

Becoming an Associate

Sisters of Charity of New York

Our Mission as Sisters of Charity is to share in the ongoing mission of Jesus by responding to the signs of the times in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, by revealing the Father's love in our lives and in our varied ministries with and for all in need, especially the poor.



“Contemplate how you are being asked to give your heart to God amidst your everyday activities. Be prepared to meet your grace in every circumstance of life.”

- ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON



SISTERS
of CHARITY
NEW YORK

Associate Office
Sisters of Charity Center
6301 Riverdale Avenue
Bronx, NY 10471 - 1093
(718) 549-9409
www.scny.org
mgallagher@scny.org

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Being an Associate Means...

Support

“My five years as an Associate have coincided with times of personal and professional transition. It is my belief that the prayers, support and encouragement of the Sisters of Charity and fellow Associates provided **an unending source of strength** to face the challenges.”

- ALICIA A.

Faith

“In the seven years I have been an Associate, **my faith has grown stronger** and I have experienced many blessings.”

- MARY R.

Community

“Our connection with the Sisters of Charity of New York continues to be **a crucial lifeline** for us, joining us to a community of faith, filled with love and hope and a strong commitment to justice.”

- MIRIAM AND JACK M.

Spiritual Guidance

“I believe that being part of a community helps me **focus my spiritual life** in a new way. Sisters and Associates assist me in continually discerning my call through participation in discussions, retreats, and lectures.”

- RETTA B.



Values

“We are constantly bombarded by the media to think that wealth, notoriety, success, power, etc. are what is important. It's refreshing to be with people who know that **what's important** is one's relationship with God and reaching out to help others. It is a great blessing for me to be connected with the Sisters of Charity.”

- SUE P.

Inspiration

“Being an Associate is **incorporating the charism** of the Sisters of Charity into my daily life. I often find myself asking, ‘What would Elizabeth Seton do?’ I am proud and grateful to be an Associate.”

- DIANE M.

Service

“Being an Associate with the Sisters of Charity has given me a focused direction in my everyday life. The legacy of Vincent and Elizabeth have **guided me in ministry** on the local level in my parish, and with Kairos Prison ministry.”

- LUCIE G.



The Associate Relationship: A Journey of Faith Open to All...

Do you long to share your faith and answer God's call more deeply, while maintaining your current lifestyle?

There is a way...

The Sisters of Charity of New York are a Catholic, apostolic congregation of women founded in 1809 by the first American-born saint, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. From Mother Seton's founding up to the present, we have dedicated ourselves to revealing God's love for all in need.

Recognizing that the charism of Charity is God's gift to the world and not the exclusive province of the Sisters, we happily offer an **Associate Relationship** program. This program offers women and men of various backgrounds the opportunity to share in our mission and charism while enriching us with their vision of Christian life.

Who May Become an Associate?

The Associate Relationship is open to all women and men who share our vision, *regardless of marital status or religious affiliation*. Associates maintain their own living and work arrangements, and are financially independent from the Congregation.

A Mission to Change the World

Associates help carry out our mission to respond to the signs of the times as we reveal God's love for all in need, especially the poor. Social justice is a constant theme for our Sisters

and Associates, and grows out of our recognition of Christ in one another and in all whom we serve through various ministries.

A Unique Spiritual Tradition

There are many ways to make a difference in the world. What sets apart the Sisters of Charity and our Associates is that we share a commitment to action grounded in a unique sense of spirituality. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton asked us to consider how we encounter God all the time in our daily activities – a tradition which continues to unfold as we honor the following virtues:

- **Humility** - Grounded in truth, allowing God to work in us.
- **Simplicity** - Awareness unencumbered by material goods.
- **Charity** - Embracing every person as a neighbor in love and justice.



Special Activities of Associates

In addition to sharing in the spiritual life of the Sisters of Charity of New York, Associates have the opportunity to help shape the direction of the Congregation as we forge ahead in the 21st century:

- Membership on committees
- Participation in events such as Assemblies, jubilees, profession ceremonies and workshops
- Contributing to publications of the Congregation
- Retreats and other gatherings for Associates

How does one become an Associate?

The first step is to contact us, so that we can help you get to know the Sisters' mission and charism more deeply. Through prayer, education, social activities and guided reflections, you will have the chance to explore your own heart, and discern whether becoming an Associate of the Sisters of Charity is right for you. After a period of preparation, new Associates choose to commit themselves to living the mission and charism of the Congregation in a special Associate Ceremony.



“Pray that each of you receives the treasure of friendship, especially one that is built on and nourishes your passion for God.”

- ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Taking the next steps...

We invite you to learn more! Please contact us for additional information or to discuss the process of becoming an Associate of the Sisters of Charity of New York:

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