

The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in St. Louis

The Past

In 1828, at the request of then St. Louis Bishop Joseph Rosati, four sisters set out from their Motherhouse in Emmitsburg, Maryland, in September to journey to St. Louis. Bishop Rosati requested the sisters to take charge of a hospital. When the sisters arrived, they found an expanding city and many in need of health care. The sisters established the first hospital west of the Mississippi River; today, it is known as DePaul Hospital. The sisters then began to serve in education and in needed social ministries. Mental health, care for orphans, and schools for the needy were opened and staffed.

During the Civil War, the sisters (now officially known as Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul following their union with the Paris Daughters in 1850) took on many roles. Daughters ministered in the prisons. Others cared for patients at the House of Refuge Hospital (St. Louis Military Hospital) and at Jefferson Barracks Hospital.

In 1910, the St. Louis Province of the Daughters of Charity was established. Marillac Provincial House in Normandy became the Motherhouse for all the Daughters of Charity serving west of the Mississippi River. As vocations increased, the sisters established Marillac College to provide undergraduate education for Daughters as well as members of other St. Louis Religious communities. In 1969, the Daughters once again divided and three additional US provinces were established for a total of five.

The Present

Today, more than 70 Daughters of Charity live and serve in the St. Louis Archdiocese. Many still serve in the ministry to which they were first called in 1828—health care. Others serve in pastoral care, prison ministry, social services, and education. Some organizations begun by the Daughters, such as Guardian Angel Settlement Association, are now affiliated with Catholic Charities.

In 2011, when four former Daughters of Charity United States provinces unified, the Daughters' Seminary (novitiate) was moved to St. Louis. The former vacant convent at St. James the Greater Parish in Dogtown was reborn as the Daughters of Charity Interprovincial Seminary. The former Marillac Provincial House and Marillac College now are a part of the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The present Provincial House now is located in the Central West End near the Provincial offices. The charism of the Daughters of Charity is service of persons who live in poverty. The core values for the Daughters of the Province of St. Louise are humility, simplicity, and charity.

Dates for upcoming retreats, Come & Sees, Search and Serves, online retreats, Holy Hangouts and more for the Daughters of Charity can be found at:
<http://daughters-of-charity.com/retreats/>

The Daughters of Charity YouTube Channel, where many videos are featured, can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/daughtersofcharityus>