

Christ the King church celebrates residence

The senior apartment complex fits in with church's mission.

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Sue Clark and her granddaughter, Maia Clark, 7, both of the south side, enjoy some refreshments served during the grand opening of The Residence at Christ the King on Saturday morning. / JOSHUA BOYER/PHOTOS FOR THE REGISTER

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Norma Breheny serves refreshments to Julie Holst, both of the south side, during the grand opening of The Residence at Christ the King. / JOSHUA BOYER/PHOTOS FOR THE REGISTER

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More information about The Residence at Christ the King and leasing requirements is available by contacting: Chris Aldinger, Christ the King Church, 285-2888, or Anawim Housing, 244-8308

After many years of dreaming, lots of planning and 15 months of construction, leaders of Christ the King Catholic Church on Saturday officially opened the church's Residence at Christ the King.

The Most Rev. Richard Pates, bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines, and Msgr. Frank Bognanno, Christ the King's pastor for the past 10 years, presided over the ribbon-cutting, the blessing of the three-story building and an open house at the senior apartments.

"You have much to be proud of at Christ the King," the bishop told church members and officials of the companies involved in designing, building and arranging financing for the \$5.1 million project.

The building at 5601 S.W. Ninth St. has 18 two-bedroom apartments and 10 one-bedroom units. Eight of the apartments are already leased, and 13 others are in the leasing pipeline, said Chris Aldinger, Christ the King's business manager, who was the project coordinator for the church.

Bognanno, in his remarks at the ceremony Saturday, said the senior housing project fits in with Christ the King's mission of helping people of all ages on the south side of Des Moines. Besides the church and its school, Christ the King also operates a child care

center and a free medical clinic that serves people in need, regardless of their faith or income.

Craig Krouch of West Bank, one of the lenders for the apartment project, said: "This beautiful facility fills such a great void in the community. Everybody wins with this facility. We're here to do for others, and we're here to do for (God)."

Pates said the Des Moines Diocese wants The Residence at Christ the King to become a model for future senior housing projects attached to parishes.

The building speaks of home and not an institution, he said. He hopes the residents "grow together with Christ the King in friendship and love." That could include residents helping at the church's free clinic or the child care center that operates in conjunction with Christ the King School.

The three-story building was designed by BSB architects of Des Moines in the style of the other buildings on the campus. Koester Construction was the general contractor.

Because federal low-income tax credits were used in financing the project, there are income restrictions on tenants. Aldinger said tenants need a minimum income of \$12,000 per year. The maximum income is \$31,000 per year.

Monthly rent, including utilities, ranges from \$410 to \$585.

Residency is open to people 55 and older of all religious and ethnic backgrounds. They do not have to be members of Christ the King Church.

The Residence at Christ the King is part of the legacy of Anawim's founder, Sister Stella Neill, who died of injuries in a car accident in December 2010. Neill had worked with Christ the King officials as a consultant on the project.