



*Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center*

## Dedication Opportunities

Main Dining Room.....	\$22,500
Lobby Furnishings.....	\$18,500
Pool Furnishings.....	\$15,000
4-Bedroom Retreatant Suite.....	\$14,000
2-Bedroom Retreatant Suite.....	\$12,000
Second Floor Indoor Solarium.....	\$11,000
Balcony Porches.....	\$7,000
First Floor Indoor Solarium.....	\$6,500
First Floor Porch.....	\$6,500
Second Floor Porch.....	\$6,000
Convent Community Room.....	\$6,000
Convent Kitchen Appliances.....	\$5,000
Liturgy Office/Programing Office.....	\$5,000
Convent Porch Furnishings.....	\$4,500
Convent Parlor.....	\$4,500
Sunset Porch.....	\$4,000
Director's Office.....	\$4,000
Convent Dining Area.....	\$3,500
Convent Bedroom.....	\$3,500
Maintenance Office.....	\$3,500
Multi-Purpose Room.....	\$3,000
Finance Office.....	\$2,500
Kitchenette.....	\$2,500
Retreatant Single Room.....	\$2,500
Reconciliation Room.....	\$1,500
Spiritual Direction Room.....	\$1,500
Chapel Chair.....	\$400

## Our Mission

Villa Maria by the Sea, located in Stone Harbor, New Jersey is the retreat center of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Malvern, Pennsylvania. Rooted in the mission of the Congregation to proclaim the Gospel message of God's redeeming love, Villa Maria by the Sea provides a variety of spiritual opportunities in a sacred space of tranquility and beauty. In this peaceful environment, one can experience the presence of God and respond to God's personal invitation to wholeness and holiness.



# Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center

*Stone Harbor, New Jersey*

Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center  
101 111<sup>th</sup> Street  
Stone Harbor, New Jersey 08247



In 1937, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, opened their new retreat house in Stone Harbor, New Jersey, after severe beach erosion forced the sisters out of their Cape May Point retreat house. This 250-room convent served as a summer retreat center for the past 85 years welcoming the sisters for a 10-day period of spiritual and physical renewal and relaxation. The time spent at Villa Maria by the Sea was a special blessing for the sisters and they returned to their varied apostolates with renewed dedication, zeal and energy.

Over the years, the Congregation, with the help of many benefactors, maintained this summer facility. In the summer months, a staff of about thirty-five sisters attended to house duties, provided community meals, and cared for the buildings and grounds. In addition, a sister who served as caretaker worked year-round to maintain the integrity and aesthetic appearance of the retreat property. Since the house was not heated, the sisters were not able to take advantage of this retreat house during the winter months.

As the community began to age and decline in number (now less than 600) the building became "too big" for the sisters to use and to maintain. In 2019, the IHM Administration looked toward the future asking how they could continue to provide a retreat environment for the sisters and,

at the same time, provide for all those wishing to come for spiritual renewal. Their discernment led to the decision to demolish the 1937 structure and build a new, smaller, energy-efficient retreat center that would be open year-round.

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*Our new, smaller, energy-efficient  
Retreat Center will be open year-round  
to serve, not only the Sisters, but all  
those wishing to come for spiritual  
renewal.*

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In order to finance this project, the sisters surveyed the land surrounding the former retreat house and decided to divide the property into 13 residential lots. Revenues raised from the sale of the lots would be used to cover demolition costs of the former buildings, pay for the construction of the new retreat center, and set up an endowment to fund property maintenance.

The new Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center will be open year-round and will accommodate 46 overnight guests. Days of prayer and reflection, varied retreat experiences, and other spiritual opportunities will be offered in this sacred space. A small section of the building will serve as a convent for the four sisters who will administer the retreat center.

The sisters have been blessed abundantly throughout the years in Stone Harbor. Now, they are eager to share this new Retreat Center with their neighbors and all those wishing to spend time there for spiritual enrichment.



*Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center  
Courtesy of Craig Miller*

## How You Can Help

As the construction comes to completion, we must turn our attention to furnishing the new retreat center. We invite your collaboration and support in the mission of the Retreat Center by participating in this part of the project. As good stewards we were able to refurbish and store some useable items from the former retreat house; however, it will be necessary to purchase some new items to furnish the various rooms. We, therefore, would be grateful for any financial assistance that you might be able to give.

We value your faithfulness and commitment to the Congregation over the years. We promise, that as a benefactor, you will continue to share each day in the prayers of all of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Donations may be made to

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**Stone Harbor, New Jersey 08247**  
**215-518-4989**