



*Thank you for welcoming me to the Guest House. The warm, generous and accepting hospitality was present in the spirit of quietness and attention to detail. It was a real blessing.
- a retreat guest*



CONTACT US

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THE COMMITTEE

- Archbishop and Primate Linda Nicholls, Honorary Chair
- Archbishop Fred Hiltz, former Primate and current Assisting Bishop, Diocese of Moosonee, Co-Chair
- Rev. Canon Dr. Sr. Constance Joanna Gefvert, Co-Chair
- Sr. Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas, Rev. Mother
- Mrs. Marilyn Box, SSJD Associate, Ottawa
- Archbishop Colin Johnson, former Bishop of Toronto and current Assistant Bishop of Niagara
- The Rev. Marilyn Newport, Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI
- Mrs. Sandi Patterson, SSJD Oblate, Victoria, BC
- The Rev. Dr. Connie Phillipson, SSJD Associate, Mulmur, ON
- The Very Rev. Peter Wall, former Dean of Niagara and current Interim Dean of Toronto

A HOME FOR THE HEART

The Anglican Sisterhood of St. John the Divine

The Sisterhood, as a prayer-and gospel-centered monastic community, is called to be a sign of Christ, witnesses to the power of reconciling and forgiving love through our prayer and spirituality, outreach to others, pastoral and spiritual care, community life and stewardship.

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that, some have entertained angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13.2)



the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine

Charitable registration # BN11925 4266 RR0001

OUR INVITATION TO YOU

“All guests who present themselves”, wrote St. Benedict, “are to be welcomed as Christ himself... they are to be met and treated with all the courtesy of love.”



Dear Friend of The Sisters,

For us a vitally important expression of courtesy is the provision of a comfortable “home for the heart”. Such comfort requires us to tend to the renewal of our Guest House building. In this work we are committed to principles of efficiency and environmental stewardship. Such comfort also requires us to do upgrading with respect to bedrooms, washrooms, and meeting spaces. In this work we are committed to principles of simplicity and spaciousness. The re-design of the Guest House Entrance and Office is intended to reflect the openness of our hearts in receiving our guests, helping them to settle in, and prayerfully accompanying them throughout their stay.

This “Home for the Heart” is now the only major Anglican Retreat House in Canada and it deserves all the loving care we, as a community, can give.

Your generous support of a renewed Guest House will enable the Sisters to continue their ministry of offering gracious monastic hospitality with “all the courtesy of love” for many years to come.

With sincere gratitude and all the courtesy of love,

Sr. Elizabeth, SSJD
Sr. Elizabeth, Reverend Mother,

Sr. Constance Joanna, SSJD + Fred
Sr. Constance Joanna and Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Co-Chairs

A HERITAGE OF HOSPITALITY

The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine sprang to life in September 1884, when a Canadian widow, Hannah Grier Coome, became the founding Sister of a new Anglican order of Sisters. Together with two novices, they formed the core of a community with ministries across Canada, including hospitals, schools, an orphanage, mission houses, and other ministries among the vulnerable poor in cities across Canada. In every place the Sisters have worked, hospitality has been at the core of their mission. At the mother house in Toronto they have always maintained a Guest House open to both groups and individuals. That ministry has continued to grow over 138 years, along with their offerings of retreats, quiet days, spiritual direction.

OUR MINISTRY

Guests are welcomed for a day or overnight stay on their own private retreat – or in one of the many group retreats and workshops offered by the Sisters, such as “Food for the Soul.” The Sisters also host family members of patients at St. John's Rehab and offer free overnight accommodation to hospital staff during storms and other emergencies. They have sponsored refugee families, and welcomed others who are in need of a time apart.

The Sisters host gatherings of people from local Anglican parishes as well as from many other denominations and faith traditions for workshops, retreats and Quiet Days. For the last several years, the Sisters have expanded retreat offerings to include in-person, online and hybrid formats. These gatherings offer opportunities for spiritual seekers to explore and deepen their relationship with God and meet new friends in faith from across Canada and beyond.

A GUEST HOUSE RENEWED

The Guest House was constructed in 1956 and only partially updated in 2004 when the new Convent was built. We have a life to share, and we look forward to continuing this ministry of hospitality and retreats for many years to come.

REPAIRS & RENOVATIONS

ESTIMATES

Fully contained 3-piece bathrooms	\$1,710,000
Replace old boiler & inefficient radiators	\$750,000
Accessible bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms	\$300,000
Replace Windows	\$175,000
Replace Roof	\$150,000
Removing closets and replacing with simple furniture	\$150,000
Reconfigure rooms and new flooring	\$135,000
Accessible front entrance	\$100,000
Replace carpet with hypoallergenic flooring	\$30,000

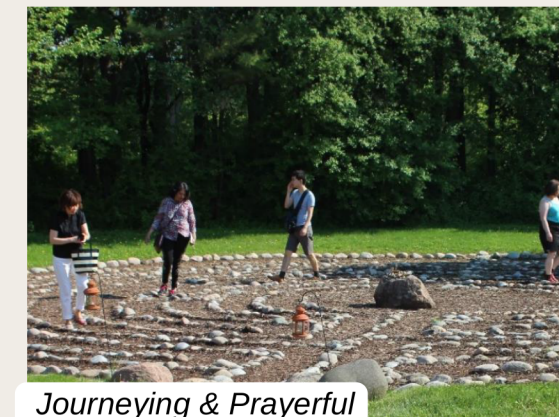
Consultants fees	\$500,000
TOTAL COST	\$4,000,000

SOURCES OF FUNDING

SSJD Founders Fund	\$1,000,000
Other gifts	\$300,000

FUNDS TO BE RAISED	\$2,700,000
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A HOME FOR THE MANY HEARTS..



Journeying & Prayerful



Youthful & Learning



Creative & Joyful



Grieving & Listening