

Felician Sisters Convent and School

Corapolis, Pennsylvania, 2001 - 2003



Master Plan showing clarified circulation and parking, with new green spaces, play fields & meadows.

An existing lawn area with a view to the valley (inset) is proposed to become a wildflower meadow in which stands St. Francis, the guardian of Nature (below). Detail of the proposed meadow (right).



The 73-acre site is home to a convent and school, constructed in the 1930s. The building renovation, designed by Perkins Eastman, Architects, requires new handicapped-accessible entrances and clarification of the site's vehicular circulation and parking. The building and site will demonstrate sustainable design and be LEED certified.

In developing the Master Plan, the Sisters wanted to explore the contemplative and spiritual aspects of their future site. On the journey to the cemetery, extensive areas of lawn will be converted to meadow, with Stations of the Cross sited along a new allee of trees. New athletic fields and open spaces will be introduced to areas where buildings will be demolished. Landscape courtyards will also provide the School with a performance court and the Convent with a prayer labyrinth and Alzheimer's Court.

In clarifying the site's vehicular circulation and parking needs, areas of asphalt paving will be removed so that the historic character of the Convent landscape can be recaptured and preserved.

