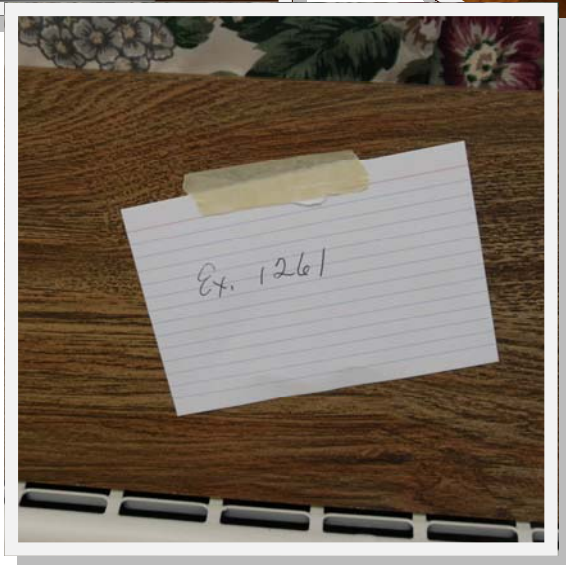


SEPTEMBER 9, 2011

## THE GREAT ESTATE/RUMMAGE SALE

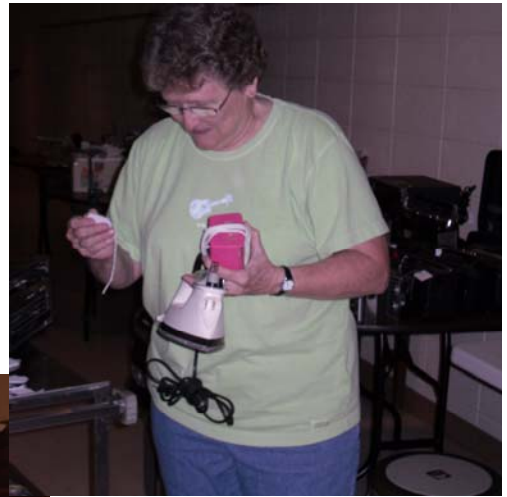
### PREPARATION

*Everything is labeled*





*S. Barbara Fisher prices items.*



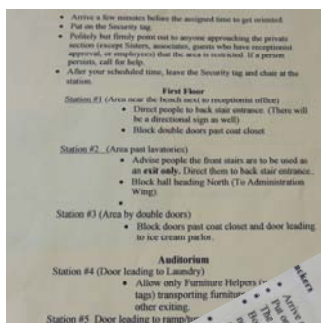
*S. Linda McClenahan ensures  
that electrical appliances work.*



*S. Christine Marie Goodman  
sorts kitchen items.*



*Mrs. Runde sees that decks of cards are complete.*



*Anyone need a lamp?*



## SALE DAY!



*Bargains, bargains, bargains*



*Pat Shutts and friend examine crucifixes.*



*Carrie Johnson is pleased with her purchase.*

Overheard at the exit of the sale area

*A fifth-grade boy, climbing up the steps from the auditorium, hand in hand with his father: "I wasn't too keen on coming here. But this was fun! I had a great time."*

*Four-year-old boy with two items in his bag: "I was a good shopper, wasn't I?"*

### Statistics

43 tables loaded with "treasures."

More than 600 furniture items

75% of the sisters living in Wisconsin volunteered.

Volunteers served as directors, cashiers, packers, angel helpers, security, furniture movers, as well as help in preparation, and packing 63 boxes after the sale.



*S. Agnes Schneider and S. Marian Diedrich staff the checkout table.  
S. Suzanne Noffke looks on.*



**S. Pat Chaffee to S. Therese Van Thull, as she works in her garden between C Wing and D Wing:**

*Therese, your garden always gives me great delight.*

*S. Therese: It's kind of sad.*

*S. Pat: Why?*

*S. Therese: This is the last summer it will be here.*



Notice from S. Pat Mapes (Siena Center Coordinator) August 1, 2011:

Anyone interested in taking some plants from S. Therese Van Thull's garden to transplant in your garden? Due to the deconstruction of D Wing, we think S. Therese's garden will be run over by big trucks, so she is offering to the sisters in the area and Siena staff. S. Therese thinks the best time to transplant would be mid to late August. Please contact S. Therese to see what she has available and to set a time to come and get them.

## NOVEMBER 3, 2011      MEETING WITH NEIGHBORS

Dan Risch, CEO, Lincoln Lutheran, and S. Suzanne Noffke, Project Coordinator for the Racine Dominicans, met with approximately 150 neighbors of the Siena Center. They provided a handout with the following information:

- ♦ The Racine Dominicans are convinced that Lincoln Lutheran would be committed to responsible stewardship of Siena Center's land and resources—taking into account not only immediate needs but future sustainability and adaptability.
- ♦ Guiding principles for the initiative have been developed and endorsed by both parties:  
*A vibrant community is envisioned where the buildings and programs will be designed to promote opportunities for lifelong vitality in body, mind and spirit.*
- ♦ A partnership has been formed between the Racine Dominicans and Lincoln Lutheran of Racine involving the Siena Center site.

*Participants in the meeting raised questions about increased traffic and noise.*





## JANUARY 2, 2012 TEMPORARY PARKING LOT

### Message from S. Pat Mapes:

It felt like a mini-earthquake! The floor vibrated, windows rattled and pictures on the walls bounced on their hooks. Oh, yes, the big machinery had arrived and work was begun on a parking lot outside my office. “A parking lot?” you ask!

### the answer:



When deconstruction/construction begins, we will lose the north parking lot. While many of the employees parked in the north lot will eventually park at the “new offices on the other side of the ravine,” I still had to find parking for the employees remaining at Siena who use the north lot. It was decided to make a temporary parking lot between B and C wings for the sisters who live in B Wing. This will free up some spaces in the bakery lot for employees, visitors, and other sisters.



## JANUARY 26, 2012 ASBESTOS ABATEMENT RITUAL

### *SPIRIT OF GOD, BREATHE IN US*

#### **Opening song:**

Spirit of the Living God, breathe afresh in me.

#### **Prayer:**

Gracious Creator, our beautiful world is both fragile and resilient.

It is a world that belongs to you.

As we abate the asbestos in our D, E, H Wings,

May we continue to act justly to our earth and all of its minerals.

Help us to continue to support one another on this stewardship journey.

You invite us to bring about a world more compassionate and just,

Where all people and all creation enjoy and share in life's beauty and bounty.

We ask this blessing as we "breathe in" your gracious Spirit. Amen

#### **Reader 1: Acts 1:1-2**

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind. And it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

#### **Reader 2 Today's Pentecost**

When the day of prayer had come for the abatement and deconstruction of the D, E, and H Wings of Siena Center, the sisters were all together in one place. And vibrantly God's Spirit hovered over them like a surge of invigorating breath. And it filled the entire space where they were gathered.

*Prayer service created by S. Jean Ackerman and S. Joyce Ballweg*



## **ASBESTOS ABATEMENT PRAYER SERVICE continued**

S. Karen Vollmer: Prayer Gesture

The Sacred Source of Life, the Divine Breather, breathes life into all of creation. Breath connects us to our Creator.

The Spirit breathes courage and freedom, offering the vision of an alternative way of being. If we are attentive to the Breath of the Spirit, the breakthrough could take our breath away.

We open ourselves to renewal and fresh awakenings at this time in our history. As we breathe in life, we breathe in new vision and possibility.

I invite you to face the East. The East is the direction of beginnings, of illumination, of guidance. Close your eyes and create a sacred breathing space within. Allow your breath-prayer to become a prayer of courage and freedom. Pay attention to the between breathing in and breathing out—the pause that deepens your prayer intention and prepares for a release, a new lease on life.

Breathing in: I receive the gift of life from the Giver of Life. (3 times)

Deepening pause

Breathing out: I release and let go of all that restricts life.

Now, open your eyes and open your hands, praying:

Open hands near heart: I receive the gift of life from the Giver of Life (3 times)

Deepening pause

Open hands pushing outward from heart: I release and let go of all that restricts life.

As we breathe the Breath of Life, we are reminded to “Pray without ceasing.” (I Thess 5:17)

There followed a chanted litany of the names of those persons—living and dead—who have occupied the rooms in D, E, and H Wings.

Closing Blessing: May the God of whirlwinds stir us and bless us. May we come to know that the only way to experience God’s whirlwind is to stand very still. It is in our stillness that we can be swept up into the invigorating and vibrant love of God and feel God’s presence. Let us pray for the safety and well-being of everyone who will be working on this project of abatement. May God’s Spirit hover over them.



## ASBESTOS ABATEMENT: D WING



*Preparing to remove tile*



*Removing tile*



*Messy Business*



*Vacuum the worst of it*



## JANUARY 31, 2012: PRAYER SERVICE: CROSSING THE RAVINE

Administrators and staff in H and E Wings will pack up their offices and move to “the old rectory,” subsequently named Siena North. These are the “Knapsack Women.”

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### Opening Song:



### The Happy Wanderer

I love to go a-wandering,  
Along the mountain track,  
And as I go, I love to sing,  
My knapsack on my back.

Chorus:

Val-deri, Val-dera,  
Val-deri,  
Val-dera-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha  
Val-deri, Val-dera.  
My knapsack on my back.

Oh, may I go a-wandering  
Until the day I die!  
Oh, may I always laugh and sing,  
Beneath God's clear blue sky!

S. Peg Gabik led a sung litany of all the administrators and staff who had occupied the offices in H Wing and E Wing from 1965 to 2012. S. Alice McCormick researched and compiled the list of names.



The sisters processed through E Wing and H Wing,  
and met in the front entrance, where they prayed:

*Loving and gracious God,  
come with us on our journey across the ravine.  
No need for baggage; everything is within.*

*Wisdom is our compass; your mission is our spark.  
Release our fears; step with us through the depths of the ravine.*

*It's a mystery, a sacred mystery.  
Awaken us to the moment of this time.  
Let us surrender to the story that's unfolding  
for our world and our community.*

*We ask this blessing through the intercession of Christ, our brother  
Amen*



*S. Chris Broslavick prepares to cross the ravine,  
knapsack on her back*



# THE HISTORIC MOVE ACROSS THE RAVINE

MARCH 19, 21,23,26,27, 2012

## Preparation for THE MOVE



*Elaine Fogarty, Accountant, begins to organize for the move.*



*S. Ruthanne Reed, Director of Associates, has a lot of work ahead as she assists in moving supplies to general areas.*



*S. Chris Broslavick, Sponsorship Director, finds moving heavy work*



*Nannette Wellstein, Director of Human Resources, and IT, isn't worried. There's always tomorrow.*

## MOVING ACROSS THE RAVINE



*Bluemound promises safe transfer.*



*And they are true to their word.*

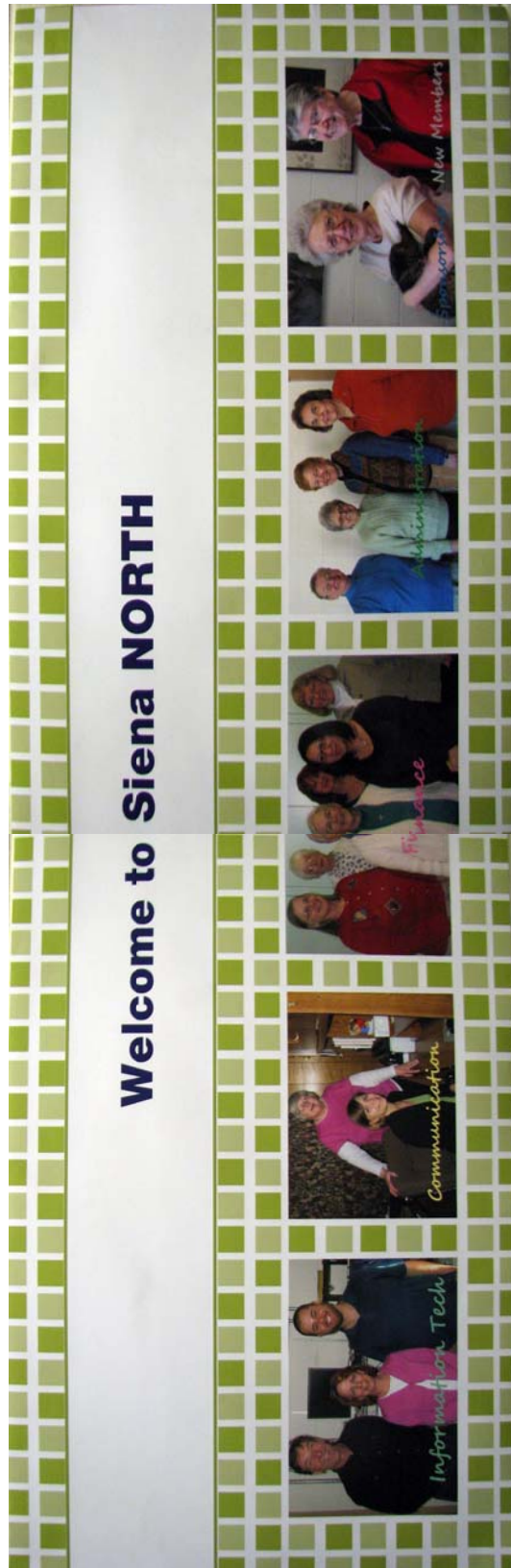


*Linda Laudonio, Executive Assistant, and Heather Ly, Accounting Manager, take a break.*



*Paul Reese, computer consultant locates the right outlet.*

## Siena North





**PRAYER SERVICE:**  
**AND THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN**  
**APRIL 12, 2012**

Although the date for the demolition of D Wing, E Wing, and H Wing was uncertain, the Community prepared for the event with a prayer service.

**Welcome**

We just finished our Lenten journey of forty days.  
Moses led the people for forty years through the desert,  
but it was Joshua who led them into the land of milk and honey.  
Joshua and the people marched around the walls of  
Jericho for six days in silence.  
It was on the seventh day with the sound of the ram's  
horn and the shouts of the people that the walls came  
tumblin' down.

**Reader**

The place we stand on is holy ground.  
It is our "seventh day time" and God is with us.  
We keep "marching" onward, forward, toward our  
future.  
At the right time the ram's horn will sound and the walls  
of D, E, and H will come tumbling down.  
Be firm, steadfast and keep dancing on this holy ground.



*Paul Reese sounds the ram's horn.*



## AND THE PEOPLE FOLLOWED



*S. Dolores Chartrand, S. Agnes Schneider*



*S. Agnes Ballweg, Cindy Brower,  
S. Marlene Hetzel*



*Facing D Wing*

## **We face the D-Wing**

*These walls will be tumbling down! Even though the walls will disappear, we hold many memories, some wonderful treasured times, as well some painful sorrowing times, for life was lived in this space*

*Forty plus seven years ago, the D-Wing of Siena Center was almost in the same shape as it is now. . .not completely enclosed , and empty!*

*After its completion and during the first years, this wing housed approximately 45 junior professed sisters.*

*Through the years that followed, this wing continued to be a place of living community, prayer, and study for well over 250 sisters.*

*Some sisters lived there for a year or two, others for five, ten, up to 35 and more years. For a period of time the second floor was an extension of the sisters' infirmary.*

*Sing: Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho*

*Joshua fought the battle of Jericho,*

*And the walls came tumbling down.*



*D Wing ready for demolition*



*Sisters sing and remember.*

## We face the E-Wing

These walls will be tumbling down! Even though the walls will disappear, we hold many memories, some wonderful treasured times, as well some painful sorrowing times, for life was lived in this space.

Forty plus seven years ago, the E-Wing second floor of Siena Center was ready for the Mother General and her council members to move in. However, that never really happened. Only a couple of them had their bedrooms there for a short period of time. Eventually, that space became the extension of the lay infirmary.

Over the years, the first floor space was office space for the chaplain, council members, vocation, associate and membership offices, extension of the finance office, offices for supportive staff, a reading room, a conference room.

As we view this wing, we also see the space that was a beautiful garden. Over the years various sister diligently and tenderly tended it.

Sing: *Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho*

*Joshua fought the battle of Jericho,*

*And the walls came tumblin' down..*





## **We face toward the H-Wing**

These walls will be tumbling down! Even though the walls will disappear, we hold many memories, some wonderful treasured times, as well some painful sorrowing times, for life was lived in this space.

Forty plus seven years ago, the north section of H-Wing was built for the administrative offices of the Racine Dominicans. Until just a few days ago, it was used for that purpose.

The west section of H-Wing was built for parlors and guest rooms. As needed, the parlors were re-created into offices spaces.

Sing: *Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho*

*Joshua fought the battle of Jericho,*

*And the walls came tumblin' down.*

**As we conclude this prayer ritual, we pray:**

*Spirit of the risen Christ, we ask your continued blessings for safety of all those involved in the deconstruction process. Bless each of these workers and bless each of us as we hold precious memories of these D, E, and H wings. Though these walls will soon tumble down, may our memories be held in our hearts forever.*

***Amen***



*S. Jeanne Burg, S. Linda McClenahan,  
S. Rosaire Lucassen*

# WHENTHE TREES COM TUMWHEN THE TREES COME TUMBLING DOWN

MAY 1, 2012



*S. Rita Martin reads during the prayer service.*



*S. Brenda Walsh, Mary Fisher, Anne Morehouse, Agnes Johnson, Kate Nilles*

***God of Transition, we are aware that only a few of our trees—seven or eight of them will survive their transplanting.***

***These trees will take root in another location on this site.***

***They will continue to be vital natural resources for us in the future.***

***We truly delight with the trees that will be transplanted.***

***We mourn deeply the trees that will be uprooted and recycled.***

***These trees cleaned our air and water, provided food and habitat for wildlife, conserved energy and topsoil, and kept our atmosphere in balance.***

***God of Transitions, be our support as we walk over this threshold of uprooting, transplanting, and planting.***

***Give us courage to let go of the trees that will be uprooted, and the strength to hold on to the memories these trees offer.***

***Fill us with hope. Sharpen our vision to plant anew as we unfold a dream beyond all dreams.***

***God of Transitions, be with us and surround us with your grace and blessings.***

***Grant us peace. Amen***



*Sisters Jean Ackerman, Peg Gabik, Pat Mapes, and Joyce Ballweg lead the service*



*Marian Fay watches as S. Catherine Verbeten follows the reading.*





*In memory of all the trees that will be uprooted, we are invited to “Plant a Tree.” Realizing that not all of us are able to plant a tree, we asked the Eco-Justice Community if they needed another tree.*

*Of course, the response was affirmative. Their shade tree, the silver maple, had to be taken down last year and was not replaced. Now with the bee-hives, a linden tree would be a blessing.*

*If you care to donate toward the purchase of the linden tree that would be planted at the Eco-Justice Center in memory of all the trees that will be uprooted at Siena, please place your donation in the jar at the north end of the green dining room.*

*Yellow-banded trees will be spared*



*Preparation to receive transplanted tree*



*Delivery*



*Transplanting*



*Transplanted at Siena North*



**S. Suzanne Noffke, Racine Dominican Partnership coordinator,  
communicates regularly with the community**

Dear Sisters and Associates,

May 15, 2012

If you were around Siena Center yesterday, you may have noticed that the contractors have begun the deconstruction process. Here's what's coming.

As we wait for all of the necessary permits from Caledonia, they are starting on building some temporary partitions at the "sever" points of the existing building so that they are in place and are ready to go once the actual deconstruction commences.

This week they will

- continue with the temporary partitions,
- apply and receive the actual demolition permit from Caledonia,
- plan and hopefully begin the relocation of the trees to be saved,
- install site fencing,
- install fencing around the Dominic statue and the trees to be saved, and
- generally get ready to go in earnest next week.

Once the demo contractor starts next Monday, May 21, the steps will be:

- Sever D, E, and H at the partition points;
- Start with the actual building demo on the east end of D, working towards the west until they get to the meditation garden;
- Once they have an opening, they will move Dominic and the courtyard trees and then proceed with the remainder of buildings E and H.

November 2, 2013

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Early on in our planning for the future of Siena Center, we resolved to include as many local and minority contractors as possible in the project. As our partnership with Lincoln Lutheran was formed, we passed on this resolve and subsequently communicated it to our main contractor, Berghammer Construction Company. As Phase 1 draws near completion, Berghammer reports that the following local and/or minority firms have been contracted:

Southport (Heating, Ventilation, AC)	Local
Total (Plumbing)	4% Minority
KW (Electrical)	10% Minority
Milaeger's (Landscaping)	Local/Minority
Applewood (Drywall)	Minority
Premier (Flooring)	Minority
Regency (Cleaning)	Minority
Nielsen Madsen Barber (Surveying)	Local
Statewide (Fencing)	Local

In all, 22% of the total work has been done by local and/or minority contractors.

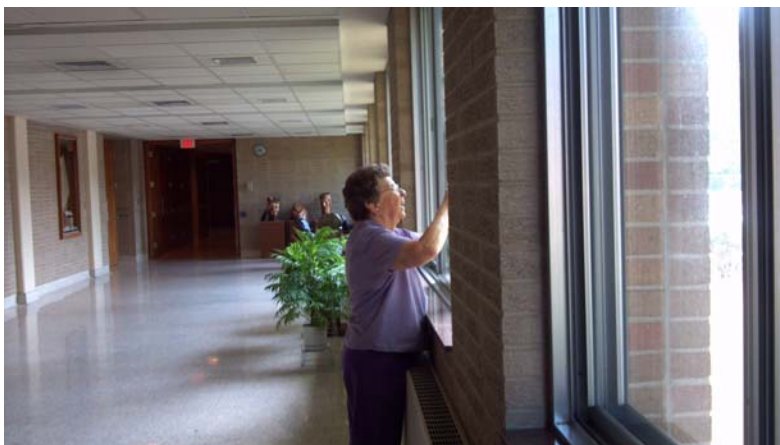
**MAY 15, 2012**

## **PHASE I DEMOLITION BEGINS**

**Residents and employees of Siena Center, as well as visitors, were fascinated with the demolition process. At the same time, it was an emotional experience, especially for sisters who had lived at Siena for many years.**

*I watched until my eyes burned.  
It's the best movie I've ever seen!*

*S. Esther Szambelan*



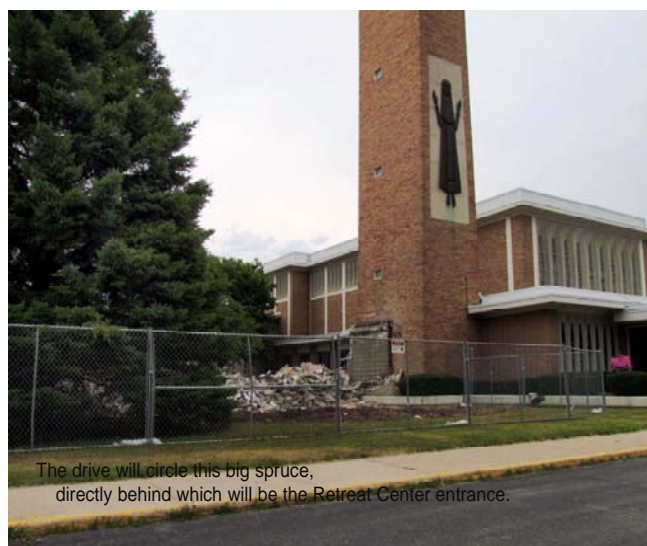
*S. Marian Diedrick watching  
“the best movie ever seen!”*

*Mother Benedicta is watching the progress of the deconstruction from the wall outside the chapel. Every time I wonder about this project, she looks me in the eye and reminds me that a real daughter of hers is fearless in taking on new projects. At least I don't wander the country with a piano in the back of my wagon.*

*S. Dolores Enderle*



*Closing off demolition area.*



*The drive will circle this big spruce,  
directly behind which will be the Retreat Center entrance.*

*Note separation wall on tower.*





*This is serious business*



*Restarting from the northwest corner to protect the big spruce. Spraying water to minimize dust.*



*And Dominic watches over all*



*Machine affectionately known as the Dinosaur*





One side down — all but the foundation!

*The building going down holds many happy memories, since I moved here in 1984. First I lived in the Retreat Wing, and after I filled it up with programs and people, I moved to D Wing, which is now gone into history. Many happy times were spent there. I saw so much of the old go down already, but memories cannot be torn down.*

**S. Mary Michna**

*I once heard a quote: “Nothing is permanent but change.” That is true at Siena Center, and will probably be true for months to come. When I look out the window and see all the digging and tearing down, I look at the chapel, which will be remaining and will probably retain its present look. It reminds me of the constancy of God’s love in our daily lives regardless of what is going on around us. There are times when the change seems a bit overwhelming, and then I think of the many people who will be sharing our environment in the various levels of care that will be provided for seniors. Then it makes the change seem worthwhile. We can share the beauty of the lake and surrounding environment, and that makes the change meaningful.*

**S. Brenda Walsh**



There goes Kathy's office as the Dinosaur moves on toward the breezeway!

**THE WALLS CAME DOWN  
THE WALLS GO UP  
CONSTRUCTION**



*First, preparation for the foundation*



*And then the foundation*



Great batches of concrete were mixed one after another (using gravel which was once D-Wing!), poured, spread, and leveled.

*Pour concrete (recycling D-Wing)*

*We pray for the crew who are working on  
our site today:*

***Bob Anderson Builders***

***Superior Masonry***

***Total Mechanical***

***K-W Electric***

***Germantown Iron & Steel***

***Berghammer***

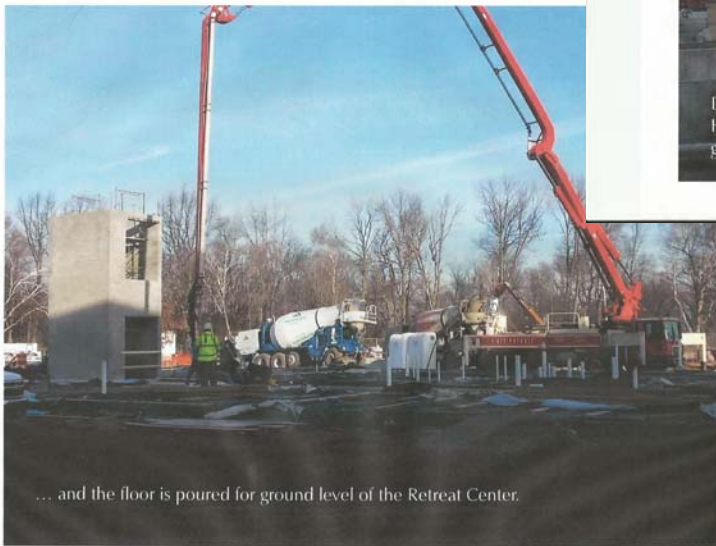
***D & L Grading***

***G.O. Loop/Ground Source***

*email from S. Suzanne Noffke*



**...and pretty soon. . . .**



**When they began to build the Retreat Center, I felt joy, excited and interested and happy about our new Retreat Center! The same thing happened when our residence became a reality. Each day we look out the window to see how much progress was made the day before. Watching during the winter days is exciting, because it is cold and damp out there, and the men keep on working!**

**S. Mary Vosters**



At this stage of the process, we have forgotten the “Coming Down.” Now is the time to look ahead. I look out of the window out of curiosity, wonder, pride, amazement, with questions and evolving answers concerning so much of the NEW in construction.

But even more, to thank God for the God-given talents to those who plan and pursue such a structure. May God bless and protect all involved. I hope all will be for the greater glory of God. May God grant me enough life to experience a little of it.

S. Esther Szambelan



*Christmas greetings to the work crews*



*Careful Careful*

## WORKERS ARE PROTECTED BY SISTERS' PRAYER

February 11, 2013

Knowing how we all pray for the crews who are working on our site, I've asked the contractors to give us each week a list of which crews will be here. Here's the list for this week:

### Retreat Center

Bob Anderson builders: working on 3rd floor framing

Superior Masonry: working on the elevator shaft

Total Mechanical: working on plumbing rough-in

K-W Electric: working on electrical rough-in

### Racine Dominican Residence

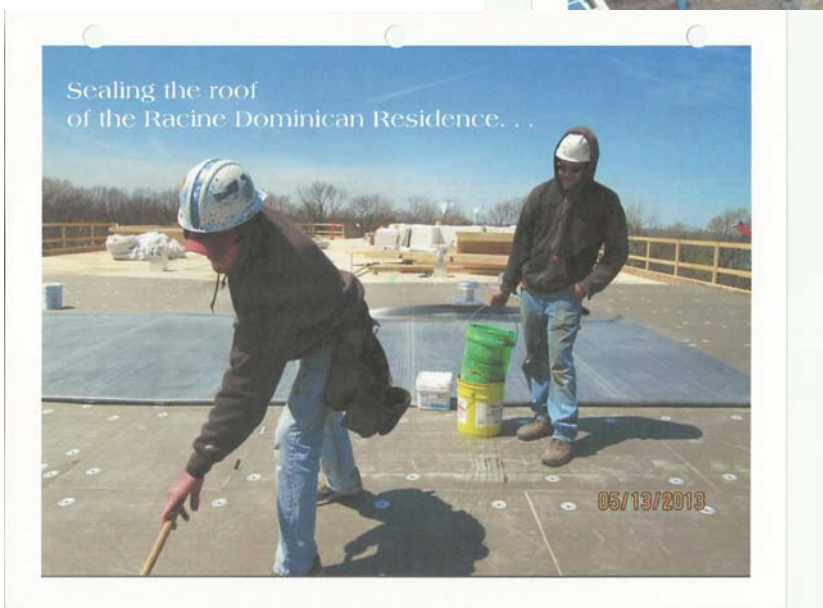
Germantown Iron & Steel: working on steel erection

Berghammer: working on  
concrete slab pour for second  
half

Bob Anderson Builders:  
working on 1st floor framing

Total Mechanical: working on  
underground rough-in

### Suzanne







On February 22, 2013, I waited patiently in the front lobby for the lab nurse from Wheaton Franciscan healthcare to enter Siena Center's front door. While looking out the window, I noticed that the lights were off in the large Berghammer Construction trailer. The trailer with its advertising had been there for months. Every day I could read *The Right Size The Right Expertise The Right People* . Today it would get moved away from the edge of the huge retention pond being dug. The electric wiring and internet wires had been removed, and then the steps and platforms moves. Next a cab was attached to the front of the trailer. They slowly moved it, inch by inch, to safety. I was surprised at the short distance. Three men replaced the wires, and some others from the Gradall Company returned the stairs and platforms. Soon all was on more stable ground I felt excited about being a witness to such an event.

S. Alice Rademacher

As I walk around our building, I think how it will be in the future. There will be assisted living and other units. Many opportunities to visit, meet new people and enjoy new acquaintances.

S. Mary Ann Pohl



AUGUST 7, 2013

PREPARING TO MOVE TO SIENA RETREAT CENTER



*Linda Sturm cleans shelving*



*S. Jane Weiss packs dishes.*

*There will be a lot of unpacking in the new building.*



*Juana Hernandez makes sure her boxes are properly labeled*



*The plan: every box gets to the right room in the new building*



## **WE GATHER TO GIVE THANKS**

### **SIENA RETREAT CENTER**

#### ***COME TO THE WATER***

**AUGUST 11, 2013**

Staff and friends of Siena Retreat Center gather to express gratitude to A-Wing as the Retreat Center staff prepare to move to the new building and leave A-Wing empty for demolition.



*The table is spread with notes of gratitude from participants in retreat programs and holds a bowl of water for blessings.*







*Jane Clare Ishiguro led the community in thanksgiving for the gifts received in A-Wing, from its early days as a community home to its time as retreat center..*

*This is a place of mystery, renewal, peace and wonder. I thank you for living the mission, for providing sustenance and solitude for weary souls.*

*This is a very special place to find peace and spirituality, and the staff are so supportive and full of love!*

*The hand of God was truly in my decision to come to Siena Center for this retreat. . . .it was a beautiful experience.*

*A I reflect on Christ's Light and Presence in our world, I can't help but think of the Siena Center and all who are a part of it. What a channel of God's Love and Hospitality you are!*



*S. Lucy Edelbeck expresses gratitude*

[When I was in Community leadership], the question came up about keeping the Retreat Center. I said YES! We need a place where people can come for spiritual renewal.

S. Dolores Enderle

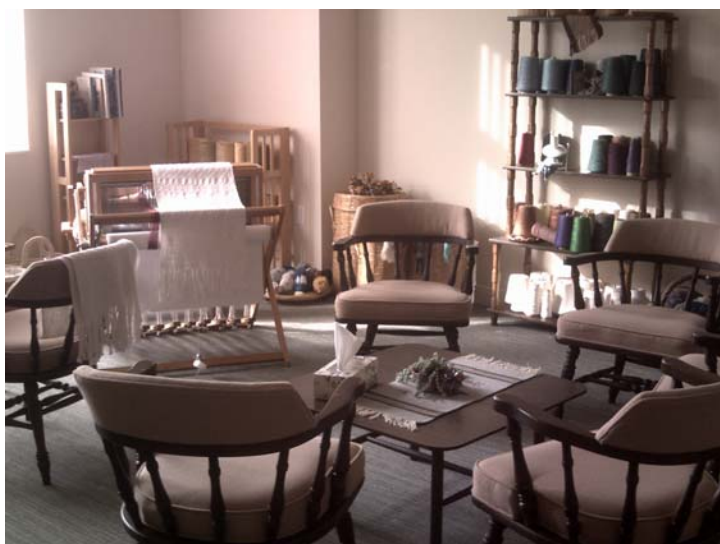
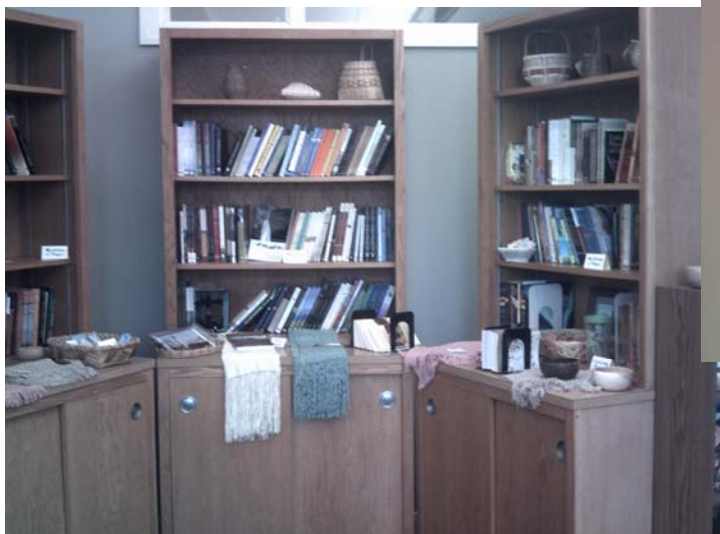
**AUGUST 26-28, 2013**  
**MOVING INTO SIENA RETREAT CENTER**







**Ready to welcome retreatants**





**PRAYER SERVICE TO SAY FAREWELL  
TO SIENA CENTER RESIDENCE WINGS**

**Sisters,**

*We Hold a Treasure*

*Prayer Service*



**Friday, November 22, 2013**

**11:00 am**

**B Wing Lounge**



**NOVEMBER 22, 2013**  
**THE PRAYER SERVICE TO BID FAREWELL**  
**TO SIENA CENTER RESIDENCE WINGS IS SIMPLE**



*A single plant on an unadorned table*

For all that has been

For all that is

For all that will be

We say "Yes, Amen Alleluia!"

**What memories of your living in Siena Center  
will you continue to cherish?**

- \* *After supper relaxing in our community room*
- \* *Togetherness and solitude*
- \* *Daily rhythm:*
- \* *Selfless generosity*
- \* *Touched with the reality of*
- \* *diminishment in all its form.*
- \* *Wholesome ways we support one*  
*another*
- \* *Everyday challenges*
- \* *Spiritual living*



*S. Audrey Williamsen reads the names of sisters  
who have lived in A Wing*

*S. Betty Olley documents every event  
for posterity.*



# December 9-13 MOVING INTO DOMINICAN SISTERS RESIDENCE

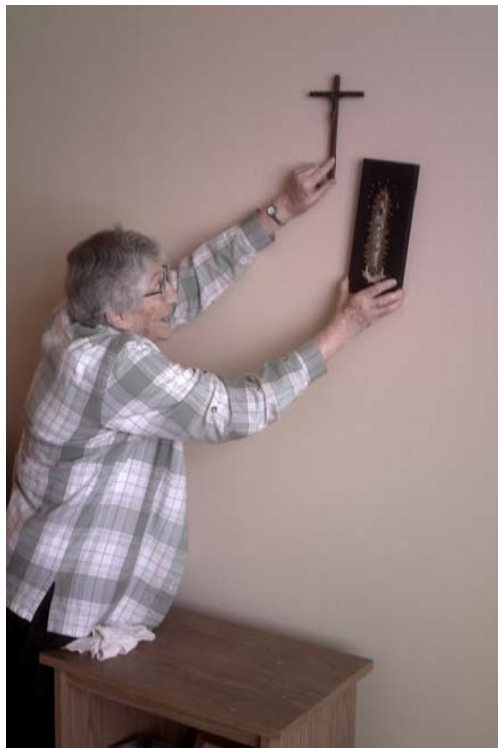


*S. Joyce Quintana unpacks her boxes.*



*Bluemound movers at the first move from D to B.*

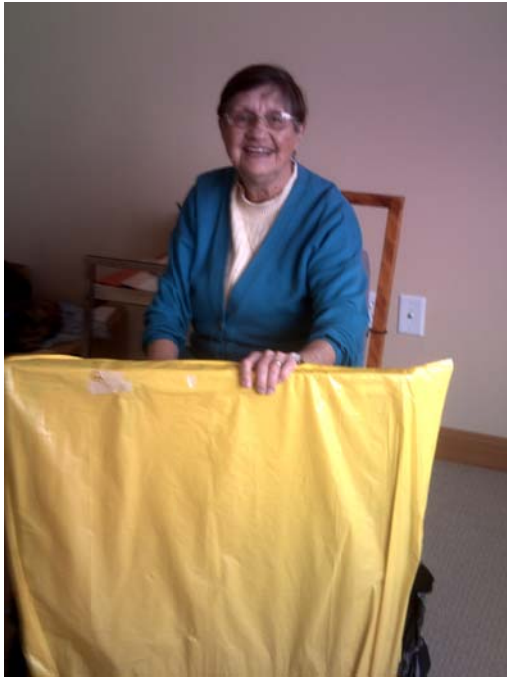
*Bluemound at the last move from B to RDR.*



*S. Joyce says, "Jesus and Our Lady of Guadalupe will keep an eye on everything else in the room."*







*For the move, S. Mary Vosters has wrapped her treasure carefully.*



*Her treasure: The painting she made of the windmill moved from Holland to her home town, Little Chute, WI.*



*S. Bernie Pohl decides on a place for her afghan.*



**T'were the Days of the Moving**  
***À la "T'was the Night before Christmas"***

**T'were the days of the MOVING, when all through the halls,  
The sisters were ready, awaiting their calls.**

**The boxes were piled by their doors with great care  
In hopes that the movers soon would be there.**

**The Chapters and Leadership looked far ahead  
As visions of Newness danced in their heads.**

**Suzanne and the builders had done their jobs well  
So inspectors said "Yes" for the sisters to dwell.**

**The sun on the breast of the new fallen snow  
Gave a luster of mid-day to trucks down below.**

**And what to all wondering eyes should appear  
But Bluemound-Express men with muscles and cheer.**

**They spoke not a word but went right to their work.  
They hefted the big stuff, then turned with a jerk**

**As sisters with clipboards would sort the array  
And lead them round corners to show them the way.**

**The clothes were on rollers, all else was on carts—  
From lounge chairs to tables for puzzles and arts.**

**Committees had planned it, with color-codes clear.  
Give Agnes and Marian, Dorothy Ann CHEER!**

**“Now B-Wing! Now F-Wing! Now Offices all!  
Now C-Wing! Now Health Care! Now art for the walls!”**

**To the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, to bottom of 1<sup>st</sup>!  
The moving went forward—though some un-rehearsed...**

**With awe we give praise to the sisters tonight  
Many blessings to all, may your spirits stay bright!**

**Written by  
S. Miriam Brown, O.P  
a Sinsinawa Dominican**



**JANUARY 1, 2014**

**BLESSING THE NEW RESIDENCE**



*Baskets of holy water bottles are ready for blessing the rooms of the Racine Dominican Residence*

**Reflective Reading**

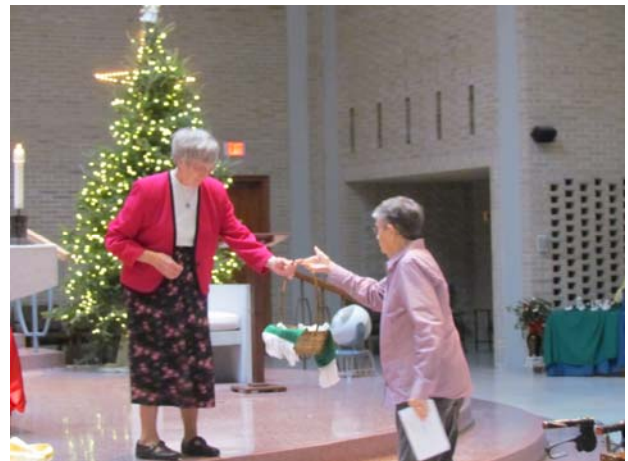
A new time stands on our doorstep  
ready to enter our life journey.  
Something in us welcomes this visitor:  
the hope of bountiful blessings  
the joy of a new beginning  
the freshness of unclaimed surprises.

Our hearts leap with surprise  
joy jumps in our eyes  
for there beside this new time  
stands our God with outstretched hand.  
God smiles and gently asks of us:  
*Can we walk this time together?*

And we, overwhelmed with goodness  
whisper our reply:  
**WELCOME IN!**



*S. Esther Szambelan will help S. Evelyn Novinski bless the common rooms on the first floor .*



*S. Alice Rademacher gives the basket of holy water bottles for the fourth floor to S. Vivian Giddings*

Design: S. Pat Chaffee

Pictures:

S. Pat Chaffee

S. Shirley Kubat

Jean Mullooly

S. Suzanne Noffke