

Mark Your Calendar!



We'd love for you to join us at these upcoming events:

- ➔ **June 4th:**
SCMC Foundation Day
- ➔ **October 3rd:**
Family Blessing Mass and Gratitude Luncheon
- ➔ **October 3rd-12th:**
Novena of Masses for our Benefactors

Words of Wisdom from One of Our Senior Sisters Who Prays Daily for You



"Be faithful. Learn to really pray, not just say words. Learn to give your heart generously to the Lord. It is the only thing that will bring you true happiness."

— Sister Elizabeth, SCMC

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 860-822-6353 or e-mail 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 or call 980-822-6323. ■

To learn more or inform us of a future planned gift, please call 860-822-6323, visit sistersofcharity.com/planned-giving or scan this code:



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DONATE NOW!
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IN LOVING TRIBUTE: Sister M. Mercedes Cook, SCMC 1939-2026

Sister M. Mercedes Cook's extraordinary life embodies the very heart of what it means to be a Sister of Charity. Sustained by her unwavering faith, she was devoted to service and education. For more than five decades. She didn't just teach—she transformed lives.

After graduating from the Academy of the Holy Family (AHF), she entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Charity in 1958 and professed perpetual vows in 1966. She earned degrees from Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, CT and spent decades teaching, beginning at St. Joseph School in Baltic, CT. She later served in many roles at AHF before establishing and directing Sacred Heart Learning Center.

At the Leaning Center Sister Mercedes mentored young people needing remedial and summer school classes. She and her staff gave special attention to neurodiverse students, and those with learning disabilities and speech or language challenges.

Sister Mercedes lived out our charism of Charity in its truest sense by meeting people exactly where they are and helping them flourish. Through almost seven decades of religious life, Sister Mercedes made an impact that spans generations.

We thank God for the blessing that our dear Sister Mercedes was to the Sisters of Charity and to the many lives she touched. We ask for your prayers to help speed her soul to heaven. ■



Sister M. Mercedes Cook

A Life Well-Lived

Sister Mercedes' lasting legacy is evident from the immense love and gratitude that poured forth on social media in the wake of her passing on January 4, 2026. These are just a few of the kind remembrances:

"She felt like a second mother to me."

"She was my rock through summer school!"

"She was one fantastic teacher. TRULY, MY HERO!!"

"Such a wonderful lady. I will always miss our talks."

"My very favorite CCD teacher. Her joy, smile, and true kindness were infectious! Such a beautiful soul. The Lord has a real angel joining the heavenly hosts!"

The Power of Your Support: You Make Our Mission Possible

As Sisters of Charity, we lead lives of service and simplicity. Many Sisters work in ministries for which we are paid only minimally or not at all.

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We truly depend on the generosity of benefactors like you to put food on our table and keep our lights on. You help us cover the small, basic needs of day-to-day life and address big expenses and urgent needs as

they arise. For example, it was thanks to supporters like you that we could install a new boiler to heat and provide hot water for the Motherhouse.

Your support is also vital to our ability to care for our ill and elderly Sisters who live in the Perpetual Help Center of the Motherhouse. Your generosity has allowed us to acquire hospital beds, wheelchairs,

power lifts, power chairs, and additional medical equipment, in order to better care for our elderly Sisters.

Your goodness is deeply appreciated. You enable us Sisters to answer God's call to live our lives in loving service to those most in need. ■



Our Chapel Roof Is Being Restored — And Every Gift Keeps Our Mission Alive

We have wonderful news to share — thanks to faithful supporters like you, we have reached our \$175,000 goal to replace the 80-year-old roof of our Motherhouse Chapel. Your prayers and generosity carried us across the finish line, and we are filled with deep gratitude. Our Chapel, the heart of our Motherhouse, will now be preserved and protected for the Sisters and all who gather there in prayer.

We are pleased to share that roof replacement work is scheduled to begin in June, and we are committed to this timeline so our beloved Chapel is fully protected before another winter season arrives.

This past winter reminded us just how urgent this need truly was. We dealt with several leaks caused by ice buildup in gutters and downspouts.

One section of the ceiling suffered substantial damage, and a long section of gutter collapsed onto a lower roof during a severe storm. We also experienced a minor leak in the hallway leading to the Chapel. By the grace of God, there were no leaks in the body of the Chapel or sanctuary itself — and we are thankful your support arrived in time.

As one of our dear benefactors so beautifully expressed: "In the Chapel, Our Lord is present in the Tabernacle. From there, His love and mercy embraces and empowers the Sisters to pass on that love and mercy to those suffering and most in need. Protect the Chapel — for the Lord, for the Sisters."

While our roof goal has been met, our mission never rests. Every day



our Sisters care for the elderly, the sick, and the most vulnerable among us — and that sacred work depends on your continued support. Any gift made today will help sustain our many ministries and ensure the Sisters can continue serving those who need them most.

We are deeply grateful for every prayer and every gift. Together, we are protecting not just a roof — but the spiritual home from which so much love and mercy flows.

Meet Our Newest Postulant: Sister Clare Rose



Sister Clare Rose

Q: What first drew you to Consecrated Life?

A: The Sisters of Charity were my first contact with Sisters. I was attracted to the peace and joy that they radiated.

Q: Was there a specific experience that confirmed this was the right path for you?

A: One night when, as a student, I was at prayer with the Sisters, I was overwhelmed with the thought that I could be one of them, and I began to cry tears of joy.

Q: What does a typical day look like for you?

A: We rise at 5:20 AM. My day begins with prayer in community: Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours, Holy Mass, and meditation. After breakfast, I go to my main assignment, which is work in the bakery. Twice a week, I meet with the Postulant Mistress for formation sessions and spiritual direction. After lunch and recreation with the Sisters, I have free time for study, prayer, or helping where help may be needed. We have adoration at 4:30 PM, followed by community evening prayers at 5:00 PM, dinner at 6:00 PM and Night Prayer at 7:15 PM. After Night Prayer, free time for study or personal prayer before retiring at 10:00 PM.

Q: What would you like the benefactors of the Congregation to know about what their generosity makes possible?

A: I am here first and foremost because of God's will, but it is through the generosity of our benefactors that this is possible, and I am deeply grateful. Thank you for all that you do for the Sisters of Charity. Thank you for what you do for me personally. You help the Sisters provide for all of my needs.

Q: How does it feel to be part of a legacy of Sisters who have served for over 150 years?

A: I know that I am part of a big family — so many wonderful Sisters who came before me who I can pray to for help and support ... Sisters I live with now, working in the ministries who give me good examples ... the senior Sisters whose lives encourage me to become a holy Sister. I think of all these Sisters and I think, "Wow! That's my family!" One day, I will join this great army of Sisters, serving the Church and making a difference in the world. Wow! Thank you for making that possible. ■

We are blessed to have Sister Clare Rose, an Illinois native and a graduate of the Academy of the Holy Family, in formation with our Congregation. As a postulant, she is focused on deepening her prayer life and learning the spirit, charism and mission of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church.

During this time in her formation, Sister Clare Rose depends on God's providence and your support to sustain her daily needs. In this Q&A, she walks us through her spiritual journey.

Are you or a young woman you know considering a vocation to the Consecrated Life?

Scan this code to learn more and contact our Vocation Directress →

