



United in Prayer for Vocations | June 2022

Prepared by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Nazareth, Kentucky, at the request of the Federation Vocation Core Team

A monthly prayer service is being prepared by each branch in our Federation. The purpose is to pray for vocations, to help us learn a bit more about the charisms of each of our congregations, keep us engaged collaboratively in vocation ministry and bring us closer to seeing ourselves sharing a common Mission of Charity for the present and the future.

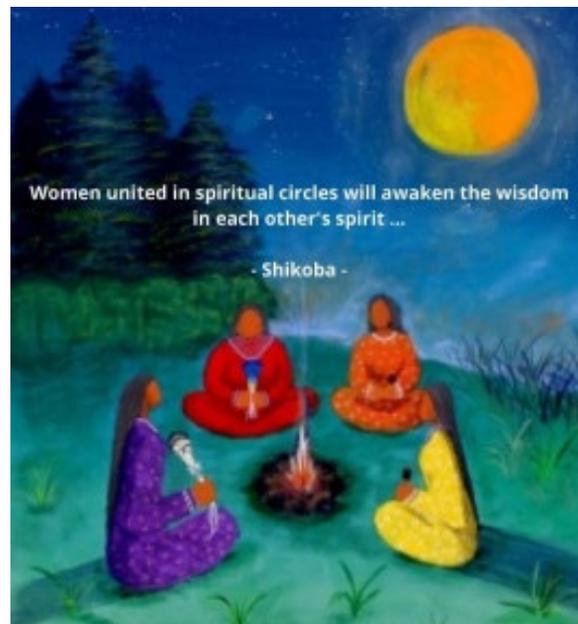
Introduction: The [Sisters of Charity of Nazareth](#) began in Kentucky in 1812, led by a young, compassionate, courageous leader, Catherine Spalding. The sisters responded to the urgent needs of the time on the Kentucky frontier, which included education, health care, and caring for orphans. Today, the pioneer spirit of Catherine continues in Kentucky and other areas of the United States, India, Nepal, Belize, Botswana, and Kenya. Impelled by the love of Christ, the SCN mission is “to work for justice in solidarity with oppressed peoples, especially the economically poor and women, and to care for the earth. We risk our lives and resources, both personally and corporately, as we engage in diverse ministries in carrying out this mission.”



Invitation to Prayer

Our Community must be the center from which all our good works must emanate and in the name of the Community all must be done. (Catherine Spalding)

Take some time of quiet to ponder Catherine’s words and to gaze at the image below.
Notice what is evoked within you.



Prayer: Heart Blessing (adapted from Paula Underwood)

THE WOMEN formed a circle round the Fire each showing an attentive face to every other person.

AND THEY SPOKE, each waiting quietly till the other had finished, as they had learned to do,
A circle of silent listening, framing the wisdom each contained
until the wisdom of all was spoken, contained at last by the Circle of the People.

Thinking now of the quiet circle of listening hearts,
They were filled with understanding of the value of their way.

AND A FIRM RESOLVE SWEEPED THROUGH THEM.

THEY DECIDED to be WOMEN who would perpetuate and refine this manner of council so that all
whom they encounter and the children to come might benefit from greater understanding.

For they saw all People like a Great River—Spreading out upon the land,
spreading out across the waters, dividing down a thousand paths not yet seen.

AND A SENSE OF TOMORROW ENTERED THEIR HEARTS AND NEVER AGAIN LEFT THEM.

Reflection and Sharing

What touched you from Catherine's words, the image, and the heart blessing?

Let us Pray

Holy one of Blessing, Giver of all life and beauty, you love us into being.

We stand before you in gratitude for calling us—individually and together into community.

May community be the center from which all our good works emanate

May we be filled with an understanding of the value of our way and we pray that others may be inspired
to share in the Charity charism and mission.

May we awaken the wisdom in each other's spirits

May we recognize that we are each an important part of inviting new relationships into the Charity
charism and help us to trust the thousand paths not yet seen.

May a sense of tomorrow remain forever in our hearts

Closing Prayer: Federation Vocation Prayer

From age to age, O God,
you have ignited hearts
impelled by the love of Christ
to respond with the gift of their lives.
In the name of the family of St. Vincent de Paul,
we commend to you all women
in serious discernment and initial formation
with our Federation of Charity.

Through the intercession of Vincent, Louise, Elizabeth,
and all our Founders in the Company of Charity,
may they experience clarity of call,
generosity of heart,
and the courage to respond in faith.
Give us the grace to be joyful companions
on the journey of discernment.
From generation to generation
may the love of Christ impel us!



Federation Vocation Core Team: Helene Allain, NDSC; Melissa Camardo, SCL; Regina Hlavac, DC (St. Louise); Tracy Kemme, SC (Cincinnati); Chris Kunze, SCN. Contact Sisters to the Federation Core Team: Rejane Cytacki, SCL; Maryanne Tracey, SC (St. Elizabeth); Shannon Hoffman, SC (St. Elizabeth); Rachel Blais, SC (Seton Hill); Mary Ann Connolly, SC (Halifax); Lisa Laguna, DC (St. Elizabeth); Pat Poole, SCIC; Joanne O'Regan, CSM