Seeds of Useful Knowledge

The growth in the number of Catholic parish schools in the latter part of the 19th and well into the 20th century consumed a large portion of the Sisters’ energies. Besides staffing schools throughout Ohio, in 1872 the first Sisters went to Michigan. Though unable to respond to every request, between 1860 and 1900 the Sisters of Charity assumed responsibility for 76 elementary and secondary schools. As they moved into the 20th century, the Sisters staffed academies, Latin schools, schools for special needs children, and schools of nursing. The post World War II population boom led to increased numbers of Catholic parishes and overloaded classrooms.

By the 1950s more than 800 Sisters of Charity were classroom teachers. In 1920 the Community established the College of Mount St. Joseph, one of the first Catholic women’s colleges in Ohio.