



United in Prayer | February 2022

*Prepared by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
at the request of the Federation Vocation Core Team*

A monthly prayer service is being prepared by each branch in our federation. The purpose is to pray for vocations, to help us learn a bit more about the charisms of each of our congregations, keep us engaged collaboratively in vocation ministry and bring us closer to seeing ourselves sharing a common Mission of Charity for the present and the future.

Intro: The first Sisters of Charity arrived in **Leavenworth, Kansas**, in 1858. Mother Xavier Ross, their foundress, had responded to the initial request of Bishop John Baptist Miege to “come north” to the Midwest from Nashville, Tennessee. Today, the [Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth](#) serve as educators, administrators, pastoral ministers, counselors, advocates and in other roles, reaching out to people of all ages and with various needs. Sisters minister in the continental United States and Peru. Impelled by the love of Christ, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth live their mission by offering every loving service in their power to meet the critical needs of God’s people.

Opening Prayer:

God of our founders, who in your providence, brought our early Sisters to those in need, brought them through the meager days of those first years, we thank you.

For the harvest of our Charity religious communities, for the recognition that ours is a life of mutual trust, support and service, for the gifts of simplicity, humility, and charity, we thank you.

Renew our memories of those who went before us, that we may be rich in relationships and generous in service, and joyous in our faith. We ask that we too may present these gifts to others yet to be Sisters and Daughters of Charity.

Lord, grant that like our founding sisters, we, in this twenty-first century, may have the loyalty to one another to “live not in the shadow of the cross, but rather in the fire of its intense zeal,” and to scatter that fire across the world. Amen

Psalm 1: 1-3

Blessed is the one who does not walk
in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the way of sinners,
nor sit in company with scoffers.
Rather, the law of the LORD is her joy;
and on God’s law she meditates day and night.

She is like a tree
planted near streams of water,
that yields its fruit in season;
Its leaves never wither;
whatever she does prospers.

(You may want to use Lectio and Visio Divina with the Psalm and the wood carving.)

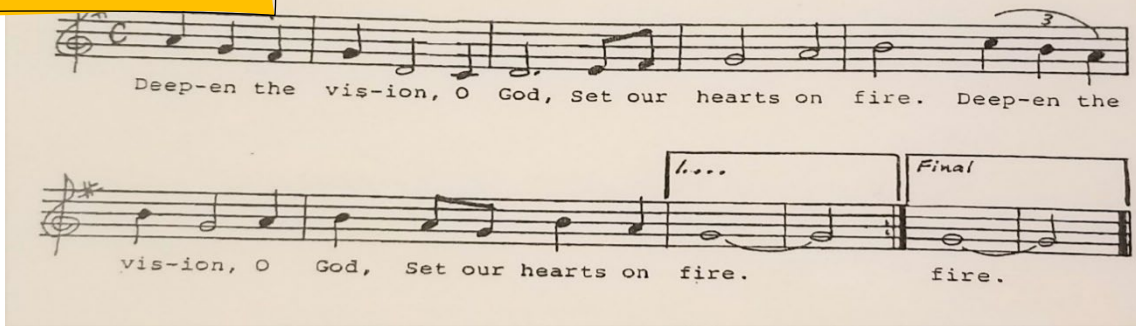
Mother Xavier Ross, Foundress of
The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
Favorite Psalm 1



She planted the SCL community
near the Missouri River

Deepen the Vision

Gloria Solomon, SCL



Pick a quote of Mother Xavier's below and spend 2-3 minutes in silence reflecting on how it resonates with you personally. Then please take time to share your reflection out loud with your prayer group.

- “The feet will go to the place where the heart is.”
- “It is wisdom to pause, to look back and to see by what straight or twisting ways we have arrived at the place we find ourselves.”
- “Suffering in itself is not good or bad. It only becomes one or the other by its effect on the soul.”
- “The more I look at human companionships the better I love Christ who made the sisters so kind and such real friends.”
- “It is good sometimes to be alone without demands, without the relentless procession of small doings.”

Federation Vocation Prayer:

From age to age, O God,
you have ignited hearts
impelled by the love of Christ
to respond with the gift of their lives.
In the name of the family of St. Vincent de Paul,
we commend to you these women
in serious discernment and initial formation
with our Federation of Charity.

Through the intercession of Vincent, Louise,
Elizabeth,
and all our founders in the Company of Charity,
may they experience clarity of call,
generosity of heart,
and the courage to respond in faith.
Give us the grace to be joyful companions
of the journey of discernment.
From generation to generation
may the love of Christ impel us!

AMEN



Federation Vocation Core Team: Helene Allain, NDSC; Melissa Camardo, SCL; Regina Hlavac, DC (St. Louise); Tracy Kemme, SC (Cincinnati); Chris Kunze, SCN. **Contact Sisters to the Federation Core Team:** Réjane Cytacki, SCL; Maryanne Tracey, SC (St. Elizabeth); Shannon Hoffman, SC (St. Elizabeth); Rachel Blais, SC (Seton Hill); Mary Ann Connolly, SC (Halifax); Lisa Laguna, DC (St. Elizabeth); Pat Poole, SCIC; Joanne O'Regan, CSM (Antigonish)