Perseverance prevails in São Paulo

Ground broken for Holy Cross Senior Residence facility

by Sister Diane Cundiff

The sisters, with longtime friend Father Peter Curran, OMI, joined with Fernanda Ceppas, director of Saint Martha’s Social Service Center, a number of Colégio Santa Maria employees, and the architect and construction workers on March 5 to bless the site and begin construction of the Holy Cross Senior Residence facility in São Paulo, Brazil. Having the bricklayers present was especially meaningful. The new facility will accommodate 100 beds.

The date, which coincided with a meeting of the Area Council, enabled Sister Aline Marie (Steuer), coordinator for the Area of South America; Sister Michael Mary (Nolan), first councilor; and Sister Lilma Calsin Collazos, area councilor, to attend. They were joined by Sisters Angela Mary (Carey), Anne Veronica Horner Hoe, Catherine O’Brien, Diane Cundiff, Eleanor Snyder, M. Francine (Klein), June Ann Kirby, Maria Cecilia Nesteriuk, Rosevania de Oliveira Pimentel and Thais Nascimento Bitencourt. The blessing was followed by an afternoon tea on the veranda of Vila Nazaré.

The original project was submitted to the city planners in 2004 and, thanks to our determination and perseverance, this year the congregation was granted the building permit.

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