

MISSION

as a sacred trust



Sisters of Charity
of Cincinnati

Mission Statement

Urged by the charity of Christ, we Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, strive to give compelling witness to Christ's active presence by doing justice, expressed as loving trust shaping all our relationships, and as sharing our individual and Congregational resources for the liberation of the oppressed.

Vision Statement

As a community of charity, living the gospel as expressed in the charism of Elizabeth Seton and Margaret George, we will strive to be persons who:

- choose to live simply in a complex world committed to the healing of our global home;
- embrace cultural expansion in membership and ministry;
- learn from and are in solidarity with the poor;
- risk being prophetic in church and society;
- journey together toward wholeness.

We make this commitment imbued with a deep faith in the active presence of God and strengthened by prayer, friendship and community.

Welcome to the first issue of *Mission*, a quarterly electronic newsletter dedicated to promoting the mission of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. As members of the Corporation Board for Sponsored Ministries it is our hope that this newsletter provides you with inspiration, information and ideas that will assist in living the Charity mission, whatever your location or role might be.

At our recent All-Boards Retreat, the Rev. Ed Udovic, vice president for mission at DePaul University, Chicago, Ill., challenged participants to consider what he defined as "the Vincentian/Setonian question" – In light of the needs I see around me, 'what must be done?' i.e. 'what must I do,' 'what must we do?' In response Fr. Udovic articulated St. Paul's exhortation which is also the motto of the Sisters of Charity, "The Charity of Christ urges us."

More than 200 years ago Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, founder of the American Sisters of Charity, expressed her vision of mission when she wrote to a friend:

"To speak the joy of my soul at the prospect of being able to assist the poor, visit the sick, comfort the sorrowful, clothe little innocents, and teach them to love God!"

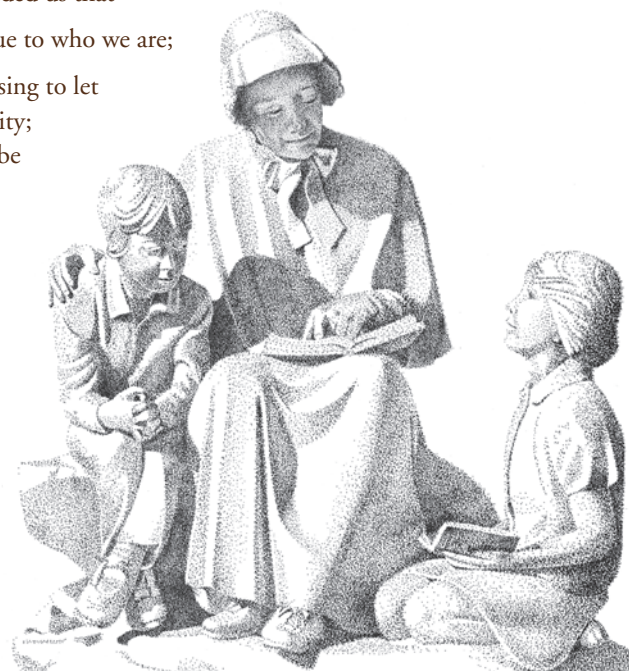
Elizabeth's sentiment has inspired Sisters, Charity Associates and their co-workers through the years, and continues to do so today as we strive together to further the mission of Jesus Christ.

At a prayer breakfast for trustees of our sponsored ministries S. Regina Bechtle, a Sister of Charity of New York, reminded us that

- *Mission requires integrity* – being true to who we are;
- *Mission requires inventiveness* – refusing to let crises cripple and choke our creativity; finding a way when there seems to be no way;
- *Mission requires inspiration* – trusting that our work is part of a much bigger picture.

These are big challenges – and we can use all the help we can get! Our prayer is that this newsletter will be a tool that challenges and inspires each of us to live the Charity mission more effectively.

*S. Judith Metz, SC, member,
Corporation Board for Sponsored
Ministries*



Statue of Elizabeth Seton sculpted by S. Margaret Beaudett, SC.

Creating a Mission Culture

Vincentian Father Ed Udovic spoke on the topic “Creating a Mission Culture” to nearly 100 board members and senior administrators of our Sisters of Charity sponsored ministries at the All-Boards Retreat held Oct. 26 at the Motherhouse. Fr. Udovic directs the mission office at DePaul University in Chicago, Ill., and is the presiding officer of the Vincentian Studies Institute. In relation to mission, he urged those in attendance to consider what makes our ministries different from those who offer similar services? How do we keep the Vincentian/Setonian mission alive, even when there are few or no Sisters of Charity present? Fr. Udovic shared some of the processes and the program that DePaul University has put in place to implement its mission.



The Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati awarded the Congregation’s highest honor, the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award, to David Scharfenberger (left), Elizabeth Bookser Barkley and MSgt. John J. DeJonckheere, Ret. USAF (represented by Don DeJonckheere).

News 'N Notes

Congratulations to the following persons who received the Sisters of Charity St. Elizabeth Seton Award Jan. 2, 2011:

Elizabeth Bookser Barkley – for developing interdisciplinary courses related to spirituality in the Charity tradition at the College of Mount St. Joseph, and for her publications promoting the mission of the Gospel and of the Sisters of Charity.

John J. DeJonckheere – for creating an eighth-grade project at Holy Family School that encourages the spirit of giving to those in need.

David Scharfenberger – for being one of the founders of Working in Neighborhoods using his talents to develop grass-root leadership, and for designing the Service Learning Program at the College of Mount St. Joseph.

Prayer

Loving God, you promised to be with us always. Help us to see your work as our work. We pray that you will guide us in your ways, and that we are able to see ourselves simply as tools in the hands of an excellent workman.

We ask for the grace to recognize and be grateful for all we have, and to be able to see beyond our own needs to the needs of those we serve. We thank you for all those who work so diligently to carry out Jesus’ gospel mission, and we ask that we may be graced to be among their number.

Amen.

Touching Lives

“The Sisters of Charity values are at the heart of the Mount and guide and inform who we are and why we do what we do.



Our mission conveys who we are and what we stand for, where we came from and where we are going. It guides what we hope the graduates of the Mount embody and what we hope those who work here embody as well.” (Andrea Stiles, director of mission and ministry at the College of Mount St. Joseph, quoted from *Mount News*, September 2010)



Diane Griffin (left) with S. Ann Hunt.

“The Women’s Connection has been a blessing to me. Now I look forward to class; before I didn’t have a reason to do anything. Now I have other women; we all talk about life and our family. Thanks to The Women’s Connection, I got connected!” (Diane Griffin, participant, quoted from The Women’s Connection Newsletter, October 2010)



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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](#).