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Sisters of the Holy Names Announce Sale and Permanent Preservation of Spokane River Property

Spokane County Conservation Futures Program and City of Spokane Partner to Acquire Land

Spokane, WA (April 21, 2017) - The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, U.S.-Ontario Province announced today that the City of Spokane has acquired 31.14 acres of the former 65 acre Sisters' Spokane Campus on Fort George Wright Drive in Spokane, Washington. The City of Spokane purchased the land bordering on the Spokane River, including the entire Spokane River frontage, ensuring permanent preservation of the property through public ownership. Funding for the purchase was provided by the Spokane County Conservation Futures Program. The property was identified by the Conservation Futures Program last year as the agency's highest acquisition priority given the range of ecological, recreational and environmental attributes of the site. The purchase price was \$2.65 million.

"We are grateful that the Spokane River frontage and surrounding lands will be preserved and protected for generations to come," said Sister Kathleen Hilton, who led the property planning process. "We have served Spokane for more than a century and we appreciate the community's support of our efforts as we transition the property. Proceeds from the sale will help fund long term housing and care for our aging sisters and also enable us to continue our ministry of education, and providing social services, and financial assistance to organizations who serve the poor, especially marginalized women and children."

The Sisters sold a portion of the property last year to Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities is adaptively re-using the main Convent building for a new innovative social services program called

“Rising Strong” with Empire Health Foundation. Catholic Charities, in partnership with Spokane-based Inland Group, is also using a portion of the property to develop affordable housing for both seniors and families.

The Sisters’ Spokane Campus, located at 2911 W Fort George Wright Dr., included approximately 65 acres, two buildings totaling 77,000 square feet of space with residential living units, administrative offices, a chapel, common dining and recreation areas, an art studio, gathering spaces and retreat facilities. Although the Sisters have used the property for housing and care of Sisters since 1967, the entire property has long been zoned and planned for high density housing by the City of Spokane.

Craig Soehren and Mike Livingston, Kiemle & Hagood Company, served as the exclusive listing broker for the Sisters of the Holy Names for the property sale.

About the Sisters of the Holy Names Spokane Campus Long Range Planning Process: Given the age and configuration of the buildings, the demographic profile of the Sisters, and the many changes and advancements in health and eldercare delivery in society, the Sisters initiated a long range planning process for the property more than three years ago. Because the Sisters’ expertise and experience has been focused on their mission of education, the Sisters have looked to others with the needed professional expertise to manage the increasing long term housing and healthcare needs of its members. The Province transitioned sisters from the Convent to Brookdale at South Regal (formerly Harbor Crest) and nearby apartments during 2013-14 for housing and a residence to meet the care needs of individual sisters.

About The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus & Mary: The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary is an international congregation of Catholic women religious and associates dedicated to education and the full development of the human person. The religious community was founded in Quebec, Canada by Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher in 1843. Today, more than 800 Sisters world-wide focus on their mission and ministry through various educational opportunities, especially for the underserved, including primary, secondary, and higher education, arts, and music. The Sisters arrived in Spokane in 1888 prior to Washington statehood. In Spokane, the Sisters built Holy Names Academy at 1216 N. Superior and Holy Names College at 1116 N. Superior, later moved to Fort Wright College along the Spokane River, serving thousands of students over many decades. They continue to be actively engaged in several Spokane ministries of education, pastoral services, and social service outreach, including Holy Names Music Center and Transitions of which they are formal sponsors and co-sponsors respectively. Since 1967, housing, administration, and care were provided on the 65 acre Spokane campus.
