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**For Immediate Release**

**ÁVILA RETIREMENT COMMUNITY HOSTS RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR EXPANSION**

*Nonprofit Independent Living Community Affiliated with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany*

**Albany, NY – May 24, 2011** – Ávila Retirement Community, a nonprofit independent living retirement community, officially opened its 44-unit expansion, called The Lodge, today at a ribbon cutting ceremony that included remarks from Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard, D.D., Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany and other community officials.

“The vision for The Lodge at Ávila was born within the walls of the main retirement community in 2008 and our team is proud to announce the idea has now fully come to fruition,” said Stephen Grifferty, president of Alchester Group, LLC, the management firm for Ávila.

Speakers at the inaugural celebration of the community included **Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard, D.D.**, Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany; **Hon. Michael G. Breslin**, Albany County Executive; **Hon. Michael J. Yevoli**, Commissioner, City of Albany Development & Planning who spoke on behalf of **Hon. Gerald D. Jennings**, City of Albany Mayor; **Hon. Frank J. Comisso, Jr.**, 15<sup>th</sup> Ward Albany Councilman; **Timothy Wade**, M&T Bank Vice President and **Stephen J. Grifferty**, Alchester Group President.

“This is a monumental day for all who worked so hard on this project; marking the grand opening of our newest neighborhood, The Lodge at Ávila. The event was well attended, demonstrating the unity of the Ávila community behind our growth,” said Stephen Grifferty, president of Alchester Group, LLC, the management firm for Ávila. “The sense of community that Ávila engenders and the ability to answer the lifestyle needs of today’s senior population was echoed in all the remarks. We are excited to welcome in our new residents and to watching the community flourish in the coming year.”

Ávila is managed by Alchester Group, LLC, a senior housing operator based in Latham, N.Y. LeCesse Construction Services, LLC, based in Rochester, N.Y., worked with local subcontractors to construct the residences and common areas. Kanalstein Danton Associates P.A. of Voorhees, N.J., have provided the project with plans to build the 44 Adirondack-style units, all designed to meet the specific needs of older adults age 55 years and older.

For more information about Ávila, visit [www.avilaretirementcommunity.com](http://www.avilaretirementcommunity.com), or call 518.452.4250.

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**About Ávila:**

Located in Albany, N.Y., Ávila is a full-service retirement community for persons 55 years of age and older affiliated with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany. Ávila offers residents friendly neighborhoods to live an active lifestyle with delicious dining options, fitness programs, a water aerobics and aquatics center, and a wide variety of activities and programs for all interests ranging from day trips, cultural events and educational seminars. The Adirondack theme with beamed cathedral ceilings and courtyard gardens, paired with our dedicated and caring staff and welcoming residents, creates a robust community atmosphere for all.