



## SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Serving Northeast Ohio  
since 1918*

The Sisters of the Holy Spirit were founded as a Diocesan Congregation in Cleveland in 1932. Their primary ministry for which they are known in the Diocese is care for the elderly at Jennings Center for Older Adults. But the Community traces its roots back to Russia in the mid 1800's through its Foundress, Mother Josephine (Barbara Timofieff Finatowicz).

**1861** Mother Josephine was born in Smolensk, Russia of Russian Orthodox parents. She converted to Roman Catholicism and was disowned by her family. Seeking Religious life she finally entered the Carmelite Monastery of St. Bridget in Rome where she remained for seven years.



*Mother Josephine in 1932*

**1890**

Ill health forced her departure from Carmel, and under the guidance of Rev. Joseph Zyskar she founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament to do missionary work in Russia. The name was later changed to the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Spirit and finally to the Sisters of the Holy Spirit.

**1895** Several Communities were left independent throughout Europe. Finally the Sisters settled in Krakow, Poland. From this house Mother

Josephine led a group of Sisters to St. Petersburg, Russia where they ministered underground due to persecution of Roman Catholics by the Czar. The Sisters, in the traditional nursing garb of the day, offered home health care to the elderly while also offering their apartment for the celebration of clandestine Masses since the celebration of Roman Catholic Mass in the Churches was forbidden.



*Mother Anthony*

infirmery at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Detroit.

**1911** The Bishop there did not want to open another Novitiate and the Sisters moved to Donora, Pennsylvania where they began teaching at St. Mary School. Subsequently Bishop Canevin instructed the young Community in Donora to "sever all connections with the former Community" and organized them into a new Congregation.



*Apartment Building where the Sisters lived in St. Petersburg, Russia, taken in 2004*

**1905** Mother Anthony (Jozefa) Kolasa was sent to America with three other Sisters to beg funds for the European Community. They were invited to supervise the domestic work and



*Holy Ghost Church, West 14th St., Cleveland, OH*

**1922** After living in diaspora with several different Communities, Mother Josephine and Mother Anthony arrived in Cleveland and assumed the care of orphans at Holy Ghost Byzantine Church on Cleveland's west side.



*Home of the Professed Sisters, 12209 Corlett Avenue, Cleveland, OH*

**1929** Bishop Schrembs received the first Novices into the fledgling Diocesan Community.

**1932** The Decree of Erection established the Motherhouse in Cleveland and five Sisters made profession as Sisters of the Holy Ghost. When Parmadale was opened, the orphans were moved from Corlett and the Sisters began to care for the elderly in one of the two houses on Corlett.

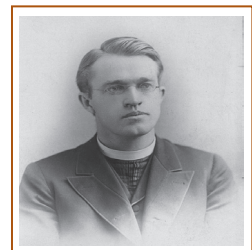
**1941** Monsignor Gilbert Jennings left a bequest for the building of a home for older adults who could not otherwise afford suitable housing.

**1926** The Sisters and orphans moved to two duplex homes on Corlett Avenue in Cleveland.

The Blessed Sacrament was first reserved in the Chapel on Corlett Avenue on December 4th.



*House of the Novices where the orphans and elderly were also given care.*



*A young Monsignor Gilbert P. Jennings*

*1942*



*Sister Mary Hyacinth*

On January 25 the Sisters moved into their new Motherhouse in Garfield Heights on farmland purchased in 1930. On March 17, Jennings Hall was dedicated. Monsignor Michael Ivanko was the Director with Sister Mary Hyacinth as the "superintendent."

*1946* A tragic fire on February 2 destroyed



*Sister Mary Hyacinth examines an ice cream container on her desk which had been brought by a family member minutes before the explosion.*

all but the foundation of Jennings Hall. Thirteen residents lost their lives in the fire and one died later of smoke inhalation.

*1948* Jennings Hall

was rebuilt on the original foundation using brick from

St. John's Cathedral which had been torn down.

Sister Joanne Frances became the first Sister to serve as administrator. Sister Mary Agnes and Sister M. Loretta began teaching with the Sisters of Notre Dame at St. Michael School in Independence.



*Sister Joanne Frances welcomes the first married couple to Jennings Hall.*

*1951* Sister Mary Agnes was elected Superior and Sister Mary Gertrude became administrator at Jennings with Sister M. Loretta as finance director.

*1956* A new "infirmary" addition was added to Jennings. Sister Margaret Mary became the first Director of Nursing, and Sister Mary Therese supervised the first Physical Therapy department under the direction of William Lippit, Physical Therapy Director at St. Alexis Hospital.

*1968* Sister Mary Assumpta became the first member of the Community to teach in secondary education at Our Lady of Lourdes, one of the four schools which merged to form Cleveland Central Catholic High School, and Sister M. Stanislaus began teaching at St. Therese Elementary School.

*1970* Jennings was licensed for skilled care and Sister M. Loretta became administrator at Jennings.

*1995* Jennings became known as Jennings Center for Older Adults with the construction of a new and enlarged nursing home on the Garfield Heights site.

*1998* Jennings opened Jennings Manor, a HUD subsidized independent apartment building and Holy Spirit Villas, market rate independent housing for seniors.

*1999* The Learning Circle for child day care opens at Jennings Center for Older Adults.

*2003* Assisted Living suites, an Adult Day Center and a Wellness Center were added to the campus, as well as an enlarged Child Day Care Center – The Learning Circle.

St. Agnes Terrace Apartments were added for additional senior housing.

*2005* A new Motherhouse was opened for the Sisters behind the original building.

*2009* Additional Villas were added to the campus where the old Motherhouse had been.

*2010* St. Rita Apartments, additional independent housing, were added to the east end of the campus expanding service on the campus to over 500 persons daily.



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