Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
5900 Delhi Road
Mount Saint Joseph, OH 45051

January 2009

Dear Pastor, Principal, and DRE,

We invite you to join the Sisters of Charity in celebrating the 200th anniversary of Saint Elizabeth Bayley Seton's founding of the American Sisters of Charity, the first active congregation of women religious begun in the United States. Elizabeth Seton is our first American-born saint and patron of Catholic education. Her Sisters played an important part in the development of the church in our country. At the invitation of Bishop Edward Fenwick, four Sisters of Charity arrived in Cincinnati in 1829 to begin the first permanent foundation of women religious in Ohio. Their first ministry was at St. Peter's Orphanage for girls and an accompanying day school.

In 1852 the Sisters in Cincinnati formed a diocesan community, the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, and expanded their work significantly. Besides service in numerous parish schools, we have sponsored health care and social service agencies throughout Ohio, Michigan, and in parts of New Mexico and Colorado. We have also served in foreign missions in China, Rome, Latin America and Africa.

Throughout 2009, events are being planned to celebrate this significant anniversary. See www.srcharitycinti.org for more information and resources. For those in the vicinity of Cincinnati, the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati are sponsoring two events at which we would welcome your participation. On May 3 the 9:30 Sunday liturgy at our Motherhouse will honor our partners in ministry, and on October 25 we will close our year of celebration with a liturgy celebrated by Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral.

You and members of your parish or school are also invited to visit our Mount St. Joseph motherhouse in Delhi Township where we offer tours and have special exhibits to commemorate the anniversary. We also invite you to visit the national traveling exhibit, *Women and Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America*, which will be at the Cincinnati Museum Center from May 15 through September 7. This exhibit will include the contributions of women religious in our local area.

We are happy to offer you the enclosed resources that may be of help to you:

- A DVD containing educational resources for religion classes in your school or for your parish religious education program. Please pass it on to the appropriate person in your parish;
- A brief biographical sketch of St. Elizabeth Seton and a litany in her honor;
- Elizabeth Seton quotes re education;
- An anniversary Fact Sheet and bookmark.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us through our Archivist, Sr. Judith Metz, judith.metz@srcharitycinti.org, 513-347-4058.

Sincerely,

Sister Barbara Hagedorn
President, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati