



Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church

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Dear Friend of the Sisters,

In addition to our own dear Mothers, many of us have had “spiritual mothers” – women who taught us to love Jesus whole heartedly, and who nurtured us in mind, body and spirit.

The Sisters of Charity were founded to be spiritual mothers – to love those in need with the heart of a mother. This mission to love began in 1832 with poor children in a small parish in Holland, and continues today with our motherly care of the children in our schools, the treasured elderly in our long term care facilities, the poor and marginalized who come to our Homeless Shelter or visit our Food Pantry, and the immigrant looking for support and direction as they face an uncertain future in a new country.



For Sister Kateri, teaching is all about being a spiritual mother. The compassion, empathy, hope and encouragement she offers her students enlighten their minds and nurture their souls.

A few of our Sisters would like to share with you what it means to be a spiritual mother in their ministries.

Sister Kateri, Theology teacher, will tell you that teaching is all about being a spiritual mother. In our troubled world when so many of our students long to be loved, understood and valued for who they are, radiating to them the unconditional love of Jesus and Our Blessed Mother is an essential part of her ministry. She says: “Treating my students with compassion, empathy, and understanding no matter what they have done, instilling in them a sense of hope, encouraging them to live up to their potential, challenging them to be their best selves, lending a listening ear or a shoulder to cry on – these are just some of the qualities that nourish their souls and help them to be more open to learning the academic concepts.”



In her care of the elderly, Mother Katherine carries in her heart these aged and frail souls as a mother carries her infant.

Mother Katherine cares for our treasured elderly. She says: “We carry in our hearts these aged and frail souls as a mother carries her infant. Our concern for them goes beyond their physical needs. The Sisters nurture them in their need to be loved unconditionally, to listen attentively to the same story for the hundredth time, to be respected and valued. Our elderly are truly vulnerable in many ways. They often feel forgotten and lonely. The Sisters ease their loneliness by their loving care.”

For Sister Mary Jude, serving in Hispanic Ministry, to be a Sister of Charity is to have ears and hearts open to hear the cry of the poor

and the marginalized, and to respond to that cry with a mother's love. "That means attending to the needs of the immigrant as they try to adjust to life in a land and a culture completely foreign to their own. It means assisting the young mother who knocks on the doors of our Homeless Shelter with her young children and not a penny to her name. It means helping a Mom or Dad put food on the table after they have just lost their job. All of this sounds a lot like social work, and it is. But it's more. It's responding to the physical needs of the person in front of us in a way that restores their dignity and self-worth."

Mother Joan Clare, entrusted with the spiritual formation of the young women seeking to become Sisters of Charity, knows she is walking on holy ground in her ministry of nurturing these zealous souls as they grow in spiritual maturity. She says, "It is like holding precious jewels of God in my hand. I am tremendously blessed to serve as their spiritual mother."

Whether educating children in our schools, caring for the sick and aging in our nursing facilities, sheltering the homeless, assisting the poor who visit our Food Pantry, preparing young Sisters for a life of ministry, or caring for our own dear elderly Sisters, we rely on your financial gifts. **Ours is a noble and much-needed ministry but we cannot do it without you.**



For Sister Agnes (l.) and Sister Christopher, to be a Sister of Charity is to have ears and hearts open to the cry of the poor, and to respond with a mother's love. Last Christ they helped provide dinner for our homeless friends.



Mother Joan Clare (far right) knows she is walking on holy ground in her ministry of nurturing the souls of the young Sisters entrusted to her care, like Sister Veronica Rose (l.) and Sister Phillip Raynette.

YOU are an important part of our mission and our service to God's people. [Can we count on your continued assistance?](#) **Your offering today of \$25, \$20, \$15, \$50 or your most generous gift will keep our Sisters serving on the frontlines of loving ministry to those most in need.**

At the foot of the cross, Mary accepted the mission to be our spiritual mother. Daily we live our mission to be deeply caring spiritual mothers to those in our ministries, to bring each of them to Jesus through Mary. You have stood with us in this great mission and for that we are truly grateful. YOU nurture us by your prayers and financial support, and for that we thank you.

May God bless you and our Blessed Mother hold you close to her heart. We give you the gift of our prayers. Please pray for us.



Gratefully in Mary, Mother of Our Church,

Mother Marie Julie, SCMC
Superior General

P.S. Who are the spiritual mothers in your life? [Send us their names.](#) We will pray for those who are living at the Mass celebrated in our Motherhouse Chapel on All Saints Day, and for those deceased at the Mass celebrated on All Souls Day. And please be generous in your continued support. **Our care and service to God's little and least depends on YOU!**