



# Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

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*For Immediate Release - April 8, 2021*

## Statement on People Experiencing Homelessness

### A CALLING: HOMELESS TO HOPEFUL

**CONVENT STATION, NJ** - The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth are committed to our mission to serve the poor and, as such, we recognize the devastating and pervasive growth of homelessness in our midst. People experiencing homelessness fit no stereotype; they are children, senior citizens, healthy and disabled, employed and non-employed, educated and undereducated. They sleep in cars, under highways and in doorways; as well as in barns and railroad stations. There is no single definition of the lives and causes of people being homeless.

We believe that access to safe, affordable and permanent housing is a measure of a just and human society and is at the heart of the common good.

We affirm that homelessness is a rampant moral and ethical crisis demanding efforts and solutions that recognize the dignity of each person and ensure their quality of life.

We call ourselves and others to develop a systemic program to enhance the life and dignity of all and to create solutions to alleviate this crisis.

We acknowledge that there is no one solution to homelessness. Conscious of that framework, we commit ourselves to:

Educate ourselves and others about the dimensions of homelessness and actions we can take to make a difference, especially in areas where we serve and minister.

Collaborate with others who are working to address this crisis on the local and global levels, e.g. community-based programs, ecclesial initiatives, other religious communities.

Advocate for political, economic and social policies which will bring solutions for the causes of homelessness and provide affordable housing for all.

Through commitment, advocacy and influence, each of us can make a difference.

You are called to join us in implementing these efforts to bring about systemic and lasting change which will strengthen the fabric of our society as a whole.

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The Sisters of Charity were founded by Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, in the spirit of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac, in Emmitsburg, Maryland, in 1809. In 1859, Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan founded the New Jersey community known as the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. Today the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth are engaged in education, health care, pastoral and social service ministries in 14 dioceses within the United States, El Salvador and Haiti. The Congregation currently numbers 204 vowed members. The Seton Associate relationship has 300 affiliated lay and religious women and men.