

In Prayer and Celebration

“Every time I walk through the chapel doors, I feel the presence of the many Sisters, students, colleagues and friends who have prayed and worshiped there for over 100 years. I see the faces of Sisters and Associates renewing vows and commitments. I remember the festive events during our 200th anniversary celebration, the grace of weddings and funerals, the richness of song and prayer resounding.”

- Sister Regina Bechtle, SC

Some time after entering the Congregation, candidates received their religious habits and names on Habit Day during a special ceremony in the chapel. After two years in formation, novices pronounced their vows of obedience, poverty and chastity on Vow Day in the chapel.

The chapel has been home to numerous events for the Mount Saint Vincent community including Masses, concerts, college ceremonies, and the weddings of many alumnae/i over the years – a beautiful tradition that continues.



“The Chapel is a holy place made so by the lives and witness of present-day Sisters and students, and those who have gone before.”

- Sister Dominica Rocchio, SC

In 1817, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton sent three sisters northward from Emmitsburg, Maryland, to serve her native city. These early Sisters immediately started caring for abandoned children, taking charge of their first school just five years later. In 1846, as a group of thirty-three, the Sisters of Charity of New York were formed and in 1847 established the Academy of Mount Saint Vincent as a school for young women. In 1856, the Academy moved to Riverdale, New York, and in 1911, as a degree-granting institution, became the College of Mount Saint Vincent, and began admitting men in 1974. Since this early beginning, the Sisters of Charity have become known as pioneers in education, health care, service with immigrants, homeless persons, and others in need.

An indelible mark of hope has been left on the City of New York and in the hearts of its people thanks to the Sisters of Charity. Now in their third century of service, the Sisters continue serving at College of Mount Saint Vincent and in other ministries, always rooted in the Vincentian/Setonian tradition which integrates prayer and action and honors the light of Christ within every human being.

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SISTERS
of CHARITY
NEW YORK



Restoring the Sacred

THE CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
SISTERS OF CHARITY OF NEW YORK

Birth of a Sacred Space for Sisters Students Friends



Ever since the Sisters of Charity of New York completed the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception near the original Motherhouse in present day Central Park, the chapel has always served the broader community. This spirit of welcome reflected the Sisters' firm commitment to integrating prayer with real-world action for people in need.

Upon moving to Riverdale in 1856, the Sisters located the new chapel in the center of present-day Founders Hall, main building of College of Mount Saint Vincent. It quickly became the place where hundreds of Sisters would gather to pray, to profess their vows, or to be sent on mission. It has also served as a vital center of spiritual activity for students from the days of the Academy of Mount Saint Vincent to today's students of the College, as well as friends and neighbors.

"The chapel has always been home for thousands of Sisters of Charity, witness to our vows of consecration and our milestones of jubilees, keeper of our silent prayers of blessings and heartaches..."



"The chapel holds the memory of hundreds of college students who -drop in and leave off the latest in their lives -commit their love in marriage -carry in memory that such a place graced them."

- Sister Eileen McGrory, SC



Restoration of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception mirrors restoration of the heart.

This major renewal project includes restoration of artwork and Stations of the Cross, a redesigned altar incorporating the original altar-front of 1846, a welcoming glass entrance, and upgrades for lighting, fire safety and accessibility. The tabernacle features the original door from the chapel at Central Park, linking the past, present and future of Charity.

Upon completion, this is where Sisters of Charity, College of Mount Saint Vincent students, alumnae/i, and friends will continue to renew their spirituality and ready their hearts for the different ways God is calling them to serve in the world.



Piece by Piece: Your Gift Will Restore the Heart of Mount Saint Vincent

You can choose how your gift will be used for the chapel with different levels funding specific items.

- Tabernacle Stand, new marble frontals and bases: \$75,000
- New altar and sanctuary floor: \$85,000

A gift of \$1,000 to \$9,999 will contribute to one of the following:

- A Station of the Cross (refurbishing and lighting)
- A pew and kneeler (repaired and refinished, with new cushions and kneelers)
- Presider chair, Deacon chair, Server chair

For gifts of preservation of sacred artwork, consider these options:

- Restoration of tiles of St. Vincent and the Sacred Heart, located in the lobby of the chapel: \$10,000 (each)
- Relocation and framing of paintings outside chapel doors: \$20,000 (each)
- Enhance the Brumidi painting behind the altar: \$50,000

Larger gifts will have a substantial impact on the future life of the chapel in the following ways:

- Marble candle stands: \$18,000 (each)
- Ambo, new marble frontals and bases: \$20,000
- Altar, new marble frontals and bases: \$75,000

To contribute a more significant gift, please contact Anne Marie Gardiner at 718/549-9200 in regard to our newly designed chapel lobby with its welcoming floor to ceiling glass entrance.

All gifts will be recognized with a permanent bronze engraving in the Chapel Book of Donors, to be located beneath the wall tile of St. Vincent de Paul in the lobby.

Although this is a major project, gifts of any amount will be deeply appreciated. With special gratitude, all donors to this historic restoration project will be remembered at a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on December 14, 2019, the 160th anniversary of the first Mass celebrated at our beloved chapel!

Please use the enclosed pledge form to record your gift preferences, and return it to us by October 30, 2019 so we may include you in our Chapel Book of Donors and at Mass.

Thank you and God bless you!



Architect's rendering of new chapel lobby
DCAK-MSA Architecture, Nyack, NY