



## **Proposed Resurrection Village**

---

The history of Religious Orders in the Roman Catholic Church have displayed a tradition over the centuries of responding to the emerging social needs of the day. The United States Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection, with its Provincialate in Chicago, IL and its Generalate in Rome, Italy, has similarly honored that long standing tradition of the Church in a variety of expressions, most notably, but not exclusively, in this region, by responding to the needs of Polish immigrants.

Again, the Resurrectionists Fathers and Brothers of this Province find themselves asking and discerning that time-honored question. What are the emerging social needs in 2009? One of the emerging social needs that has been identified for our day is the oncoming demographic wave of baby boomers who are now approaching their senior years. The US Census Bureau projects a 59% increase in our over 70 population in the next five to ten years, and an 89% increase in the next ten to twenty six years in northern Illinois alone.

Many of these “soon to be” seniors are filled with life. Seventy is clearly the new sixty, and this generation of seniors have therefore made it known that it is an active community lifestyle they wish, as they explore the whole new set of questions that life presents them in their maturing years.

The Congregation of the Resurrection, with our own aging member, have identified a property we have owned since the 1950s, as a splendid site for such a community. As the Very Rev. Michael Danek, C.R., Provincial Superior of this Province of Resurrectionists, has said, “...why should our seniors have to live up on the highway watching cars go by, when they can live out their years on a beautiful property such as ours with deer, and oaks, and a wetland...seniors are part of God’s nature as well. We want to create a community where adult children of seniors will feel good about where their moms and dads live.

That property, located on Country Club Road in McHenry County , Illinois, was a property that once served as the Province’s Novitiate for its newly inducted and youngest members during their year of initial formation in the Religious Life. Like all Religious Orders internationally in the 1960s, the Province experienced a marginal decline in vocations. The property was then converted into senior accommodations for some of the retired members of the Province at that time.

However, in the 1970s, the site was again transformed into a retreat facility serving Catholic, and non Catholic, high school students from the Province’s own high schools in

the City of Chicago. Students from high schools not owned and/or served by the Province made ample use of the facility as well, and, this special place, literally touched, in the life-giving way, hundreds of thousands of young people over the years.

As a result of private Catholic school closings, and a shrinking student body population of remaining private schools, the Center on Country Club Road looks again for a ministerial opportunity to touch qualitatively the lives of God's people. A senior community, with the proposed name of "Resurrection Village", has been identified as a possible mission. The Village will indeed be a Christian faith-based community, but a resident need not be Catholic as a pre-requisite for entrance. A Chapel, in the heart of the community, will host daily Mass and community prayer opportunities, creating an environment where people might explore questions that this stage of life presents.

In addition to the Spiritual dimension, the community will similarly host community/relational building amenities for residents to enjoy with each other, their friends and family. Such amenities may include: a small retail corner for "convenience items", a movie theatre fitted with wii games, a fitness facility designed for the senior, a bistro and pub for residential use, a hair salon, onsite banking, private party rooms, and game rooms.

The Resurrectionists have invited Point In Time, Inc. of Woodstock, Illinois to assist with the design and management of the property. Mr. Michael Reschke, President of Point In Time, Inc., has developed and perfected what he calls "the art of human centered living" for our seniors, which enables seniors to maintain their independence longer. "Seniors no longer wish to find someone to care for them, but someone to partner with them in meeting their own needs", asserts Mr. Reschke. Small homes and condos are designed with the needs of the senior in mind. Design features include remote control lighting to prevent night falls, no step entries, curbless showers, paneled doors designed to open wider, if ever needed, ovens and dishwashers ergonomically designed for ease of use for those of us who are becoming less agile, and the list continues. Indeed a beautiful community opportunity for both senior Christian lay persons and senior Christian clergy to dwell together in dignity and independence as they enjoy their retirement years on the tranquility of a property so designed by God.

The Resurrectionists Fathers and Brothers, as long-term residents of McHenry County, Illinois, are indeed exceedingly grateful to the County of McHenry Zoning Appeals Board Members and the McHenry County Board Members for their time in reviewing our proposed Village, and look forward to learning further about needed adjustments and improvements for greater stewardship of this beautiful property.



Reverend Glen P. Baptiste, CR  
Resurrectionist Fathers & Brothers