



United in Prayer for Vocations | October 2022

Prepared by the Sisters of Charity of New York 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: When New York Sisters of Charity gather for community meetings, one of the stories most frequently recalled is that of our beginnings.

Our first beginning was in Emmitsburg, Maryland in 1809 when Elizabeth Seton and her companions chose to cast their lot together in a new enterprise, never before seen in the fledgling American republic: a community of women religious whose lives were dedicated to loving God through prayer and service to others, especially the most vulnerable. Their rule of life was one created by their patrons, Saints Vincent De Paul and Louise De Marillac nearly two centuries earlier.

Eight years later, Elizabeth sent three of her sisters to New York, her native city, to care for orphaned children. Their ministries soon expanded to include education, health care, and social service.

In 1846, a second beginning occurred when 33 sisters from Emmitsburg formed an independent community in New York. They continued the ministries that had always been their primary concern.

Today, Sisters of Charity of New York, members of the SC Federation, embrace a new time of Charity Rising in their lives and ministries. We and our associates and colleagues in mission pause at the door of this new century to listen, pray, and wait for the next chapter in our story to unfold.

Call to Prayer: Author of life, we ponder the mysterious ways your Providence is found on every page of our ever-unfolding story. Against all odds, you have brought us to the “now” of this story. Help us to decipher the messages you have scribbled on its margins, remind us to pay attention to the parts you have underlined. Give us the courage to wait for and believe that the next chapter, the next line, the next word, will reveal to us what we are meant to become. Amen

Song: “The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor” (YouTube or Song Book) or one of your choosing.

Reading: The joy of my soul at the prospect of being able to assist the poor, visit the sick, comfort the sorrowful, clothe the little innocents and teach them to love God! (Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton)

Reflection and sharing: How have your attitudes about people living in poverty shaped your relationship with Jesus? How has your attitude toward Jesus shaped your relationships with those who are poor?

Intercessions: The charity of Christ moves us as we...

- **Remember** the 33 women of charity who chose to remain in New York, and all those for whom they cared;



- **Offer** a blessing on all who have made painful beginnings and have brought them to fruitful conclusions;
- **Celebrate** the courage of our sisters who continue the ministry of charity and service that are the cornerstones of our tradition;
- **Ask** for an increase of confidence in the never-failing providence which has always guided our comings and goings, and for the courage to say, “Amen! Let it be!”

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!



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