

# Leave a Legacy of Faith, Hope, and Love



Only through your goodness and faithfulness can we continue our mission to bring hope to our brothers and sisters in need. There are many ways you can support our work, both today and even after your lifetime.

## Planned Giving

A planned gift from your will or estate brings with it a sense of peace. You can know that Our Lord has used you to help provide for our future and that of our extended family — all those we serve. You don't need to be wealthy to make a big impact, and it's easier than you might think to make a planned gift.

Visit [sistersofcharity.com/planned-giving](https://sistersofcharity.com/planned-giving) to discover FreeWill, a free online tool that guides you through the process of creating your will or trust. It's easy to use, accessible online, and can be completed in 20 minutes. ■

# Other Ways to Give

## Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)

Give through your DAF by directing a gift to the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church. For more information, call (860) 822-6323 or e-mail [Development@sistersofcharity.com](mailto:Development@sistersofcharity.com).

### ✓ Retirement Plans

When making a gift from your IRA, retirement plan assets, or life insurance, you can name the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church as the primary or contingent beneficiary. The gift can be in the form of a dollar amount or percentage amount and will need to be listed on the beneficiary designation form. A Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA allows individuals aged 70½ or older to donate up to \$100,000 directly to a qualified charity. This distribution counts toward the required minimum distribution for the year and might have tax advantages for you.

### ✓ Stock or Securities

Support us with a gift of appreciated securities.

### ✓ Workplace Giving

Check with your employer about matching gifts or payroll deduction programs to maximize your impact.

### ✓ Monthly Giving

Join our monthly giving program, Companions in Charity, and make a lasting difference. Set up your recurring gift online at [sistersofcharity.com](https://sistersofcharity.com) or call 980-822-6323.

To learn more or inform us of a future planned gift, please call 980-822-6323, visit [sistersofcharity.com/planned-giving](https://sistersofcharity.com/planned-giving), or scan this code:



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# WINDS OF CHARITY

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DONATE NOW!

[www.sistersofcharity.com](https://www.sistersofcharity.com)

## ‘Hand in Hand with Jesus’: Sister Denise Stays Active in Her Ministry of Prayer

Sister Denise spent most of her life as a nurse caring for the elderly. Now, after 66 years as a Sister, she has a new ministry: PRAYER.

“I pray for the conversion of sinners. I pray for the Sisters, our benefactors, people in distress, people who ask me to pray for them,” she says. “I take them to the foot of the Cross and ask Jesus to cover them with His precious blood.”

With your support, Sister Denise lives at the Health Care Center of our Motherhouse, instead of in a nursing home, where she is cared for with the same tender love she showed to so many for so long.

When she is not in the Chapel praying, you'll find her sewing, saying a prayer with every stitch. She enjoys making stuffed animals that we Sisters give as gifts or sell at craft fairs.

“Prayer is what occupies my day. Even when I am sewing, I am praying,” Sister Denise says. “I go through my day hand in hand with Jesus — Him and me, together.”

She knew in sixth grade that she wanted to become a Sister. For her, the Sisters of Charity offered the spirit of prayer and silence she had always longed for.



After 66 years of service, Sister Denise finds her greatest ministry yet: bringing souls to the foot of the Cross through prayer.

Looking back, she is deeply grateful to benefactors like you who have made it possible for her to live out her vocation in a community where she can be close to her Sisters and close to Jesus.

“Our benefactors are a part of our family because they take care of us by their generous gifts to us,” she says. “I pray for them every day, especially at daily Mass. I never forget them.”

On behalf of Sister Denise and all the elder Sisters in our care, God bless you for your kindness, love, and generosity. ■



## Forming the Future ... Together!

The future of our ministries depends on forming the next generation of Sisters.

Through your support, you partner with Sister Gabriela, Director of Vocations, inviting the candidates who present themselves, as she shares with them the life and mission of the Sisters of Charity. Together, we help them grow in their faith and discern God's call for their lives.

Religious life is a journey to the joy that Mary, our Mother, fully embodies. Those who answer God's call often find more than they expected: deeper peace, lasting purpose, and a love that never fades.

What you give to God, He returns a hundredfold.

What you give to God through your support of the Sisters of Charity is returned in each life we touch through our prayers, our ministries of education, and our works of mercy and charity. Thank you for helping to ensure that our Congregation can continue to thrive!

Are you or a young woman you know considering a vocation to the consecrated religious life? Scan code to the right to learn more and contact Sister Gabriela. ■



*Your support helps Sister Gabriela nurture the next generation of Sisters who will serve for decades to come.*



## Local Doctor Helps Holy Family Home & Shelter 'Fill the Gap'

As a boy, Dr. Mark Fisherkeller was blessed to attend schools where he was shaped by loving Sisters who instilled in him the value of service to those in need.



*From classroom lessons to life mission: Dr. Fisherkeller's 333-mile bike ride reflects values learned from the Sisters.*

That's why last month, he rode his bike for 333 miles on the Great Allegheny Passage (G.A.P.) to raise funds for Holy Family Home & Shelter.

He chose to ride the G.A.P. to help fill a growing gap in our community. Now more than ever, he is drawn to Holy Family's mission to provide food, shelter, clothing, and support to women and families in crisis.

"There is no institution in Willimantic and Connecticut that is more worthy of your support as they define the word 'humanitarianism' in a time of ever decreasing support and increasing need," Dr. Fisherkeller says.

He began his trek on Aug. 9 in Washington, D.C., and finished

in Pittsburgh. What a surprise it was for him to see some of the Sisters, family and friends, with shouts of congratulations and welcome signs, as he rode into the final point of the G.A.P.

A retired physician who practiced medicine for 35 years, Dr. Fisherkeller's passion for caring for others is as strong as ever. His sense of purpose kept him inspired along his route. As he navigated the joys, break-downs, and discoveries of his ambitious adventure, Dr. Fisherkeller says he always stayed focused on his goal: "to meet the needs of those cared for by Holy Family Home & Shelter and fill their hearts, one mile at a time." ■

## A Special Blessing: A Former Student Becomes a Priest

For our Sister-teachers who work as teachers, there is no greater joy than seeing a former student leading a Christ-centered life focused on service to others.

Mother Christina was overwhelmed with emotion when she had the opportunity to be present at the ordination of Father Brian Daley, one of her middle school students from years past.

Ordained for the Archdiocese of Boston on May 18th, Father Brian returned to St. John Parish, his native parish, to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving.

"It was a beautiful moment to see Deacon Brian being ordained and especially just to see him so immersed in the moment and totally devout and prayerful,"



*From classroom to altar: The moment a teacher's prayers are answered in the most beautiful way.*

Mother Christina says. "I couldn't help but think how blessed I was to have taught him when he was younger."

Mother Christina was deeply moved as she knelt before Father Brian,

her 6th grade student, and receive his blessing.

"I know his prayers are powerful; his blessing is powerful," she says. "I was able to kiss his hands — his priestly hands that brought Jesus to us. I'll never forget those moments."

Sisters like Mother Christina serve as teachers in elementary schools in the Diocese of Norwich in Connecticut,

in addition to operating the Academy of the Holy Family, an all-girls international and domestic high school located on the campus of our Motherhouse.

Your support allows us to pass on the faith to the next generation. Together, we're shaping the future leaders of our world and of our beloved Catholic Church. ■

## Celebrating Our History and Looking to Tomorrow

For more than a century, we Sisters have carried Christ's love into the world through prayer, education, charity, and quiet acts of service. Our Foundation Day Mass on June 7 was a celebration of that sacred mission and of YOU, our faithful benefactors, who make it possible for our work to continue.

Bishop John Zwijsen of the Netherlands established the Sisters of Charity in 1832, and in 1874, the Sisters were invited to open a school in the United States. In

1970, under the dynamic leadership of Mother Marie Alma Lafond, some sisters of the American branch of that community received permission from Pope Paul VI to branch out and began a new autonomous community under the title Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church, rooted in the mission and charism of Msgr. Zwijsen.

"For 55 years, you have lived out that gift of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Good News to those in need," said Father Julian Cuevos,

who celebrated the special Anniversary Mass. "I was always impressed by your great love of Christ, your great love of Mary, but more importantly your love for the souls that God has put in your midst. We give thanks to God for the gift you are to the Church."

Thank you for being a part of our history—and of our future—through your heartfelt support. Your generosity ensures that our ministries will help save souls and transform lives for generations to come. ■