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The drama *Doubt* is being released in December 2008 as a major motion picture. It tells the story of two Catholic religious sisters whose clothing (habits) identifies them as Sisters of Charity of New York. To help you understand the Sisters of Charity both then and now, we have prepared some material. We hope you will find it useful. Much of the movie was filmed at Mount Saint Vincent (in the Riverdale section of the Bronx), which has been the spiritual and administrative home of the Sisters of Charity of New York since 1857.

John Patrick Shanley, who wrote the play, also wrote the screenplay and directed the film. He received his elementary education from the Sisters of Charity at St. Anthony School on Mansion Street in the Bronx. He based the character of Sr. James, the younger Sister in his drama, on Sr. Margaret McEntee, SC, who was known as Sr. Marita James when she was his first grade teacher.

Shanley dedicated his play "*to the many orders of Catholic nuns who devoted their lives to serving others in hospitals, schools and retirement homes. Though they have been much maligned and ridiculed, who among us has been so generous?*" The film is dedicated particularly to Sr. Margaret McEntee, SC.

*Doubt* began as a one-act play off-Broadway in November 2004 and transferred to Broadway itself four months later. During the 2005 award season, *Doubt: A Parable* won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the Tony Award for Best Play, and three other major theatrical awards. Those who have previewed the movie predict nominations for leading actors Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Viola Davis.

The film's release is a unique opportunity for Sisters of Charity and all women religious to tell their stories – stories about life in the 1960s, when *Doubt* takes place, and now, when women religious are engaged in a wide range of activities.

The Sisters of Charity are happy to share information about their lives of love and service – especially as educators – their mission of Charity, their passion for the poor, and their expression of spirituality and community. Visit their website – [www.scny.org](http://www.scny.org) – to learn more.

We welcome your questions. If you would like to arrange interviews with our Sisters, please contact our Communications Director: Christine M. Haggerty

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