



MISSION

as a sacred trust



Sisters of Charity
of Cincinnati

Mission Statement

Urged by the love of Christ, and in the spirit of our founder, Elizabeth Ann Seton, we Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati strive to live Gospel values. We choose to act justly, to build loving relationships, to share our resources with those in need, and to care for all creation.

Sisters of Charity Sponsored Ministries

Bayley – a continuing care retirement community that offers a full spectrum of health and wellness lifestyle options.

College of Mount St. Joseph – a coeducational, Catholic liberal arts college.

DePaul Cristo Rey High School – a Catholic, college preparatory high school for young adults with economic need.

Light of Hearts Villa – an assisted living facility for senior adults.

Seton Family Center – a counseling center servicing children and adults.

Seton High School – a comprehensive, Catholic high school for girls.

St. Joseph Home of Cincinnati – a residential facility for children and adults with severe mental and multiple physical handicaps.

ST. JOSEPH HOME Introduces Philosophical Pillars

By S. Judith Metz

St. Joseph Home, a ministry founded in 1872 by the Sisters of Charity, seeks to create a loving environment for non-ambulatory infants, children and young adults who have severe/profound mental and physical disabilities. To promote their mission Michael Rench, president and CEO, has introduced four philosophical pillars on which the Home will focus its ministry. They are: Community, Gentle Teaching, Servant Leadership and Heritage of the founding, nurturing ministry by the Sisters of Charity.



Tammy Miller works together with Matt, a St. Joseph Home resident since 2008, on a page-turning goal.

Each of these pillars will be explored by studying the writings and work of people who have developed these concepts in their quest to serve individuals with developmental disabilities. All of them come from strong faith traditions and are rooted in the teachings of Jesus as related in the New Testament. As such they can help guide St. Joseph Home on its journey to creating a loving caring community for its residents, respite guests, families, and staff and volunteers.

St. Joseph Home's reflections on Community will stem from the writings and work of Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche, an international federation of group homes for people with developmental disabilities and those who assist them. Dr. John McGee's Gentle Teaching Philosophy, which puts bonding and companionship at the center of all interactions, will be the focus of the second pillar. The Servant Leadership Movement founded by Robert K. Greenleaf identifies key moral behaviors that leaders must continuously demonstrate. For their Heritage focus, St. Joseph Home will look to the Sisters of Charity who serve as members of the Board and in volunteer ministry there.

To build on these pillars, articles will be made available, and visits will be scheduled to various agencies in Ohio that utilize elements of these philosophies in their operations. In anticipating the implementation of this effort, Michael Rench remarked, "I am excited about this journey and am looking forward to the challenges and opportunities for growth it will present each of us."

News 'N Notes



Twelve staff members from the **College of Mount St. Joseph** traveled to New Orleans, La., May 14-May 19 to help rebuild a home that had been damaged in Hurricane Katrina. Staying at the Sisters of Charity Federation House of Charity, they began each morning with prayerful reflection on mission and heritage, and each evening processed their experiences.

Mary Bingham, one of the participants, reflected, "The trip gave me many things to reflect upon since our return, and I have continued to read about the devastation left by the hurricane. It was a very spiritual and profound personal experience. I would recommend it to my coworkers and hope that the college continues to offer this opportunity."

S. Pat Marie Bernard, a board member at Bayley, was honored by Santa Maria Community Services as a local health care leader of the Hispanic/Latino community. She received the *Sister Margarita Brewer Hope Award* named for another Sister of Charity who has given outstanding service to the Hispanic community.



(From left) Sisters Margarita Brewer and Pat Marie Bernard

Seton High School is planning five mission trips this summer that will involve more than 50 students. They will be working with the Franciscans as well as students from Mount Notre Dame and Alter High schools and serving in Cincinnati, eastern Kentucky, Indiana



S. Sandy Howe (left) was one of three Sisters of Charity accompanying Seton High School students on a mission trip to Evansville, Ind.

and parts of Central America. S. Mary Dolores Schneider, who participated in the trip to St. Vincent's Daycare Center in Evansville, Ind., observed, "This was an interesting exercise in collaboration. S. Brenda Fritz, director of St. Vincent's, is a Daughter of Charity who was taught by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati [including S. Mary Dolores] at Elizabeth Seton High School in South Holland." Sisters Marie Irene Schneider and Sandy Howe were on this mission trip also.

Mission Prayer

Lord, help us to imitate your way of living and acting. You came upon this earth to serve not to be served. Teach us to show great gentleness toward all, to imitate your goodness in welcoming others and to bear witness of your love for all. [*St. Louise de Marillac, founder of the Daughters of Charity*]

Words of Wisdom

"The order of society is based on two virtues: justice and charity. However, justice presupposes a lot of love already, for one needs to love a [person] a great deal in order to respect their rights, and liberty, which hampers our liberty. Justice has its limits whereas charity has none." [Blessed Frederick Ozanam, founder of the St. Vincent de Paul Society]

Food For Thought

Mission is not primarily an activity of the church; it is primarily an attribute of God ... It is in the nature of God to be missionary, to reach out in relationship, to pour forth love. The mission includes the church, of course. In fact, the church *is* mission in the sense that the church exists only for sake of God's mission. So, there is church because there is mission, not vice versa. The church participates *in the mission Dei*. The church is *part of* God's mission, but it is not the whole of God's work in the world. [S. Mary Maher, SSND, "Called and Sent: Reflections on a Theology of Apostolic Religious Life Today," *UISG Bulletin*, No. 146, 2011]

Prayer, Planning and Thanks Part of DePaul Cristo Rey All-Staff Retreat Day

Shortly after the last official day of school, the teachers and staff of DePaul Cristo Rey High School gathered June 5 at the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse for an All-Staff Retreat. In the morning the group spent time in Gospel-based prayer and reflection followed by a discussion of the past year's successes and the changes needed for next year. The DPCR group then visited the Sisters in the chapel at Mother Margaret Hall before Mass and those in the Motherhouse dining room to personally thank them for their prayers and support. Following lunch, the group spent the afternoon looking ahead to the coming school year and discussing how to support one another in the challenging ministry of serving the students of DePaul Cristo Rey High School.



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Mission is the electronic newsletter of the Corporation Board of Sponsored Ministries of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. To unsubscribe [click here](#).