



Ministries Started by the Sisters of St. Joseph

- Six women and a Jesuit missionary founded the congregation in 1648 in Le Puy, France. An apostolic order, they immediately began responding to unmet needs, especially those of poor people, in this town.
- Sister Delphine Fontbonne and three other Sisters arrived in Toronto in 1851 to assume management of a Catholic orphanage. Soon, the Sisters were invited to start schools, and did so in Ontario cities like Toronto, Hamilton, Oshawa, Barrie, and St. Catharines as well as cities in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
- In 1907, the Sisters began offering post secondary education to women. From 1911-2006 *St. Joseph's College* was a Catholic woman's college and residence at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto.
- Today's *Providence Healthcare* began as the House of Providence in 1857. Sisters founded it as a shelter for homeless, poor and elderly people. Today, it provides all levels of care for seniors and chronically ill people.
- The Sisters also established health care institutions. In Toronto, they opened *St. Michael's*, *St. Joseph's* and *Our Lady of Mercy Hospitals*. They also operated nursing schools in Toronto and Winnipeg. Today, the Catholic Health Corporation of Ontario sponsors *St. Michael's Hospital*, *St. Joseph's Health Centre* and *Providence Healthcare*.
- In 1968, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto founded their first foreign mission in Guatemala. Over the years, their work continued in Guatemala and Nicaragua. Today, sisters are in ministry in Honduras and assisting with projects in Haiti.
- In 1974, *St. Michael's Halfway Homes* was established by Sr. Anne Marie Carey who also founded *Matt Talbot House* in 1978. Today an independent charity with a board of directors, *St. Michael's Homes* provides a residential treatment and rehabilitative programs in four Toronto houses.
- *New Beginnings*, a program of sharing, healing and reflection for widowed, separated or divorced Catholics, began its series of retreats, meetings and leadership training in 1976. Its work continues under the partnership of Catholic Family Services and the Archdiocese of Toronto.
- In 1985, the Sisters established *Nazareth House*, a supportive, transitional home for women and infants. Nazareth House now operates as an independent charity with a board of directors.
- The *Furniture Bank* opened its doors in 1998, supplying furniture and household items to those who are newly housed after life in shelters or have refugee status. Today, the *Furniture Bank* operates as an independent charity with a board of directors

- *Fontbonne Ministries* was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto in 2000. It includes:
 - *Fontbonne Place*, offering rent-geared-to-income apartments for older women
 - *Mustard Seed*, outreach programs offered in South Riverdale
 - *In Good Company*, a friendly visiting program throughout the Greater Toronto Area
 - *Faith Connections*, a way to connect with and minister to young adults in the 18-to-39 age range which was established in 2005
 - *Village Mosaic*, a welcoming space in south Etobicoke for seniors to come together to engage in a wide variety of programs since 2009
 - *Studio on the Hill*, a pottery studio offering a wide range of people the chance to work with clay in a safe, non-stressful environment established in 1993.

Other sisters contribute in a wide range of ministries: parish ministry, spiritual direction, earth literacy, art, education, health care and in numerous other areas and settings.