

# FELICIAN SISTERS Celebrate 150 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



St. Ignatius Community Services is a sponsored ministry of the Felician Sisters, a Catholic congregation of women founded in 1855 in Warsaw, Poland, by Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska. Inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, the Felician Sisters dedicate themselves to serving others, particularly the poor and marginalized, and are known for their commitment to education, healthcare, social services and youth development. They have a global presence, including North America, when five Felician Sisters journeyed here in 1874 to work with Polish immigrants in Wisconsin. Since then, they have established schools, universities, hospitals, elderly care facilities, affordable housing, and social services throughout the United States and Canada.

A special gathering to honor the gift of the Felician Sisters in North America was recently held in Lodi, NJ on September 21, 2025. This was one of many celebrations of their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and was

attended by over 225 people which included 2 bishops, 10 priests, almost 50 Felician Sisters (from Lodi and other regions of North America and Rome,) and guest religious, Felician Associates, lay partners from Lodi and Beaver Falls, representatives of Felician Services Inc. and of various sponsored institutions. Also attending were students, clients, benefactors and colleagues of the Sisters from countless ministries.

All who attended rejoiced in the special bond that brought them together this day. It was the power of the charism of the foundress of the Felician Sisters, Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska. The theme of the program book was most appropriate: "The Lord has done great things for us. We are filled with JOY."

The Felician Sisters have been a part of the Philadelphia Catholic Community since 1898 when they began to teach at St. Laurentius School in the Fishtown section of Philadelphia and in 1954 took over administration of St. Joseph's Hospital at 16<sup>th</sup> and Girard in Philadelphia. In 1986, a small group of four Felician Sisters, led by Sister Mary Agatha Cebula, took over sponsorship of St. Ignatius Nursing Home at the request of the Philadelphia Archdiocese. This sponsorship of the nursing home has evolved into the ministry of St. Ignatius Community Services, and through affordable housing and future community services, will keep the Felician Sisters' mission vibrant and current in the Philadelphia area.



To mark the 150th Anniversary, artist Jen Norton created this commissioned artwork. Blessed Mary Angela gives her blessings as the sisters leave from Poland, surrounded by Kraków Cathedral and Polish folk art elements. This artwork depicts their journey by ship, train and cart to Polonia, WI, where they are welcomed by immigrant children, with subtle nods to the American flag in the sky and garden.

