



June 9, 2025

Dear Family and Friends of the Little Sisters,

May the Blessing of Peace, Hope, and Joy be with you.

I am writing to provide you with an update on our lives as Little Sisters in the United States. Today, we are six Little Sisters living in New York and Massachusetts, and the time has come, once again, to make realistic decisions regarding the sustainability of our future. In a similar way that 'life changes' come to families, so too, life changes are necessary for us who live at 65 Magnolia Street in Dorchester.

We have lived on Magnolia Street since 1947! The convent at 45 Magnolia Street initially housed our LSA Family Health Service, where we visited families in their own homes as nurses and social workers. We have been blessed with lasting relationships, precious memories, and stories!

Ever attentive to creating a spirit of family among the people, our focus on the Family never wavered. In 1980, the Sisters opened their convent to homeless mothers and children when housing became the greatest need. The focus on Family continued as LSA Family Health Service became Project HOPE (House Open People Enter), a temporary shelter which continues to be a haven for homeless families. The Sisters moved out of the Family Shelter in 1989 to make room for more residents and make their new home one block away at 65 Magnolia St. Project HOPE's growth expanded to 550 Dudley Street to house its multi-service center with an array of educational and economic empowerment programs serving families in the North Dorchester and Roxbury neighborhoods. These changes have led to life-giving years in accompanying women and families on their journeys up and out of poverty.

At this time, we ask for your prayers and accompaniment as we face another change in our communal journey. In prayerful reflection and discernment with our International Council in Paris, we have decided for the Little Sisters to leave Dorchester. Although it is a difficult decision due to the relationships that have been established over the years, we are confident that Project HOPE will continue to carry the legacy of the Little Sisters. This is our greatest consolation! Mission lives on!

Presently, Juan Pena and I are the only residents living at 65 Magnolia Street following Sr. Margaret's move to Marlborough. Juan has been a valued community member for many years, both in New York and in Dorchester. He has shared his gentle, affirming, and supportive presence in numerous ways. Juan has rented an apartment in the Boston area and will remain connected.

As for me, I have been asked by our International Council to return to the East Harlem Community after the sale of 65; we hope this will take place in the summer months. We look forward to planning a Celebration of Thanksgiving in the fall for our many years in the Archdiocese of Boston. Stay tuned!

As we strive to live a simpler communal life, more changes will likely be required in the future. At our recent Paris Assembly of the Congregation, we stated:

*"We are therefore called upon to live together "**along a path of transformation**", a passage, a crossing, to face up to what our lives are today so that we can continue to be, day after day, **Companions of Hope**. To be on a path of transformation is to accept that things change and die, to make room in hope for the new. Our existence requires us to be open to the Unexpected."*

Thank you for your valued friendship and support over the years. We will keep you updated on our journey.

In gratitude for all that has been and all that will be,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sr. Annette".

Sr. Annette, on behalf of

Sisters Margaret Leonard, Carole Costello, Jean McCormack, Deysi Martinez and Willma Huanca