



*In Honor of the Consecrated who served our Diocese
with sacrifice and love over the past 125 years.
Our Legacy of Faith...*

Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament

Marty

On October 6th, 1935, seven Native American girls with the encouragement of Fr. Sylvester Eisenman, OSB, began the pious association of the Oblate Sisters, who would be dedicated to serving the Indian people in South Dakota. On April 25th, 1949, the Institute of the Oblate Sisters was formally established as a Religious Congregation under the Bishop of the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

The Sisters have been involved in education, health, pastoral care, social work and domestic service to Native Americans in Marty, Mobridge, Eagle Butte and surrounding communities, Sisseton, Chamberlain and Rapid City, SD. Though small in number, they continue their mercy works, education and pastoral care among the people on the Yankton Sioux Reservation in Marty, SD.



Benedictine Sisters

Yankton

The Benedictine Sisters of Yankton, SD trace their founding to 1874 when five sisters from Maria Rickenbach Monastery in Switzerland came to Maryville, Missouri. In 1880 Bishop Martin Marty OSB, the Vicar Apostolic of Dakota Territory approached the young community and asked the Sisters to assist him in ministering to the Native American people at Fort Yates on the Standing Rock Reservation in present-day North and South Dakota. From this mission grew the beginning of the Yankton Benedictines. Because of the distance from Missouri to Fort Yates, the Sisters moved the motherhouse to Zell, SD, and in 1889 relocated to the bluffs of the Missouri River in Yankton where it is today. Currently there are 97 members who live a community life according to the Rule of St. Benedict. As monastics, the days are centered around praying the Liturgy of the Hours with beauty and attentiveness and serving God's people in a variety of ministries which include education, health care, parish ministry, social services, retreats and a variety of volunteer activities.

In 1897 the Sisters responded to a call for health care workers and opened their doors to provide care and compassion to the sick. This led to the building of Sacred Heart Hospital now regarded as a regional healthcare facility serving more than 120,000 residents in a 15 county area in southeastern SD and northeastern Nebraska. In 2000, Avera Health, a multi-state health care system was begun by the joint sponsorship of the Benedictine Sisters and the Presentation Sisters of Aberdeen.

Mount Marty College began as a Junior College in 1936 to facilitate the training of certified teachers and health care personnel. It is now a four year private, Catholic, Benedictine, co-educational liberal arts college known for value centered education and professional preparation with locations in Watertown and Sioux Falls.



Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Aberdeen

In 1880, the Presentation Sisters were invited and came to Dakota Territory from Dublin, Ireland to teach the children of the Lakota people and French settlers. In 1886, three Sisters responded to Reverend Robert Haire's invitation to start Sacred Heart School in Aberdeen and soon were staffing parish schools around the Diocese of Sioux Falls. When a diphtheria epidemic struck the Aberdeen area in 1900, the Sisters were asked to care for the sick. In 1901, they began a healthcare ministry by opening their first hospital, St. Luke's. Education and healthcare ministries expanded as needs of people in the region increased. In the 1960s, Sisters answered the Church's call for missionaries. Presentation Sisters have been missioned to Mexico, Bolivia, Guatemala and Zambia, Africa. With this same spirit, the congregation began a ministry in 2002 with Hispanic immigrants.

The congregation continues to sponsor Presentation College and co-sponsor Avera Health, ensuring that the mission and values remain a constant for years to come. While best known for education and healthcare ministries, the thread that runs through the Aberdeen Presentation Sisters' mission is to alleviate oppression and promote human dignity especially among the poor. As an apostolic congregation the sister's lives are centered in prayer from which their apostolate flows; contemplation in action. The sisters say, "Justice is our Work" and they serve joyfully as the Blessed Virgin Mary and with zeal as Venerable Nano Nagle, their foundress.



Daughters of Saint Mary of Providence

Milbank

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Mother of God Monastery

Watertown

After their settlement in Switzerland, the Benedictine Sisters were called to Dakota Territory and settled in Zell, SD and then in Yankton. Mother of God Monastery was established by Sacred Heart Convent in 1961, and was temporarily located in Pierre until land was purchased in Watertown. Initially, education and health care were the main apostolates of this newly-formed community. They built a high school in Watertown with a special wing for monastic living.

Eventually, they closed the high school and the sisters moved into their present monastery in 1997. Continuing to serve the immigrants, they built the Benedictine Multicultural Center in 2008. Serving the elderly, they sponsor Benet Place Independent Apartments and Assisted Living. Other sisters serve in education, health care, parish and prison work.



Monastery of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Joseph Adoration Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament

Sioux Falls

In 2000 the Perpetual Adoration Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament were invited by Bishop Robert Carlson to come from Vera Cruz, Mexico to the Diocese of Sioux Falls to establish a monastery. Arriving in 2002, the sisters have lived a Eucharistic Charism.

Their mission in the Church is to testify and adore Jesus truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, praying before Him every day for all in the people of God and the entire world but in special way for this diocese. Since arriving they have been welcomed by the bishop, priests, religious and laity with great love and generosity. They thank the Lord our God for the great blessing of being part of this diocese and in return implore His blessings for all.



Sisters of Saint Francis of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mitchell

In 1969, a new diocesan community of sisters was established in Gettysburg as the Sisters of St. Francis of Our Lady of Guadalupe,

dedicated to the Ideals of St. Francis of Assisi and the compassion of Our Lady of Guadalupe. They staffed the Gettysburg Memorial Hospital serving as supervisors, nurses, in respiratory therapy and housekeeping, living above the hospital, being on-call 24 hours. After much discernment, prayers and meeting with the bishop, priests and religious leaders, they built a convent in Mitchell in 1991 with the hope of drawing new members. At present they are now in home health nursing and parish visitation. Their mission/charism is to live simply as pilgrims and to proclaim the presence of Jesus to all people and give witness to a community of faith, love and mutual responsibility. Daily Eucharistic Liturgy, Divine Office, private prayer life and community sharing are all a vital source of the energy, vision and witness in their daily lives and activities.



Monastery of Our Mother of Mercy and Saint Joseph

Alexandria

Five Carmelite sisters were enclosed in the Monastery of Our Lady of Mercy and St. Joseph in Alexandria on August 1, 1997. Bishop Robert Carlson presided at a closure ceremony with a standing-room-only crowd. The sisters spend their day in prayer and manual labor. They accept prayer requests from outside the monastery. They leave the facility only in the event of an emergency or special need. The sisters attend daily Mass while separated from the chapel by a grille. There is another grille so they are not seen by those in attendance. There is a small room where the Carmelite sisters can visit their families once every two months. Each sister has her own cell equipped with a bed with a straw mattress, a desk, a chair without a back and a crucifix without Christ's body – they are to take His place on the cross.



Tribute to those who served

Among the dedicated religious communities which have served our diocese are, but not limited to...

Religious Order Priests/Brothers
Apostles of Jesus A.J.
Carmelites of Mary Immaculate C.M.I.
Society of the Precious Blood C.P.P.S.
Redemptorist Fathers C.S.S.R.
Clerics of St. Viator C.S.V.
Maryknoll M.M.
Carmelite Fathers and Brothers O.C.A.R.M.
Franciscan Friars O.F.M.
Oblates of Mary Immaculate O.M.I.
Order of Preachers (Dominicans) O.P.
Benedictine Monks O.S.B.
Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart S.C.J.
Society of the Divine Savior S.D.S.
Jesuit Fathers and Brothers S.J.
Society of St. Columban S.S.C.
Society of Mary (Marianists) S.M.

Third Order Regular of St. Francis T.O.R.
Vincentian Congregation V.C.
Religious Sisters
Perpetual Adoration Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament A.P.
Sisters of St. Agnes C.S.A.
Daughters of the Cross in America D.C.
Daughters of St. Mary of Providence D.S.M.P.
Order of Discalced Carmelite Nuns O.C.D.
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa O.P.
Benedictine Sisters O.S.B.
Oblate Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament O.S.B.S.
Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Guadalupe O.S.F.
Sisters of Francis of Blessed Kunegunda O.S.F.
Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St.

Francis O.S.F.
Ursuline Sisters O.S.U.
Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary P.B.V.M.
Religious Sisters of Mercy R.S.M.
Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament S.B.S.
Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross S.C.S.C.
Sisters of Charity of St. Louis S.C.S.L.
Sisters of the Divine Savior S.D.S.
Sisters of St. Christine S.S.Ch.
Sisters of St. Elizabeth S.S.E.
Sisters of St. Joseph S.S.J.
School Sisters of Notre Dame S.S.N.D.
Sisters of the Visitation S.V.M.

Consecrated Virgins

And we also give thanks for those that are serving in the diocese today.