Dear St. John’s parishioners,

Informed by the Gospel of Life, Rosaria Communities Inc. is an affiliated corporation of the Archdiocese of Washington, working to construct or renovate housing to provide independent living opportunities for individuals who have intellectual disabilities. To accomplish this mission, Rosaria works to develop and promote partnerships among Archdiocesan parishes; public and private funding sources; and care-providers and facilitators. Rosaria works to assure a living environment of comfort and care, in which the spiritual needs of the residents will be supported by an involved Catholic community.

About two years ago, St. John the Evangelist parish began working with Rosaria to sponsor a home within the parish community. With the continuous involvement of Msgr. Pennington and SJE parishioners, the puzzle pieces began to come together in late 2011. These efforts resulted in the purchase of a house located at 2409 Harmon Rd., which is well suited to the purpose. (Thanks so much, SJE parishioner/realtor Kathy Whalen!) The necessary renovations began in March, and the property to be known as “St. John’s House” will become home to its three residents sometime this June (we prayerfully hope).

It bears repeating that the distinctive difference of a Rosaria home, compared to other housing providers, is the interaction between the members of the host Catholic community and the residents of the home. The agency providing care will be Jubilee Association of MD. Jubilee and Rosaria are still in process of identifying the residents who will become family to one another, and fellow parishioners within the community of St. John the Evangelist.

Please watch the bulletin for updates about your new neighbors and special dates concerning the opening and blessing of St. John’s House!

With gratitude,

Tom Welch
President, Rosaria Communities Inc.