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Sisters? expansion helps wider community

Colleen Dunne | Mar. 21, 2014 NCR Today

Something new to address aging is taking shape in northern California. Looking toward an innovative model of healthy age-in-place and community hospitality, the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose [1] broke ground this week in Fremont, Calif., on a new residence for themselves. This opens the way for their existing Siena building to be re-purposed as a dementia-specific community health and wellness center for the people of Fremont.

The $20 million project includes a 36-unit residence for active retired sisters and a community wellness center that will provide services not only to them but also to the wider community. Additionally the existing Siena building will be renovated to become a day-time memory care unit operated by Alzheimer's Services of the East Bay. The ASEB program will serve adults, veterans and low-income families living in the area. It is expected to open this fall.

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Editor's Note: The *National Catholic Reporter* is embarking on a groundbreaking project to give greater voice to sisters around the world. To learn more about this project or sign up for email alerts visit, http://ncronline.org/sisters [3].

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Architects and project engineers turned the earth together March 19 with sisters: pictured from left to right are Sandy Barker and Daren Wagoner of Barker & Wagoner Assoc.; Ken Huesby and Bart Locsin of Hillhouse Construction; Gabriela Silva, Barker & Wagoner; Congregational Prioress Dominican Sr. Gloria Marie Jones; Tina Irvin and John Kellerby, Hillhouse; and Motherhouse Administrator Dominican Sr. Rose Marie Hennessy. (Courtesy of Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose)

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[1] http://www.msjdominicans.org/home.aspx
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