

The Sisters of St. Joseph

The Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph had its inception nearly three centuries ago in Le Puy, a city of Southern France and shares with the Order of Charity the honor of being one of the first of the active congregations of women in the history of the Church. In fact, the founding of this congregation fulfilled the desire of the Patron of the Catholic Press, Saint Francis de Sales, whose broad vision had glimpsed the great need of just such a combination of action and contemplation as is exemplified in the life of the Sister of Saint Joseph. The Bishop of Geneva, however, yielding to the advice and entreaty of his friends, established the Order of the Visitation, a religious order differing widely from the one he originally planned, so that it remained for the Reverend John Paul Medaille, zealous missionary of the Society of Jesus, to carry into effect the unrealized project of Saint Francis de Sales, for whom the Congregation has ever held a special veneration and love.

In 1650 Father Medaille appealed to the Ordinary of Le Puy, Monsigneur Henry de Maupas, who entered wholeheartedly into the project and on October 15 of the same year, in the chapel of the Asylum at Le Puy, Bishop de Maupas presided at the reception of the first members into the Congregation, the investiture having been preceded by a fervent preparation. Placing the newly received religious under the patronage of the foster father of Jesus, the Bishop declared that henceforth they should be known as the daughters of Saint Joseph.

It is a noteworthy fact that the Cure of Ars, Saint John Marie, served as chaplain to one of the early foundations of the community.

The almost phenomenal growth of the congregation went on unimpeded until the Revolution of 1793 which wrought such havoc in the Church. The Sisters were imprisoned and five of their number received the glorious crown of martyrdom during this era of terror and persecution.

When the war clouds lifted a re-establishment of the Congregation took place and once again was evidenced the truth of the saying: "The blood of martyrs becomes the seed of Christians."

IN AMERICA

In 1863, at the request of the Most Reverend Bishop Rosati of Saint Louis, six Sisters of Saint Joseph were invited to come from Lyons, France to the Episcopal city. At Carondelet they opened the first convent of the Congregation in the United States. From this house, as from a fruitful tree, numerous branches have spread, especially over the West. According to statistics published in the beginning of the present decade the Sisters of Saint Joseph are now the most numerous of all the Sisterhoods in the United States, having a total membership of more than twelve thousand.

CANANDAIGUA

In 1854, the Reverend Edmund O'Connor, Pastor of Saint Mary's Church in Canandaigua, "in order to give his parish such establishments as would perpetuate the faith," applied to Bishop Timon, who had recently been consecrated Ordinary of the See of Buffalo, for a colony of Sisters. Knowing and fully appreciating the work of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in the West, which had long been the scene of his missionary labors, Bishop Timon secured the services of four Sisters from the

Mother House in Carondelet. This establishment at Canandaigua was the first foundation of the Congregation in New York State. Out of it grew the present communities of Buffalo, Rochester and Erie.

ROCHESTER

In 1868 the Most Reverend Bernard J. McQuaid was made Ordinary of the newly created Diocese of Rochester. In the autumn of that year he secured the separation of the Sisters at Rochester and Canandaigua from their Motherhouse in Buffalo, thus making them a Diocesan Sisterhood. From a close study of the rules and constitutions Bishop McQuaid was convinced that the Sisters of Saint Joseph were especially adapted for seconding his plans for furnishing his Diocese with institutions necessary

Where are you from?
From the gray hills of Nazareth.
Why are thou so meanly clad?
I am but poor.
Why thy lined face?
Why thy bent shoulders?
Pain knew I well,
Long care did endure.
Why thy stout pilgrim's rod?
Knew I long wandering.
Why thy calm peacefulness?
I lived with God.
Wilt thou but help me, I am care-laden?

Come, I am Joseph,
Come I'll take thee to God.

A Sister of Saint Joseph

for the work of God in the salvation of souls. The direction given the Sisters by their founder — to obey their Bishop as their Superior, to whose paternal charity and care they were recommended, strongly appealed to him. Wisely and well did he guide the infant community and to no one more than to the first Ordinary of the Diocese of Rochester are the Sisters of Saint Joseph indebted for the growth of their community, spiritually, intellectually and in its number of members.

While the chief external work of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph is the Christian education of youth, the Sisters are in charge of the orphans in Saint Mary's and Saint Patrick's homes, two diocesan institutions; they care for the aged in Saint Ann's Home on the Lake Avenue Boulevard, while in Saint Joseph's Hospital, Elmira they care for the sick and

TIME IN ITS FLIGHT . . .

1919

Versailles Peace Treaty drawn and signed by Allied Powers and Germany but rejected by U. S. Senate. . . Cost of war announced as \$21,354,867,000. . . Wartime Prohibition Act becomes effective; Eighteenth Amendment ratified by thirty-sixth State. . . Navy seaplane NC-4 completes Eastward flight across Atlantic.

Approximately twenty million smokers in U. S., of whom 40 per cent smoke cigars. . . Gem, Ever Ready and Star razor companies merge. . . Printers' strike in New York temporarily holds up publication of 150 magazines and twice that number of business papers.

Edsel Ford elected president of Ford Motor Company to succeed his father. . . Chicago Association of Commerce establishes the Advertising Council. . . Women in many communities still bashful about buying cosmetics from male sales clerks.

afflicted and conduct a training school for nurses.

In the educational field they are engaged in teaching in twenty parochial grammar schools in the City of Rochester and in twenty-eight others throughout the diocese. The total registration in these forty-eight grammar schools for the year 1938-1939 was 14,079. Eleven of the community are on the staff of De Sales Institute, Geneva; seven on the staff of Aquinas Institute and four teach in the Elmira Catholic High School.

During the year, the Sisters in the various parish schools engage in teaching Catholic doctrine to children in attendance at the public schools while two Sisters from Nazareth College do catechetical work with the negro children and thirteen other Sisters conduct catechetical classes in nearby rural communities. Seventy-two Sisters taught in the Summer Catechetical Schools. Twenty-five of these worked in Rochester and forty-seven in the rural districts.

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

The Community looks with pride on its oldest institution, NAZARETH ACADEMY. The academy has a registration of over nine hundred students with a faculty of more than forty members. While designedly conservative, the institution has never failed to adopt any educational measure prescribed by the State and countless commendatory letters received by Sister Marcella from the various State educational executives testify to the regard in which Nazareth Academy, its principal and faculty are held by those who control the educational interests in the State.

NAZARETH COLLEGE for the higher education of women was opened on Lake Avenue in September 1924 at the request of the Most Reverend Thomas F. Hickey. Rapid growth necessitated its removal in 1928 to the present location in Augustine Street whence it is hoped at a not too distant date it will be moved to more beautiful and spacious quarters.

NAZARETH HALL, a private boarding and day school for boys of grammar school grade, was opened in 1884. The present building is beautifully situated on Raines Park and Alameda Street and offers every facility for the splendid development of Christian youth. A glance at its alumni directory furnishes convincing evidence of the contribution which this institution has made through more than half a century to the citizenry of our city.

SAINT AGNES' INSTITUTE, located just east of Corpus Christi Church, is a school of art and music. Instruction in aesthetic and tap dancing form a part of the training in music. The Institute furnishes boarding facilities for out-of-town students registered at Nazareth Academy and for women pursuing studies elsewhere as well as for retired and business women. This year, by request, the Sisters are offering the courses prescribed for first year academic and commercial students at Saint Agnes' under the charter of Nazareth Academy.

The attractive building on the old Lomb Estate has been converted into NAZARETH MODEL SCHOOL, a school for boys and girls within the ages 3-7. Each year will view the addition of one grade until finally it will embrace school training from pre-school through the eighth year of gram-

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