Bishop Edward Fenwick, O.P. (1768-1832), the first bishop of the diocese of Cincinnati, was instrumental in having the Sisters begin their ministry in Ohio.

Cincinnati Beginnings

At the request of Bishop Edward Fenwick, O.P., Sisters Fanny Jordan, Victoria Fitzgerald, Beatrice Tyler, and Albina Levy arrived in Cincinnati October 27, 1829, where they opened St. Peter girls’ school and orphanage. Initially located on Sycamore Street opposite St. Peter Cathedral, in 1836 they moved to a larger facility at Third and Plum Streets. With the growing number of orphans and students, this building was enlarged three times by 1850. In 1837 Sister Anthony O’Connell arrived in the city, followed in 1845 by Sisters Josephine Harvey, Regina Mattingly, and the new superior, Margaret George. By mid-century thirteen Sisters taught and cared for over 300 girls and had briefly operated St. Aloysius Orphanage in the 1840s.

When the Sisters in Cincinnati learned of the plans being made by their superiors in Emmitsburg to affiliate their Congregation with the French Daughters of Charity, Sister Margaret George and six other Sisters, convinced that they were remaining true to the original spirit of Elizabeth Seton’s foundation, formed the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati March 25, 1852.