

Congratulations to the Sisters of Charity of New York

Serving the Needs of the Poor

1809 – 2009

**For two hundred years, the Sisters of Charity have been pioneers
in meeting the challenges of their times.**



Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton by Joseph Dawley

The Congregation's history began with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, a New York widow and convert. In 1809, she founded the Sisters of Charity in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The Sisters of Charity's mission in New York began in 1817 when Mother Seton sent three Sisters to care for parentless immigrant children in St. Patrick's Orphan Asylum. Saint Patrick's School on Mott Street followed in 1822. From this beginning the Sisters' foundations mushroomed, so that by 1869, the Sisters of Charity missions – including schools, orphanages and a hospital – encompassed all parts of this ever growing city.

- St. Peter's Barclay Street (1831)
- St. Joseph's Half-Orphan Asylum (1833)
- St. Mary's School (1833)
- Academy of Mount St. Vincent (1847)
- St. Vincent's Hospital (1849)
- St. Lawrence Academy (1854)
- St. Ignatius School (1854)
- St. Joseph School (1855)
- St. Joseph's Academy (1856)
- St. Brigid's School (1856)
- Transfiguration School (1856)
- Holy Cross Academy (1858)
- Holy Cross (1859)
- St. Columba's School (1859)
- Immaculate Conception School (1861)
- St. Joseph's Military Hospital (1862)
- New York Catholic Protectory (1863)
- St. John the Evangelist School (1866)
- St. Joseph's Home for the Aged (1868)
- New York Foundling Hospital (1869)

For two centuries, nearly four thousand Sisters of Charity have served Irish and other immigrants and their descendants. In their missions they have cared for orphans and the elderly, taught young people, provided job training to the poor, given support to women and families, nursed the sick through epidemics, prepared leaders, and nurtured the Catholic Faith in all. The contributions of the Sisters of Charity were highlighted in the recent exhibit on *Catholics in New York* at the Museum of the City of New York.



This 1873 painting by Pietro Gagliardi shows Mother Elizabeth Boyle, SC, welcoming orphans to St. Patrick's Asylum, the Congregation's first New York mission.

The work of the Sisters of Charity continues. Among the institutions and programs sponsored by the Congregation today are:

- St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers of New York (co-sponsored with the Diocese of Brooklyn)
- St. Joseph's Medical Center, Yonkers
- The New York Foundling, Manhattan
- Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, Manhattan
- Sisters Hill Farm, Dutchess County
- Part of the Solution (POTS), Bronx
- Life Experience and Faith Sharing Association (LEFSA) for the homeless
- Fox House (temporary housing for women and children), East Harlem
- Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation (supportive housing for the elderly, the mentally ill, and low income persons in Manhattan, Staten Island, and Rockland County)
- Sister Barbara Ford Center for Peace-Building, Diocese of Quiché, Guatemala
- Elizabeth Seton Women's Center
- Casa de Esperanza (a multi-service center meeting the needs of our newest immigrant persons)

The Sisters of Charity spirituality is rooted in the Vincentian spirit that began in seventeenth century France, with Saints Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac.

For Sisters of Charity, prayer and action are ever intertwined.

Our prayer finds God in the midst of our ordinary life experiences.

Our service flows always from the depth of our connection to God, enhanced through celebration of the Eucharist, and through regular communal and individual prayer.

By sharing prayer with the wider community, we grow spiritually with those we serve.