



## The Opportunity

### THE ARK & THE DOVE RETREAT CENTER



**SUMMARY.** We are excited to announce that the National Service Committee (NSC) of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal has been presented a unique opportunity to purchase the Providence Villa Retreat Center (“Center”), north of Pittsburgh, PA, formerly known as The Ark and The Dove. It was there in February 1967, at what is often referred to as the “Duquesne Weekend,” that there was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit along with the charisms for the renewal of the Catholic Church. Since then, millions have experienced the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit. Recognizing the

outpouring of God’s grace, the recent popes have heartily encouraged those in the Renewal to use these charisms to build the Kingdom. Upon purchase of the Center, the former name will be restored, and the facility will be used for Renewal purposes, for retreats, pilgrimages and other events, to foster baptism in the Holy Spirit and use of the charisms. Timing is providential as the Renewal worldwide is preparing for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Duquesne Weekend in 2017.

#### Financial & Other Highlights

<b>Purchase Price</b> (2 buildings on 16.5 acres)	\$1,300,000
<b>Earnest Money Deposit</b> (NSC paid)	\$ 65,000
<b>Donor Financing</b> For Purchase	\$1,235,000
Plus Closing Cost (est.)	\$ 50,000
<b>Total Needed</b>	<b>\$1,285,000</b>

<b>Revenue Sources</b>	Personal & Group Retreats Meetings & Other Functions Pilgrimage & Event Fees Gift Shop (Books, CDs, DVDs) Renewal Publishing
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**Business Plan** Plan provided upon request.

**PURCHASE OF CENTER.** Originally offered to the NSC, prayerful discernment led to the conclusion that the Center should not be owned or operated by a single Renewal group, but should be extended to other Renewal service organizations, covenant communities, religious orders, other groups, and individuals. Participation would provide these groups and individuals preferential access before extending Center usage to others. The \$1.3 million price includes the well-maintained retreat house and cottage on 16.5 wooded acres, as well as the existing furniture, fixtures and equipment. The property will be inspected before closing to ensure that deferred maintenance is addressed or the price is adjusted accordingly.

**HISTORY.** Built in 1924 by Bell Telephone as a respite place for their female employees, it was later sold to become a private boarding school. The Center was purchased in 1964 by the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh and was operated by the Ladies of Bethany as The Ark and The Dove Retreat Center; the Diocese later renamed it the Cardinal Wright Center and used it for spiritual renewal for clergy and religious. The Center was purchased in 2000 by the Sisters of Divine Providence, who renovated the buildings and currently operate it as Providence Villa.

The sisters now seek to sell the property and use the proceeds to renovate their mother house. Over the years several parties have expressed interest in acquiring the Center, including the NSC, which has led to this purchase opportunity.

**PROPOSED STRUCTURE.** After preliminary due diligence of possible structures to acquire the Center, it appears the most appropriate structure would be the formation of a new Pennsylvania nonprofit, either as a free-standing entity or an NSC subsidiary, which would be funded by donations from Renewal groups and individuals (for working purposes this entity is called A&D Co., or “A&D”). This structure would be designed to permit international participation without foreign taxes. Assuming this structure, Form 1023 will be filed with the IRS so all donations to A&D from inception will be deductible.

To expedite the purchase, due diligence and organizational process, the NSC intends to submit the proposal to acquire the Center with 120 day exclusivity, while reserving the right to rename the purchasing entity, i.e., A&D.

The A&D Board of Directors would represent participating Renewal organizations and individuals, with selection based on donation amount and other factors. The board will elect the chairman. Alternatively, if there is a decision to proceed with a lease-to-own arrangement, should large corporate or individual purchasers be identified, then the board composition will include representatives selected from different Renewal groups and individuals.

It is anticipated that the Center staffing will be A&D employees, who would be compensated by the revenue generated from Center activities. A detailed business plan is being prepared for the A&D nonprofit structure.

**WEBINAR.** To learn more about how to support the purchase of the Center, the NSC will host webinars in August 2015. A second webinar (in English) may be held to accommodate the schedules of interested international parties. Details of the webinars will be forthcoming shortly.

### For More Information

- If you or your organization would like more information, please contact the NSC office using the contact information below.
- It is anticipated that many of your questions will be answered during the forthcoming webinars.

### Prayer Support

- As we walk by faith and the promptings of the Holy Spirit in pursuing the purchase of the Center, we ask for your prayers.
- If you receive any words of prophecy regarding this matter, please e-mail them to the NSC office using the address below.