

“Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life” – Archdiocese of St. Louis

Congregation of Mary, Queen – American Region

“Historical Beginnings in the Archdiocese of Saint Louis”

The Congregation of Mary, Queen is a religious institute of diocesan right, with our Motherhouse located in Vietnam and our regional/provincial house located in Springfield, MO. The sisters established a local community in Springfield, MO in August 1979, at the invitation of Bishop Bernard F. Law, the Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Through various transitions, the sisters began to grow in number and spread to other locations in the United States, including the Diocese of Lincoln and Diocese of Kansas City. In the initial stages of the CMR- American Region, the Formation Program was located in Springfield, MO and in Lincoln, NE. However, the sisters still desired to find another location to provide more opportunities and resources for the younger sisters in formation.

In 1991, the sisters began discerning the possibility of establishing a local convent in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Then, Archbishop John L. May, visited with three of the sisters in the Congregation’s Regional Council. It was evident that St. Louis was an ideal place for establishing a new community of sisters and strengthening the Formation Program of the younger sisters. In collaboration with various individuals in the Archdiocese, the sisters bought *Regina Cleri*, the former retirement house of the priests in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. In July 1994, the CMR sisters officially moved into their new home on 4540 Lindell Boulevard. Shortly thereafter, Archbishop Justin Rigali visited the sisters and “welcomed them to the neighborhood.”

During the first years of living in St. Louis, the sisters were blessed to have Monsignor George Lucas, then Chancellor of the Archdiocese, as their chaplain, along with Monsignor Richard Stika. After living at this residence for almost eight years, the sisters decided to sell the home and moved to a smaller convent, which was located near St. Louis University. At that time, different priests from the Society of Jesus began celebrating Mass for the sisters in the convent. Finally, in 2012, the sisters moved once more to another convent, which is now their current residence. A Jesuit priest continues to come to the convent to offer Mass on a regular basis.

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“Current Presence in the Archdiocese of Saint Louis”

In September 2014, Archbishop Robert Carlson visited the sisters, celebrated Mass, and blessed the new convent of the Congregation of Mary, Queen. The sisters are still actively involved in apostolic ministries in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Some sisters work directly with Catholic Charities of St. Louis, in Community Services and Catholic Family Services. Another sister assists in pastoral ministry at a local Catholic parish. Several sisters volunteer in the Religious Education programs for different parishes on Sundays.

The convent in St. Louis is also the Novitiate Formation House of the religious institute; currently two novices reside in the convent and are enrolled in various classes for their formation training. Some courses are completed through the Paul VI Institute of the Archdiocese while other classes are taught by the sisters within the convent setting or are completed on-line. All the sisters take advantage of various workshops that are provided throughout the Archdiocese as a means of on-going formation in their consecrated life.