

September 6, 2009

Religious sisters have had a very important part in continuing the mission of Jesus in our diocese. We know of their good work teaching in our Catholic schools and ministering in our Catholic hospitals. They also extend the compassionate love of Christ in other less known ministries such as reaching out to the hungry, homeless, and unemployed; providing nurturing to orphans and babies born of addicted women; offering spiritual direction; visiting inmates and residents of other institutions.

Next Sunday, we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Albertine Home, a very hospitable residence for lay, priests, and religious senior citizens.

In 1974, Bishop Andrew Grutka, our first bishop, invited five Albertine Sisters into our diocese from Poland. Initially, the Sisters lived at Camp Lawrence where they learned English and began studies for degrees in nursing, administration, and accounting.

In 1976, the Sisters moved to St. Joseph Parish in Hammond and ministered at St. Margaret Mercy Hospital while assisting at St. Joseph Church.

When the Holy Cross Sisters left the convent adjacent to Bishop Noll in 1984, Bishop Grutka renovated it and constructed a new addition. He named it the Albertine Home and the Sisters moved into the new home with their clergy and lay senior residents in December 1984.

Over these 25 years, 26 Albertine Sisters from Poland have ministered at the Albertine Home. At present, eight Sisters offer loving and gracious hospitality to the residents. During the 25 years, 251 residents, including 44 priests, have experienced the tender quality care of the Sisters. To any who enter, whether as resident or guest, the joy of the Lord is immediately evident.

The Albertine Sisters strive to pass on to all the appeal of their founder, St. Brother Albert: “We should be good like bread which lies on the table, from which each person may take a slice if he is hungry,” as well as that of Blessed Sister Bernardina, “Do good to all.”

The residents have the opportunity to participate with the Sisters in daily Mass, the rosary, and other devotions.

While the residents are the primary recipients of the loving care of the Albertine Sisters, we all benefit from their daily prayer, sacrifices, ministry, and very especially their powerful witness of a life dedicated in joyful service to the Lord and His people.