



WIEW OF THE TOWN OF MERCY

CARITAS CHRYSTI COMMUNITY
48 - 140 BRANICE, OPOLE PROVINCE

An Appeal to People of Good Will

*But trample not the altars of the past!
Although you shall much finer domes erect.
The holy flames upon the stones still last.
And human love lives there and guards them fast.
And them you owe respect!*
Adam Asnyk

September, 2011 r.

Dear Sirs / Madams

Caritas Chrysti Community would like to interest you in a matter which is essential not only for us but also for the local community: i.e., reconstruction and restoring to its former greatness of Branice Psychiatric Hospital, also commonly called ‘The Town of Mercy’.

The Hospital was built in the German – Moravian borderland, which later became the Polish – Moravian borderland. The person who founded the Branice Hospital was the outstanding son of Moravian-Silesian Region, Bishop Józef Marcin Nathan (1867 – 1947).

He established St. Mary’s Foundation (1904), which gave rise to the Work aimed at ensuring medical and spiritual care for the patients as well as providing infrastructure for the hospital. The Hospital also attempted to develop and implement the most up-to-date methods of medical treatment. Furthermore, it helped the patients with their personal development while special care was taken to protect human dignity of people struggling with mental illness and often socially vulnerable. It is also worth mentioning that ‘The Town of Mercy’ was designed and built to be not only beneficial, but also a beautiful place. The Hospital compound is now a valuable monument of architecture. These are the ideas and values which we are striving to preserve and restore.

CARITAS CHRYSTI Community set as its main objective saving and restoring to its former greatness the Hospital not only as a medical care institution, but first and foremost as a symbol of Christian help to the sick and the poor. In this way we are trying to continue the Work of Bishop J.M. Nathan. Here are our fields of activities:

- save the Branice Psychiatric Hospital from further devastation and ruin,
- save from oblivion the cultural, scientific and philanthropic heritage of Bishop Nathan and those who upheld and continued his work,
- preserve the Hospital compound and facilities as a valuable monument of architecture,
- restore the position of the Hospital as a prestigious medical care institution in Poland and in Europe,
- attempt to ensure decent living conditions and proper treatment for mentally ill and socially vulnerable patients.

The purpose of our efforts is to bring help to growing number of people suffering because of mental illness, addictions, violence, and also to those who need our assistance in view of current socio– economic hardships. For instance, we want to help former patients by establishing community – based psychiatric care, involving the Hospital employees and volunteers. Another project is a hostel for addicted persons, who, as part of their therapy, would work for the Hospital doing e.g. cleaning or maintenance work.

We have already been successful in some matters. We managed to ensure support of our local government and Holy Family Parish in Branice. We closely cooperate with the management of the Hospital and people of good will living in our area. Among other things, we carried out a campaign in order to prevent the closing down of the Hospital. We also raised funds to renovate

the historic bowers. Our Community has many other plans connected with the Hospital and its infrastructure.

The Hospital is still in need of large financial help and our funds are limited. That is why we ask you, all people of good will, for moral and financial support. As a registered non-profit organization, the Community is fully transparent. We regularly submit reports concerning realisation of our statutory objectives. Thus you can be perfectly sure that all the funds that we receive will be used solely to achieve the goals which we listed above.

We hope that our common commitment, readiness to make sacrifice to save the great Work of the past will oppose the view that egoism, greed and heartlessness have been winning over goodness, moral beauty and truth whose fruit was „Town of Mercy”.

Please send your donation into the account of our Community.

Here are the details: Stowarzyszenie CARITAS CHRYSTI,

48-140 Branice, ul. Słowackiego 3/14

Account nr **04 8867 0005 2001 0000 0811 0001 POLUPLPR.**

You can find more information on our website at:

<http://www.caritaschrysti-branice.com/strony/news.html>

With kind regards and gratitude

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Sister Anna Marzec – Board President of Caritas Chrysti
Community

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Krzysztof Nazimek – General Manager of Bishop Józef Marcin
Nathan Psychiatric Hospital in Branice