



Images shown above: Mercy Hospital in Scranton, established by Sisters of Mercy. | Pilgrims are blessed at the annual Novena to Saint Ann conducted by the Passionists of Saint Paul of the Cross Province. | Student volunteers assist food distribution by Friends of the Poor, a ministry founded by Sister Adrian Barrett, I.H.M. (far left) | Sister Ellen Fischer, S.C.C. and students at a First Communion Retreat at Saint Jude, Mountain Top.

Consecrated Life

WOMEN AND MEN RELIGIOUS SERVE CHURCH IN MANY CAPACITIES

Women and men religious from numerous orders have served the Diocese of Scranton from its earliest days, teaching in our schools, sponsoring health care institutions, ministering to the poor, advocating for justice and doing the work of the Gospel of Jesus.

WOMEN RELIGIOUS

The **Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary** of Scranton lived and served in the region before there even was a Diocese of Scranton, having arrived in Northeastern Pennsylvania in **1858** at the request of Bishop of Pennsylvania (now Saint) John Neumann. In areas where parents worked as mine, mill, and railroad workers, schools for their children were opened in numerous towns and cities. Saint Joseph's Center, which was founded by the IHM Sisters to care for abandoned children, now provides pregnancy, family and adoption services, and programs for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. In 1915 the IHM Congregation opened Marywood College, the first Catholic college for women in Pennsylvania, and in 1926, the Sisters opened Saint Joseph's Hospital in Carbondale, which served the community for 86 years.

The **Sisters of Christian Charity** first came to America to serve in German immigrant parishes, including Saint Nicholas in Wilkes-Barre. In **1873**, foundress Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt



Religious Sisters were among the pioneers that brought the faith to the people; pictured here are Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, on their way to teach school in Hazleton in 1913, using the mode of transportation of the era.

personally chose Wilkes-Barre as the site of the new Motherhouse. The Sisters began serving in the teaching apostolate and pastoral ministry in various areas of the Diocese. The Sisters inspired Bishop William J. Hafey to establish Divine Providence Hospital in Williamsport.

The **Sisters of Mercy** became involved in the local area in **1875**, at the invitation of Bishop William G. O'Hara, the first Bishop of Scranton. They taught in numerous parish schools and ministered to the poor, sick, and needy. In 1898 they opened the doors of Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre and began a century of ministry in health care that would extend to the

Mercy Hospital in Scranton. In 1924, the Sisters established Luzerne County's first four-year institution of higher learning, College Misericordia in Dallas, initially for young women and now co-educational.

In **1908**, the **Little Sisters of the Poor** arrived to administer what was then known as the Maloney Home, the first Catholic institution to care for the elderly in this area. In 1976, Holy Family Residence replaced the Maloney Home on the same property, providing hospitality to over 100 residents, and serving as the "Juniorate" for Little Sisters in formation.

In response to the influx of immigrants from Slovakia to the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Father Matthew Jankola, a Slovak priest of the Diocese of Scranton, founded the **Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius** in **1909** for the purpose of educating the children of Slovak immigrants in parish schools. They also cared for the sick and destitute aged in homes and hospitals. The first (temporary) Motherhouse of the Sisters was Saint John the Baptist Convent in Pittston; eventually it moved to Danville. While establishing many schools, the Sisters also cared for orphans and worked in parish catechetical programs.

At the invitation of Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, the **Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm**

partnered with the Diocese to staff Little Flower Manor, a nursing home in Wilkes-Barre that received its first residents in 1975. The facility expanded with Saint Therese Residence, an on-campus personal care facility that opened in 1998. In 2011, the Diocese acquired the former Heritage House nursing home in Wilkes-Barre and renamed it Saint Luke's Villa. The Carmelite Sisters offer spiritual support to the residents of all three facilities as they continue their mission to bring Christ to those they serve.

MEN RELIGIOUS

The University of Scranton, founded as Saint Thomas College in **1888** by Bishop O'Hara, was staffed by Diocesan priests and seminarians, the Xaverian Brothers, and the Christian Brothers until 1942 when, at the invitation of Bishop William J. Hafey, 19 members of the Society of Jesus (the **Jesuits**) arrived on campus to administer the University. The Jesuits also operate the Scranton Preparatory School, which opened its doors in 1944 for high school boys. The school became co-educational in 1971 and was the first Jesuit High School in the country to do so.

In **1902**, Bishop Michael J. Hoban invited the Congregation of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ (the **Passionists**) to the Diocese of Scranton. They built Saint Ann's Monastery in West Scranton, and began novena devotions to Saint Ann in 1924. The next year Father John Joseph Endler, C.P., established Saint Ann's as a public pilgrimage site with the annual novena conducted from July 17 to 26.

In **1929** the first **Oblates of Saint Joseph** from

Italy responded to the personal invitation by Bishop Thomas C. O'Reilly to minister to the growing number of Italian immigrants within the Diocese of Scranton — specifically in the Greater Pittston area. The Oblate Fathers were assigned to several parishes and quickly associated themselves with the poor and struggling immigrants as they integrated themselves into the American way of life.

The **Congregation of Holy Cross** serves the Church in the ministry of education and in parishes. King's College in Wilkes-Barre was established in **1946** by the Community to enable the sons of coal miners to have a college education. As events developed, the College saw the need to be co-educational and now offers the opportunity for educational advancement to all.

Communities of religious who are serving or have served in the Diocese over the years also include: **Bernardine Franciscan Sisters, Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth, Franciscan Missionary Hermits of Saint Joseph, Holy Cross Sisters, Nuns of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ Contemplative, Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter, Religious Teachers Filippini, Sisters of the Holy Child, Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Saint Casimir, Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Sisters of the Third Order of Saint Francis, Maryknoll Sisters, Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy, Poor Sisters of Jesus Crucified and the Sorrowful Mother, Sisters of Saint Basil the Great (Byzantine Rite), and Sisters of Saint Joseph.**

FAITH FACTS:

- Father Matthew Jankola, a Slovak priest of the Diocese, founded the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, approved by the Holy See in 1909.
- Through several facilities that bear the name of their foundress Catherine McAuley, the Sisters of Mercy provide housing to women and children in need. They also offer academic assistance to children who live in low-income family housing developments, and help to care for elderly residents.
- In August 1996, Pope John Paul II declared the Passionist-run Saint Ann's Church a minor basilica. Rededication as a national shrine basilica occurred on October 18, 1997.
- Care for the elderly is among the charisms of the Little Sisters of the Poor and the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm.
- In 2015, Pope Francis proclaimed a **Year of Consecrated Life** to celebrate the Church's religious sisters, brothers and priests.



JUNE 7 ISSUE:
Catholic Higher Education

1902

Scranton - The IHM Sisters establish Marywood Seminary for girls in the Green Ridge section of Scranton.



1926

Clarks Summit - The Passionist Nuns found Saint Gabriel's Monastery.



1940

Dunmore - The Religious Teachers Filippini (The Filippini Sisters) open a mission at Saint Anthony of Padua Parish.



1942

Scranton - The Reverend W. Coleman Nevils, S.J. becomes first Jesuit president of the University of Scranton.



1953

Mount Pocono - The Villa of Our Lady of the Poconos Retreat Center is established and staffed by the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters.



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