

# Care of Poor, Sick and Orphans

**I**nvolvement in the care of the sick and orphans from their earliest days, the Sisters significantly expanded these ministries in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Encouraged by clergy and doctors to expand in their locales, the Congregation began sponsoring sanitariums and new hospitals in New Mexico, Colorado, and Michigan, and several cities in Ohio. All Sister of Charity hospitals took in many patients who were unable to pay and offered free clinics for the most needy. Saint Joseph Infant and Maternity Home grew out of a ministry begun at Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati. Santa Maria Italian Educational and Institutional Home, one of the first Catholic settlement houses in the country, attended to the physical and spiritual

needs of immigrants in Cincinnati. In addition, Sisters volunteered as nurses during the 1918 influenza pandemic, and in response to floods, tornados, and other natural disasters. Sisters in many parish convents did outreach work with the poor in their locales, as well as ministry with refugees and migrant workers. In

1944 Mrs. Julie Penrose offered her home, El Pomar in Colorado Springs, to the Community for their charitable work. It became the first women's retreat house west of the Mississippi.



*Sisters Blandina and Justina Segale started Santa Maria, one of the first Catholic settlement houses in the United States, in the West End neighborhood of Cincinnati in 1897.*



*The Sisters were involved in day care at both the Santa Maria Institute in Cincinnati and at Margery Reed Day Nursery in Denver, Colorado, for which the Sisters of Charity assumed sponsorship in 1944.*



*Sister-nurses have long been involved in every aspect of patient care as well as taking on administrative roles in health care settings.*

*St. Vincent, "the hospital at the end of the Santa Fe Trail," was established in 1865 by the first Sisters of Charity to minister in the New Mexico Territory.*

