



# DAUGHTERS *of* CHARITY

PROVINCE *of* ST. LOUISE

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## **To Serve in the US Areas of Great Need and Few Resources, Daughters of Charity to Withdraw from Dioceses**

As the Daughters of Charity Province of St. Louise looks to respond to the current and future needs of those living in poverty, they plan to withdraw or partially withdraw from 10 Catholic Dioceses or Archdioceses in the United States. Outlined below are facts about the Daughters of Charity, the Province, and their future plans.

The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, founded in Paris in 1633 by St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac, is a Society of Apostolic Life in the Church. In the United States, the Daughters trace their roots to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton who founded a community, then known as the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's, in Emmitsburg, MD in 1809. The Province of St. Louise, established in 2011, includes 512 Sisters. The Daughters are dedicated to serving the poorest and most abandoned in society. Daughters of the Province serve in a variety of ministries including social services, health care, education, prison ministry, services for immigrants, anti-human trafficking efforts, parishes, and in social justice.

By the fall of 2014, the Daughters of Charity Province of St. Louise will withdraw from these locations:

- Birmingham, AL (Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama)
- Bridgeport, CT (Diocese of Bridgeport)
- Jacksonville, FL (Diocese of St. Augustine)
- Indianapolis, IN (Archdiocese of Indianapolis and Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana)
- East Brunswick, NJ (Diocese of Metuchen)
- Buffalo, NY (Diocese of Buffalo; Daughters will continue to serve in Niagara Falls and Lewiston, NY, within the Diocese of Buffalo)
- Nashville, TN (Diocese of Nashville)
- Austin, TX (Diocese of Austin; Daughters will continue to serve in Waco, TX, within the Diocese of Austin)
- Martinsburg, WV (Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston)

Daughters of the Province will continue to serve in 18 US States, the District of Columbia, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and in foreign missions on every continent except Antarctica.

The Daughters have absolute confidence that the works of the Church, some of which the Daughters began in these areas more than 100 years ago, will continue. “Entrusting these ministries to others gives us the opportunity to place our Sisters where there is

great need, as well as provide sufficient numbers for our life together in each local community,” explains Sister Louise Gallahue, D.C., Provincial of the Province of St. Louise. The withdrawals and partial withdrawals will, in the next year, “free up” nearly 60 Daughters of the Province who will be missioned to these areas. Where those areas are is under current assessment by the Province’s leadership and members.

St. Vincent de Paul, reminded the Daughters of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century just as he reminds us today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, *“You have to be ready to go wherever you are told to go, and even to request this saying, ‘I belong neither here nor there, but wherever God wants me to be.’ You are chosen to be at the disposition of Divine Providence.”* (St. Vincent de Paul, July 31, 1634)

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#### Attachments

- 1) St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville, TN, circa 1902; the Daughters of Charity established St. Tomas Hospital in 1898.
- 2) St. Vincent Orphan Asylum, Buffalo, NY, circa 1958; the Daughters of Charity established St. Vincent’s in 1849.
- 3) St. Barnabas School, Birmingham, AL, 2<sup>nd</sup>-grade, circa 1958; the Daughters of Charity first served at St. Barnabas in 1958.

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