

COMMON BONDS, COMMON MISSIONS

The extraordinary and devoted people who have made up CHE's sponsors share a common bond in their devotion to carry forward the tradition of serving those most in need. Here are only some of the highlights of their history and achievements.

“It is for God we serve the poor and not for thanks.” — Catherine McAuley

SISTERS OF MERCY OF THE AMERICAS (1843)

1831

In Dublin, Ireland, Catherine McAuley, establishes the first Sisters of Mercy Congregation ensuring her legacy of service to the poor continues after her death.

1843

Mother Frances Wardle establishes the first Sisters of Mercy foundation in the United States in Pittsburgh, PA.

1847

The Sisters found Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh, the first Catholic hospital in the United States.

1851

The Sisters settle in Providence, RI.

1858

The Sisters of Mercy open a convent in Manchester, NY. From the three motherhouses in Pittsburgh, Providence, and Manchester, more than 100 institutions are established.

1965

All of the Mercy congregations in the United States become aligned within a federation.

1986

Eastern Mercy Health System is formed by the Sisters of Mercy, Regional Communities of New York, Baltimore, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Rochester, Albany, Portland, and Merion.

1991

Branches of the Sisters of Mercy from North, South, and Central America are unified: The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

1997

Nine regional communities of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas become founding sponsors of Catholic Health East.

2000

The Sisters celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Mercy Center, South Bronx, a social service center for poor women.

2002

The Sisters celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Sisters of Mercy of Connecticut.

THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE ALLEGANY (1859)

1859

Father Pamfilo de Magliano, O.S.F., gives the habit of the Third Order of St. Francis and the name Sister Mary Joseph to Mary Jane Todd in the chapel of St. Bonaventure College and Seminary establishing a new congregation to educate young women in Allegany, New York.

1860

The Sisters open the St. Elizabeth Academy in Allegany and open schools in Connecticut, New York, and other east coast states.

1865

The Sisters hold their first Chapter and elect Sr. Mary Teresa O'Neil General Superior, serving as General Superior for 55 years.

1879

The Franciscan Sisters of Allegany become the first American-founded congregation of religious women to send sisters to foreign missions.

1883

The Sisters assume the administration of St. Elizabeth Hospital in Boston.

1880s and 1890s

The Sisters establish an orphanage and several homes for working girls and boys.

1890

The Sisters accept the sponsorship of St. Elizabeth Hospital in New York City. Later, they open other hospitals in Florida, New York, and New Jersey.

1946

The Sisters open a mission in Brazil.

1965

The Sisters open a mission in Bolivia.

1968

Ministries are expanded to include pastoral work in parishes and hospitals, to the poor in migrant areas, and the inner-city.

1982

Allegany Health System is founded to strengthen the healthcare mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany.

1997

The Franciscan Sisters of Allegany become founding sponsors of Catholic Health East.

1999

The Sisters celebrate the 140th anniversary of their Congregation and the 120th anniversary of the Jamaican Congregation.

THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FL (1899)

1866

The first Sisters of St. Joseph arrive on the shores of the St. John's River in Picolata, Florida from Le Puy-en-Velay, France at the request of Bishop Augustine Verot to serve those recently freed from slavery in Georgia and Florida.

1866

The Sisters open their first school for African American boys in St. Augustine and within eight months they open another in Savannah, Georgia.

1887

The Sisters teach the Apache Indians who are detained in the fort in St. Augustine.

1899

The Sisters become an independent congregation under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of St. Augustine.

1900

By now the Sisters have opened schools, academies, and/or orphanages in seven cities in Florida and two in Georgia.

1900-1950

During the first half of the twentieth century the congregation grows in membership. New ministries continue to be opened throughout the state.

1966

By the 100th anniversary of their arrival in Florida, the Sisters are ministering in primary and secondary schools, schools for children who are physically and mentally challenged, homes for unwed mothers and dependent children, homes for the aged and infirm, catechetical missions for the Spanish migrant population, and hospitals for the sick.

1966

The Sisters accept the sponsorship of Mercy Hospital in Miami, a hospital in which they have ministered since its opening in 1950.

1983-1987

Reconstruction of the motherhouse, recommitment of the congregation, and approval of the new Constitutions are completed.

1990

The Associate Program is established.

1994

The Sisters open the SSJ Architectural Stained Glass Studio in Orlando, which designs, fabricates and restores stained glass for communities of worship.

1997

The Sisters open the Villa Flora Spirituality Center in St. Augustine.

1999

The Sisters become sponsors of Catholic Health East.

2000

Sisters of St. Joseph throughout the world celebrate 350 years of service to the "dear neighbor."

THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE OF HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS (1892)

1873

Four Sisters of Providence from Kingston, Ontario, Canada arrive in Holyoke to establish a mission at the request of Father Patrick J. Harkins. The Sisters accept their first orphan and fill their tiny House of Providence with the seriously ill. The first hospital in Holyoke is born from this inauspicious beginning.

1875

The Sisters take charge of the Boy's School at St. Jerome's Institute in Holyoke. Sister Mary of Providence (Catherine Horan) comes with several other Sisters from Kingston to educate the boys.

1892-1912

The Holyoke mission becomes a separate, diocesan congregation, with Sister Mary of Providence appointed the first Major Superior, establishing 20 works of charity throughout western Massachusetts.

1940s

The ministries of the Sisters include hospitals and nursing schools, an orphanage, nursing homes, a residence for working girls, and a home for unwed mothers.

1956

At the request of the bishop of North Carolina, the congregation opens a small rural hospital in Murphy, North Carolina, which operates until 1979.

1965

The community answers another call to serve in the South by assuming management of St. Joseph's of the Pines Hospital in Southern Pines, North Carolina.

1984

The Sisters of Providence create a health system that links together their sponsored hospitals, nursing homes, a center for emotionally disturbed children, and retirement villas.

1997

The Sisters of Providence Health System (SPHS) becomes a founding sponsor of Catholic Health East.

2000

With the alarming rise of poverty and homelessness in America, the Sisters have returned to direct care for the poor by sponsoring soup kitchens, shelters for the homeless, and food and clothing banks.

2001

Sr. Emilie Tavernier Gamelin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence, is beatified.

THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF HAMBURG, NEW YORK (1897)

1897

The Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph are founded by Sister Colette Hilbert to educate children of immigrant families in upstate New York.

1898

Sister Colette Hilbert establishes the Motherhouse and novitiate in Buffalo, New York.

1926

St. Anthony's Home for the aged poor is founded by the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph.

1928

The Motherhouse is transferred to Hamburg, New York, due to the growth of the congregation.

1928

The Sisters expand their education ministry in Hamburg, New York by opening Immaculata Academy, a private school for young women.

1940s

The Sisters are invited to staff St. Mary's Hospital in Brooklyn, New York, now part of the Catholic Medical Center of Brooklyn and Queens.

1957

Hilbert College, named for Mother Colette Hilbert, is founded as a two-year teacher training college for members of the founding congregation. Later it becomes a four-year, coeducational institution.

1960

St. Joseph Hospital in Cheektowaga, New York, opens its doors to patients.

1962

The Sisters file the Articles of Incorporation to open Marycrest Manor in Livonia, Michigan, a skilled nursing facility.

1965

The Sisters volunteer to serve in the foreign mission of Rio Verde, Goiás, Brazil.

1997

The Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph join Eastern Mercy Health System and become founding sponsors of Catholic Health East.

2000

The Sisters celebrate the 103rd anniversary of their founding by renewing their vows as a sign of their commitment to their religious vocation.

HOPE MINISTRIES

1997

CHE Sponsors Council determines the need for an alternative method of Sponsorship to ensure the future of the ministry.

1998

CHE Sponsors Council develops the design for Hope Ministries, a public juridic person of Pontifical right.

1999

CHE Sponsors Council petitions the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life for the establishment of Hope Ministries.

2000

Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life establishes Hope Ministries, a public juridic person of Pontifical right.

2001

First five members of Hope Ministries are named and six organizations are accepted for sponsorship by Hope Ministries.

2002

Members of Hope Ministries present first annual report to Vatican officials in Rome.

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SETON HILL

1811

Elizabeth Ann Seton begins a school for Catholic children in the diocese of Baltimore. In 1811, she adapts the rule of Saint Vincent de Paul for the American Sisters of Charity. On July 19, 1813, the Sisters profess vows for the first time.

1870-1889

Sister Aloysia Lowe, three other Sisters of Charity, and two novices leave Cincinnati and arrive in Altoona, Pennsylvania, on August 20, 1870, to staff a school and found a house for a new Congregation. By 1889, the Sisters of Charity staff twenty parochial schools in addition to establishing two community schools, Saint Mary School for Boys, and Saint Joseph Academy for Girls.

1894-1900

Prominent Pittsburgh medical doctors appeal to the community to staff a nine-room house/hospital. The facility is turned over to the Sisters in 1897, moved to a more permanent site, and renamed Pittsburgh Hospital.

1909-1915

The Sisters of Charity move to staff two more parochial schools in Pittsburgh. Seton Junior College begins in 1914. Providence Hospital opens August 20, 1909, in Beaver Falls. The School of Nursing, organized in 1912, graduates its first class in 1915.

1945-1951

The Sisters of Charity become a Pontifical Congregation in 1948; in 1949, professed members of the Congregation make perpetual vows for the first time.

In 1951, the Diocese of Greensburg is established, placing the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse within its boundaries.

1956-1959

The Sisters of Charity accept the deed and the administration of Jeannette District Memorial Hospital in 1959.

1964-1973

The Sisters of Charity visit Korea. Two Korean women enter the community in 1965. Seton House of Studies opens in Seoul, Korea. Korean vocations grow.

1995

125th Anniversary Celebration of Foundation of Congregation.

2002

General chapter held in Seoul, Korea. General Superior and general council elected to administer both US and Korean Provinces.

2003

Jeannette District Memorial Hospital becomes part of CHE. Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill join CHE as its fifteenth sponsor.

THE SISTERS, SERVANTS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, SCRANTON, PA (1845)

1845

Louis Florent Gillet, C.S.S.R., founded the Congregation of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Monroe, Michigan (as Sisters of Providence) in the spirit of St. Alphonsus Liguori, the founder of the Redemptorists.

1847-1857

The title of the Congregation is changed from Sisters of Providence to Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; the habit is changed from black to blue.

1858-1859

Theresa Maxis Duchemin, co-founder of the Congregation opens the first mission in Pennsylvania at St. Joseph's in Susquehanna County, a site that was later to become the Diocese of Scranton. Mission at St. Peter's in Reading, Pennsylvania, is opened – leading to the establishment of the Immaculata Foundation.

1860-1910

Emergence of 31 missions serving healthcare, childcare, catechetical and education needs in eastern and western United States. This includes the opening of 27 schools and what is now St. Joseph's Center.

1871

Scranton IHM Congregation is founded and becomes incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1883.

1911-1960

In the second 50-year period, Marywood College, St. Joseph's Hospital (now Marian Community Hospital), St. Joseph's School of Nursing, and Our Lady of Grace Montessori School and Retreat Center were established.

1965-1990

Scranton IHM Congregation opens its first Latin American mission in Lima, Peru, marking the beginning of foreign service for the Scranton IHM Congregation. The Congregation opened the Avila Center for spiritual and pastoral ministries in Kelowna, B.C.

1992

Consolidation of St. Joseph's and Carbondale General Hospital to Marian Community Hospital.

1995-1996

In 1995, the IHM Sesquicentennial, the three IHM Congregations celebrate the 150th anniversary of their foundation.

1998

Creation of Maxis Health System in Carbondale, combining IHM sponsored healthcare and Tri-County MH-MR services.

2004

Maxis Health System becomes part of CHE and the Scranton IHM Congregation becomes CHE's 16th Sponsor.