



Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church

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Dear Friend,

If the walls of Holy Family Motherhouse and the Academy of the Holy Family could talk, what wonderful stories they would tell! Stories of ...

... the many ways dedicated Sisters of Charity have helped the poor and vulnerable by feeding them, clothing them, and praying with them as they turn their lives around.

... how our Sisters, trained as skilled nurses, tenderly cared for infants during World War I, singing hymns to soothe them as they rocked them to sleep.

... how we've educated generations of young women to form them as the moral, faith-filled leaders our world needs.

... how, with your support, we continue to devote ourselves to works of mercy and charity by lovingly serving our brothers and sisters in Christ wherever there is a need.

Our walls would say something else, too. After 150 years of dutifully sheltering our Sisters and our students, they would ask for your help.



Sister Jacinta, head nurse in our Health Care Center, accompanying Sister Marie Joseph to her room.



Mother David, Superior General of the Motherhouse, is always on the look-out for leaks. She has found plenty in our Health Care Center.

Friend, because our walls can't actually talk — though our floors certainly do creak sometimes! — I'm writing to you today on their behalf. We need your continued support to maintain our historic campus, from the venerable buildings to the tranquil grounds that inspire prayerful reflection in the hearts of all who live and visit here.

The upkeep of our buildings is more than a question of comfort. It's a matter of safety for both our young students and our elderly Sisters.

Friend, your donation of \$25, \$50, \$75, or your most generous offering of \$1000, will help us keep our students and Sisters safe. You'll also support our ministries of education and service, including our care for the sick and aging, our Food Pantry and our shelter for women and children.

Friend, can we count on you again today?

The Rising Cost of Upkeep

If you've ever lived in an older home, you know that when it's not one thing, it's something else. The water heater or the furnace goes out, always at the worst possible moment. Drafty windows beg to be resealed or replaced. The appliances you've been holding together with duct tape (and maybe even a few prayers) finally give up the ghost.

Year after year, even minor repairs get more and more expensive. We can't really afford to make them, but we can't afford not to, either.



Our Perpetual Help Health Care Center, the wing of the Motherhouse built 35 years ago, is now badly in need of a new roof.

Not long ago, we replaced the 35-year-old roof on our Health Care Center. That alone cost \$73,000! It was a huge expense, but we simply had no other choice. Your generosity made it happen.

Our elder and infirm Sisters have poured out their lives in devoted service to the thousands of students they have taught, the elderly they have cared for with love and compassion, and the poor they have sheltered or helped to put food on their tables. Now, in their golden years, these dear Sisters deserve to be cared for and kept safe, to live out their lives in dignity and peace.

At the Academy of the Holy Family, young women come from places like China, Ethiopia, and Brazil. Their parents have entrusted us with protecting their precious daughters, many thousands of miles away from home. Our students deserve to know they'll find only the very best at the end of their long journey, and their mothers and fathers deserve the peace of mind of knowing their beautiful daughters are safe, sound, and secure.

Make no mistake Friend! We Sisters cherish our home. I've always said that our house has good bones, and our contractors agree.

Besides, we love these hallowed halls that carry the echo of the dreams, laughter, and prayers of all the holy women who have gone before us these past 150 years. We feel called to preserve all that is good here, and I hope you'll agree to help us with your gift today.

Serving the Poor and Vulnerable

As Superior General, I have my fair share of sleepless nights. It seems my bed is the perfect place from which to hear the rain pounding the windows, the wind whipping the gutters, and every little groan and grumble our old house makes.

But when I wake in the morning, my heart is always full. I am deeply blessed to begin another day, working alongside my dear Sisters in humble service to those in need.

Friend, YOU allow the Sisters of Charity to meet our community's growing material and spiritual needs in a variety of ways. Your contribution today will help support our ...

- **Education Ministry:** Nurturing young minds and hearts has been central to our mission since the founding of our Congregation. Today, our Sisters staff multiple Catholic elementary schools in Connecticut. We also own and operate the Academy of the Holy Family (AHF) located right in our Motherhouse. AHF is a traditional Catholic day and boarding high school that prepares young women not only for college but also to lead lives of service and achieve their God-given potential. Nearly 90 percent of AHF students need tuition assistance. Your support helps fund critically needed scholarships in addition to maintaining our campus and facilities.
- **Care for the Elderly:** Following in the footsteps of Christ, we minister to the sick and aged. In the Motherhouse we have our Perpetual Help Center where we care for our elder Sisters who are now the spiritual backbone of our Congregation. Our Sister-nurses also serve in our nursing home in Wisconsin, St. Elizabeth Home. Every Sister involved in the nursing apostolate strives to be Jesus' hands and feet on earth.
- **Holy Family Food Pantry:** Through your generosity, our Food Pantry in the Motherhouse aids hundreds of families each year by providing food, clothing, and other necessities. In the spirit of our founder, Bishop John Zwijsen, and our patron, St. Vincent de Paul, we see the crucified, suffering Christ in the poor we serve.
- **Holy Family Home & Shelter:** We serve mothers and their children by offering temporary housing and other necessities, including meals, life skills workshops, an education program for children, assistance with housing and employment searches, and more. Thanks to you, our shelter empowers people to transform their lives.
- **Vocations and Care for Young Sisters:** Your loving support ensures our young Sisters receive the educational and spiritual formation they need to become the next generation of teachers, nurses, and caregivers who bring the love of Christ to our world.



For Sister Celeste, it is always a privilege and a joy to assist the families who come to our Food Pantry.

Everything we do is done with great joy — and YOU make it all possible. Your financial gifts and faithful prayers sustain us in our work. I can never thank you enough!

Led by the Spirit

As Sisters of Charity, we view each person as a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Wherever, whenever, and however possible, we proclaim Christ's message of love and hope to the people of God, especially the poor, the forgotten, the lonely, and the despairing.

I feel the Spirit's presence in all our ministries. I see the face of Christ in those we serve. I hear God's voice in the wind that knocks on my window at night. And I feel the love of Jesus in each gift we receive from you in support of our works of mercy.

Our facilities might be getting up there in years, but our dedication to bringing Christ to those in need is renewed in our souls, day after day.

Please make a gift today to support our life-changing mission. Help us keep up not only our building and grounds, but all our work to serve the beloved children of God.



Gratefully in Mary, Mother of the Church,

Mother Mary David, SCMC

Mother Mary David, SCMC
Superior General

P.S. Prayer is a vital part of our ministry. It's especially important to our Sisters who are ill or aging. Please write your intentions on the enclosed slip and send them to me today so my Sisters and I can pray for your needs.

P.P.S. To thank you for your faith-filled kindness, **I've included a FREE notepad** as my special gift to you, with no obligation. I am deeply grateful for your generosity, and I can't stress enough that your support makes all our work possible. God bless you!

SCAN TO SHARE WITH US YOUR
SPECIAL INTENTIONS.

