



# *The Diocese of Knoxville*

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MEDIA ADVISORY  
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## Sisters of Mercy dedicate new convent

Blessing and open house set for Dec. 12

**KNOXVILLE**—A new convent for the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Mich. will open with a blessing and Mass on Sat., Dec. 12. The convent is located at 6832 S. Northshore Drive, Knoxville, Tenn. 37919.

The Most Rev. Richard F. Stika, Bishop of the Diocese of Knoxville, will celebrate the Mass and provide the blessing.

Until the convent was built, the Sisters were living separately and in multiple locations. The new convent will allow them to live and worship together.

**The blessing and Mass will take place at 11 a.m. The open house will begin at 1 p.m. Photos and video can be taken at any time. Interviews will be available from 1-2 p.m. during the open house.**

Ground breaking for the convent took place on Oct. 9, 2014 and was attended by a number of religious and civic dignitaries, including Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero; Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett; His Eminence, Cardinal Justin Rigali; Bishop Stika; Mother Mary McGreevy, Superior General of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma; and Mother Mary Quentin Sheridan, Superior General Emerita of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma.

Acting on a request from Bishop Stika in 2009, the Sisters added Knoxville to the locations in which they serve—including Washington, D.C., Denver, St. Louis, Seattle, and throughout the world in Italy, Germany, England and Australia.

There are currently six Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma serving the Diocese of Knoxville in professional capacities including administration, education, healthcare and charity.

Sister Mary Marta Abbott, RSM, is superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Knoxville. She also serves as the local Superior.

The new convent is built on a five-acre lot in a residential section of Northshore Drive. It will allow the Sisters to live and worship together. The new home includes 10 bedrooms, living space, offices, a kitchen and a chapel for worship.

Merit Construction supervised building of the 8,870 sq. ft. structure. The project architect is Hutchins Associates.

The Religious Sisters of Mercy are bearing the responsibility of the cost of the project through a loan and fundraising efforts.

