

SELECTION OF TEACHING RELIGIOUS AND THEIR CHARISMS

Religious of the Assumption

'I believe that each of us has a mission on earth. It is simply a question of seeking how God can use us to make His Gospel known and lived'

Sr Marie Eugenie of Jesus

The Sisters of the Assumption were founded in France in 1839 by Sr Marie Eugenie Milleret de Brou. Her intention was to unite the contemplative life of the old religious orders with the work of Catholic education worldwide.

Although schools for girls have traditionally been the main apostolic work of the congregation, in many countries and certainly in England, this has diversified. Out of school activities for deprived children, work in parishes and with refugees, with families, students and people of other faiths are among the apostolic activities undertaken alongside more formal education.

Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre

Our English Community was founded in 1642 in Liege by a 19 year old English woman – Susan Hawley. Our beginnings in Liege were in response to the need for a Catholic Education for English girls during penal times. From 1799 until 2005 our Community was situated in what is now the Diocese of Brentwood at New Hall in Essex.

We are also involved in prayer groups, on pilgrimage, in parishes, in hospitals, in a prison and in schools. There is an emphasis on companioning people in prayer, in spiritual formation and direction and through retreat and liturgical experiences.

The Sisters of Charity of St Paul the Apostle

The Sisters opened night schools for children working during the day and visited families in local villages to encourage the children to attend school. Within the first six years there were sufficient Sisters to open eight small communities as they responded to similar requests from other parish priests. In 1864 the Mother House of the new Congregation was established in Selly Park, Birmingham.

Over the next hundred years the Sisters continued their parish pastoral activities, to teach in parish Primary Schools and Catholic Secondary Schools in the UK and Ireland. A Teacher Training College for women was established in the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul

We belong to an international Roman Catholic congregation of women founded by Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac.

Over the past 50 years we have moved with the signs of the times in our ministry and in our community living. We have always tried to keep abreast of the needs and poverties both at home and on the missions. Our ministries vary and are always motivated by the call to respond to the needs of the times.

Religious Sisters of Charity

The way we strive to live our lives as Religious Sisters of Charity can be defined through our motto and our 4th vow. Our motto 'The charity of Christ urges us onwards' and our 4th vow of 'Service of the Poor' enable us to discern where we should be and what we should be doing. Our purpose in doing this is to bring about the reign of God in the places where we minister and to the people we are living and working with. Since the first sisters came to England in 1840 and to Scotland in 1948, our sisters have been *involved in an extraordinary range and variety of ministries.*

Daughters of Mary and Joseph

The Daughters of Mary and Joseph were founded in Aalst, Belgium in 1817 by a young priest who was later to become Canon Constant William van Crombrughe. Guided by Fr van Crombrughe and a lay woman, Colette de Brant the first sisters worked to educate poor young women and later for the Christian education of Middle Class girls to prepare them for their role in society.

Over the last 50 years there have been many developments. A renewed understanding of our founding Charism and our Founder's call to adapt to the needs of society has led to a diversification of apostolates: from teaching and nursing to other branches of health care, social work, parish work, retreat ministry and work with the homeless and refugees. We have moved from large institutions run by large communities to small communities of sisters supporting one another in various ministries.

Dominican Sisters of Saint Catherine of Siena

In 1896 Mother Rose Niland founded the Sisters of Saint Catherine of Siena within the Dominican tradition in Newcastle, South Africa. Like so many active congregations founded in the 1800s, Mother Rose set out to meet the urgent social need for education among the indigenous and colonial population. The early pioneers were women of great faith and courage who took enormous risks and suffered great hardships. They left a legacy of fine schools some of which still exist. Among these pioneers there appears to have been urgency and zeal to evangelise as well as to educate.

Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus

In 1820 the clear needs were for education, for training, for catechetics and Marie Madeleine met them by establishing schools of different types, by gathering women and girls after their day's work in factories and sweatshops, by visiting workhouses, hospitals and prisons.

'Companionship' remains the key word for our charism. Formal education holds an honoured but far from exclusive place amongst our ministries. In some places we work with potential leaders; in others with the poorest of the poor, enabling them to discover their human dignity and their Christ-life. People have been helped to analyse their community situations and to find ways of helping themselves. One priority is helping women realise their own dignity so that they refuse to be exploited, empowered instead to exert their own influence. Elsewhere the energy lies in working against human trafficking.

Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood

The FMDM Congregation began in 1886 as a group of Franciscan Lay Tertiaries in Hampstead. For many years our ministry was mainly within our own institutions, hospitals and schools, which were run entirely by ourselves.

Following our post-Vatican II renewal many of our larger institutions, i.e. hospitals, schools, homes and orphanages were either sold or handed over to other congregations or local authorities. Sisters began taking on ministries more in keeping with our Franciscan charism of presence and ‘being sister to’.

‘We are brothers and sisters to Christ when we do the will of the Father.....we are mothers when we carry him in our hearts and give birth to Him through our good works....’ (St Francis)

Congregation of Jesus

Over the years ministries have diversified. Although the earliest generations included in their activities various forms of ‘underground’ pastoral ministry in the England of persecution times, practically speaking by the 1960s the running of girls’ schools had become the main work. After the Council we began to move into adult religious formation, including university teaching, the giving of the Spiritual Exercises and spiritual direction in general, work for social justice, including work with asylum seekers, counselling and psychotherapy, pastoral work in parishes, various forms of chaplaincy work (universities, schools, hospitals, prisons) – in fact, to quote the Institutum again ‘any service of the word of God’ and ‘any other works of charity which seem proper to further the glory of God and the common good.’

‘Divine love is like fire which will not let itself be shut up for it is impossible to love God and not to labour to extend His honour.’ Mary Ward

Sisters of Mercy

Catherine McAuley founded the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy, ‘The Walking Nuns’. The fourth vow of the Sisters of Mercy was to serve ‘the poor, sick and uneducated’ – all those in need.

‘We the Sisters of Mercy of the Union, in the spirit of Catherine McAuley, commit ourselves to be mercy to all, with a preferential option for the poor. We embrace the challenge of new ministries and will explore creative ways of sharing our life with others for the sake of the Kingdom.’

Over the years we had been engaged in the ministries of education, healthcare and the special Mercy ministry of visitation of the sick and poor in their own homes. We are now engaged in diverse ministries.

We continue to be involved in our parishes as enablers, supporting the laity as they take their rightful place in the Church.

We share our Mercy Spirituality and Charism with many groups and particularly with our Mercy Associates.

Ursulines of the Roman Union

Historically we have been attached to education and while continuing as best we can in England to support our former schools, we have now used our personal gifts in many different ways to walk with others on their faith journey.

Worldwide our mission is lived out in a variety of ways. Education in its broader sense still plays a very large part in our ministry but we are not confined to such.

*‘With Saint Angela, we are pilgrim women in communion
with God and each other*

*We are sent to all people of our time, sharing our lives,
work and prayer with others in a spirit of RECONCILIATION’*

The English Benedictines

In the early 6th century, St Benedict wrote a rule that drew on the existing Christian monastic tradition that went back to the desert fathers in the 4th century. This ‘small rule for beginners’ was only one of many but which over time has become the outstanding example of a monastic rule and which inspires and guides all monks even to our own time. St Benedict’s vision of the monastery as a ‘school of the Lord’s service’ where by a life of prayer and community tempered by an understanding of our needs and weaknesses, we can turn away from ourselves and by seeking God alone we can learn to serve each other.

There are monks and nuns from a number of different Benedictine families in Britain today, the most numerous of them belonging to the English Benedictine Congregation which now comprises three communities of women and ten of men. The English Congregation was founded in the early 16th century by English Catholics who wanted to lead a monastic life and preserve something of the traditions of the pre-Reformation English monasteries. Since then we have been involved in pastoral work and education but the centre of all that we do is the search for God in the life and prayer of the monastic community so that, as Benedict says, *‘the heart expands and we run along the way of God’s commandments with a delight of love that cannot be described.’*

Congregation of Josephites

Our mission is to serve the Church through the education and evangelisation of young people and to prepare them to be future leaders in society.

As Josephites we try to live out our founding charism to be ‘Instruments of Mercy in God’s Hands’ while our distinctive ‘Family Spirit’ should ensure pupils always feel ‘They are Coming Home to School.’

While our apostolate has traditionally taken place in schools, we now work in parishes and universities.

A significant development has been the creation of much closer links with our sister congregation, ‘The Daughters of Mary and Joseph’ who like the Josephites, were founded in Belgium in 1817 by Canon Constant van Crombrughe.

Society of Jesus

Our Mission in Britain Today

*'We are men who have been called
To be friends in the Lord
As contemplatives in action
Who are sent of mission
To go where the need is greatest
Bringing the "incomparable gift of Christ"
To men and women
In the cultural context of Britain today
Working in three particular ways:
Theological reflection and education,
Spirituality and social ministry
With an emphasis on young adults
And young people
In collaboration
While seeking those who will engage with us
In this urgent mission
For the glory of God'*

Brothers of the Sacred Heart

Our Mission is lived out today:

- Through educational ministry as teachers, coaches and school leaders
- Through the formation of lay partners in the educational charism of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart
- As fundraisers for the African missions of the Institute through the Catholic Missionary Union's programme of church appeals.

'The treasure of a good education is the most profitable wealth: first for the children who receive it; second for the parents who provide it.'

Farther André Coindre

Salesians of Don Bosco

'The Lord made clear to Don Bosco that he was to direct his mission first and foremost to the young, especially those who are poorer.'

We are called to the same mission and are aware of its supreme importance: young people are at the age when they must make basic life choices which affect the future of society and of the Church.

With Don Bosco we reaffirm our preference for the young who are "poor, abandoned and in danger", those who have greater need of love and evangelisation and we work especially in areas of greatest poverty.

The province continues to run five secondary schools and nine parishes, several of which have associated primary schools. There is a youth retreat centre which serves schools in the North West of England. Our Youth Ministry department operates with young adults in various informal ways including networking at a European level and provision of volunteering opportunities throughout the world. Don Bosco Publications produces a regular magazine and religious books for adults and young people.

The Society of the Divine Saviour, The Salvatorians

The Society of the Divine Saviour was founded in Rome in 1881 by a young German priest, Fr Francis Jordan. He wanted to found a Society that would

be at the forefront of expanding knowledge of Jesus Christ and the Good News of the Gospel. In particular he wanted his followers to improve the knowledge and expertise of all those entrusted with handing on the faith to others. His was to be a missionary society in its very broadest sense.

In his Society Father Jordan wanted to include everyone: religious, diocesan priests, intellectuals, catechists and interested lay people. His original vision was all-encompassing but for all sorts of practical reasons was ultimately channelled into the two religious communities of men and women we know today: the Society of the Divine Saviour and the Sisters of the Divine Saviour. However, his plan to involve lay people and diocesan priests finds its expression in the International Community of the Divine Saviour – the Lay Salvatorians.