



Now that the establishment of Our Lady of Hope Province is a reality, I thought it would be appropriate to give you some update on the events of those historic days.

Over 450 Felician Sisters gathered outside Pittsburgh, PA at the Holiday Inn Express near the airport. We enjoyed visiting with each other, praying together and of course enjoying some good food.

On November 21, 2009, the sisters boarded the buses and cars and set out for a visit to the site of our new province, Our Lady of Hope Province in Beaver Falls, PA. The facility is still undergoing construction as it was a former school and then retirement home. With this memo will be a link to see some of the building as well as some of the liturgy.

The official ceremony and liturgy took place at St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Rochester, PA. Bishop David A. Zubik was the main celebrant for this historic event. The ceremony was filled with moments of sadness, tears and joy. On a ledge by the altar was a candle that depicted each of our existing provinces. As the ceremony began these candles were carried in procession and then as the Declaration announcing the closer of the eight and

the opening of the new province was made, the name of the province was read and at this time the Provincial holding that candle extinguished it. Once all candles were extinguished the new candle for Our Lady of Hope Province was lit. There wasn't a dry eye in the crowd as we experienced a death and a birth within minutes.

Following the liturgy we all journeyed back to the hotel for the reception and dinner. We had a video playing that highlighted some of the events of the last ten years followed by a brief program and introduction of the General Administration and the new Provincial Administration. We then enjoyed a wonderful meal and much sharing of the events of the day. We made our way back to our rooms about nine o'clock. We had been on the go from nine in the morning. It was a very draining day emotionally and also a day of much joy and hope.

Sunday, the sisters began leaving to journey back to their respective states. We had time to bid each other warm good byes and wishes for the Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

We are gradually getting used to the changes and looking forward to continue the work that was begun by Blessed Mary Angela.

Thank you for your prayers during this historic and memorable experience.

Now as we all continue our journey through this Advent season to the great event, the birth of our Lord, we offer our prayers and works for your intentions. May the Lord bless you and yours and grant you a most blessed and joyous Christmas.

Sister Mary Ann Smith, CSSF

Sister Mary Serra Szalaszewicz, CSSF

Sister Bernadette Marie Jimkoski, CSSF

