



SISTERS of SAINTS CYRIL and METHODIUS

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

*“The greatest good is
what we do for one another.”*

– Mother Teresa of Calcutta



OUR MISSION

Strengthened by our legacy of faith in God, impelled by the gospel and sustained by consecrated life in community, we, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, freely respond to the Spirit active in the Church in our service to God and the human family.

In the name of Jesus, Teacher and Healer, and sensitive of contemporary needs, especially justice and peace, we reach out in compassion to:

- Evangelize and teach
- Care for the elderly, young, poor, sick, lonely, immigrants and wounded families
- Work and pray for the unity of all Christians so that the gospel vision of the Kingdom may be fulfilled in us and those we serve

Sister Michael Ann Orlik, SS.C.M.	General Superior
Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M.	Assistant General Superior
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Sister Linda Bolinski, SS.C.M.	Councilor
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(570) 275-5606

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(570) 275-4221

**ST. CYRIL PRESCHOOL
& KINDERGARTEN**
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1002 Railroad St.
Danville, PA 17821
(570) 275-1505

**ST. CYRIL
SPIRITUAL CENTER**
Villa Sacred Heart
1002 Railroad St.
Danville, PA 17821
(570) 275-3581 x 320

MARIA HALL
190 Maria Hall Dr.
Danville, PA 17821
(570) 275-1120



The Diocese of Harrisburg

The Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pennsylvania is located in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg.



Thank You

from the General Superior

Dear Friends,

With heartfelt gratitude, I write to thank you on behalf of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. We have been greatly blessed by the generosity of all of you.

As always, we strive to use your gifts wisely in service of others. Our mission calls us to be responsive to the needs of the people of God. We continue to evangelize and service others through our ministries of teaching and providing care for elderly, young, sick, poor and lonely, immigrants and wounded families.

The Sisters were supported in these efforts throughout 2017 by our donors, Associates and coworkers. You are an integral part of all we do, helping to make our good work possible. Your gifts of money, time and knowledge are greatly appreciated.

This first annual report demonstrates how you have helped to sustain our ministries and our outreach to others. In a very real sense, you have become an extension of our Congregation's involvement in bringing the Word of God to the world.

We thank you for your generosity and we assure you of our prayers. Let us continue to support one another as we respond with generous hearts to the call of Christ!

Sincerely,

A. Michael Ann Orlik, SS.C.M.
Sister Michael Ann Orlik, SS.C.M.
General Superior

OUR CHARISM

We, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, live out our call and charism by witnessing, proclaiming and building God's Kingdom.

We witness the Kingdom by our religious consecration in community, faith-filled following of Christ and in prayer.

We proclaim the Kingdom by our courage and perseverance, response to the needs of the times and our discipleship and leadership as loyal women of the Church.

We build the Kingdom by giving our lives in selfless service to the people of God in love and compassion.

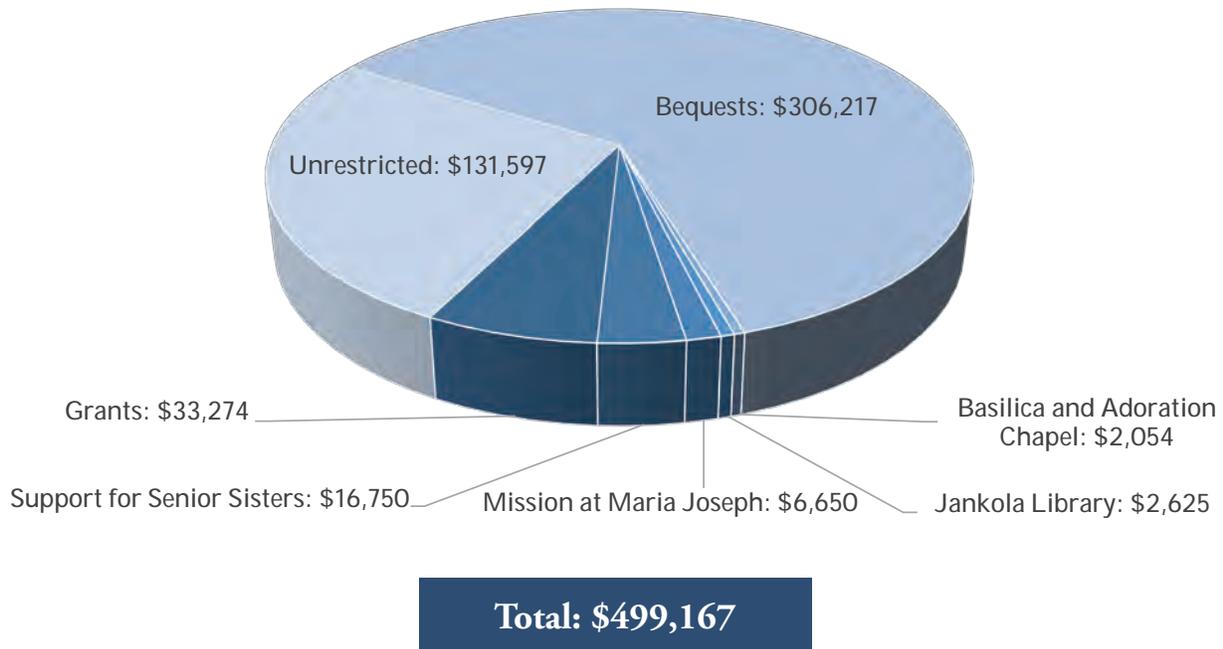
We have before us a vision of the Kingdom that has been revealed in Jesus in our midst, and a vision of the Kingdom yet to come.



Advieniat Regnum Tuum! | May God's Kingdom Come!

“This is God's dwelling among humankind. He shall dwell with them and they shall be his people, And he shall be their God who is always with them.” -Revelation 24:3

2017 GIFTS TO THE SISTERS OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS



BEQUESTS

Planned gifts through wills, trusts and estate plans were used to support all areas of our mission. A dozen individuals provided these unrestricted gifts in 2017. After supporting the needs of our ministries through this funding, a total of \$237,814 was invested for future needs.

UNRESTRICTED

Unrestricted contributions provided additional funding, addressing critical needs for all areas of our mission in addition to the gifts that were specifically designated to support areas including: senior Sisters, Jankola Library, residents living at Maria Joseph, and the Basilica and Adoration Chapel. Additionally, these gifts aided our St. Cyril Spiritual Center, ministries to the poor, parishes, renovations to Maria Hall, capital improvements to the motherhouse, education and youth ministry.

GRANTS

Generous grants made special projects possible in 2017. Large grants from SOAR! (Support Our Aging Religious) and Catholic Human Services Foundation made it possible to purchase 12 lift chairs and 12 auto-lock rockers for our Sisters. A grant from National Catholic Sisters Week given through St. Catherine University provided opportunities for our vocations programming. The John and Ethel Kashulon Foundation, Danville Area Community Foundation and four individuals gave grants that delivered compassionate care and enrichment for our senior Sisters, as well as programming for students at St. Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten.

SUPPORT FOR SENIOR SISTERS

Our Sisters living at Maria Hall continue to carry out our mission through their daily prayers. Gifts designated to support our Sisters were used to provide compassionate care, programming, items of enrichment and renovation projects that improve their quality of life. One project supported by these gifts was converting bathtubs to walk-in showers, a project continuing in 2018 that will provide greater accessibility and improved safety.

MISSION AT MARIA JOSEPH

Throughout 2017, all residents living at Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community received compassionate care, food and medicine in a secure and friendly environment thanks to the generous support of our donors.

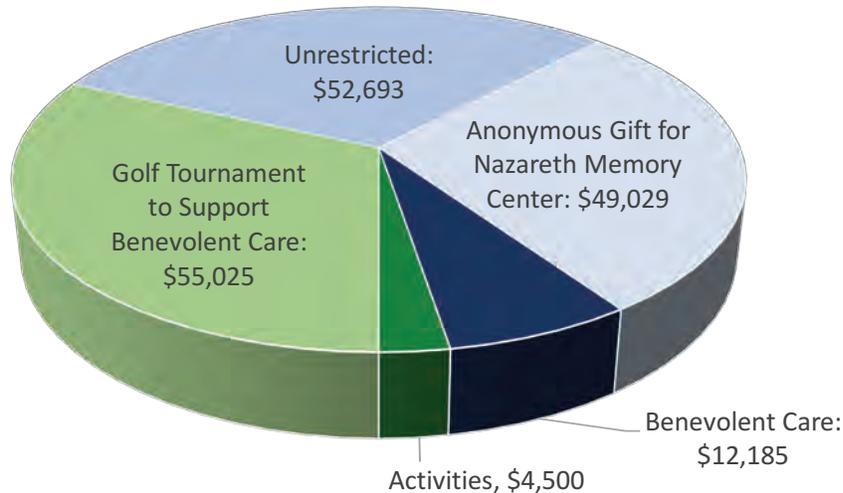
JANKOLA LIBRARY

Jankola Library and Slovak Museum promote and preserve Slovak intellectual and cultural life. Gifts helped to maintain the library and museum collection, making educational opportunities and continued preservation of our history possible.

BASILICA AND ADORATION CHAPEL

Dedicated in 1939 and given the honor of a Minor Basilica in 1989, the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius has remained a special place of worship for four decades. The Adoration Chapel, located at the front of the motherhouse, is available to the public at any time for prayer. These two beautiful places of worship are maintained with the support of generous contributions.

2017 GIFTS TO MARIA JOSEPH CONTINUING CARE COMMUNITY



Total: \$173,432

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Maria Joseph’s 15th annual Golf Tournament supported benevolent care, providing assistance to residents who have outlived their means and depend on the generosity to continue receiving compassionate care. The tournament’s success was made possible by many sponsors, golfers, donors, gifts-in-kind and volunteers.

UNRESTRICTED

Unrestricted gifts from individuals, foundations and organizations supported a variety of needs at Maria Joseph, including benevolent care, enrichment items for residents, building maintenance and equipment needs throughout all levels of care.

NAZARETH MEMORY CENTER

An anonymous restricted gift to Nazareth Memory Center

for \$49,029 provided the means to complete renovations that have made the Center safer and more like home for residents with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia. *Read more in the story on page 16.*

BENEVOLENT CARE

Gifts designated for benevolent care through an annual appeal and small fundraising activities throughout the year provided support for residents who have outlived their means and depend on generosity to continue receiving compassionate care.

ACTIVITIES

Two \$2,000 restricted gifts made by Patricia McDowell (with one made through the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation) and a \$500 grant from American Legion Post 40 will support campus-wide activities. Those activities will include a summer concert series and outdoor movie night slated for summer 2018.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Ensure that our mission continues long into the future by remembering the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in your will. *The following wording is suggested:*

“I bequeath unto the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, a not-for-profit organization located in Danville, Pa., the sum of \$ _____ (or _____% of my estate) designated as unrestricted.”

Gifts may also be given for a specific project, program or building. Your generosity provides the means for us to continue our good work. Contact Sister Michael Ann today at 570-275-3581, Ext. 300 or smaosscm@yahoo.com to get started planning your legacy.



2017 SISTERS OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS BENEFACTORS

The following pages show the generosity of our Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius donors. This list of individuals, organizations and businesses includes all financial contributions made between January 1 and December 31, 2017. We highlighted gifts made through bequests, and fondly recall and pray for those friends and family members who have gone to their final resting places. Tribute gifts made by donors to both the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius and Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community in memory and in honor of individuals are featured between this list and Maria Joseph's list of benefactors.

We are grateful for the many ways in which you show your support for us, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, and our sponsored ministries. We extend our deepest appreciation for your generosity. Thank you!

† Denotes a donor who gave a bequest.

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Catherine & Thomas Hepler	Martha & Magdalen Iskra
Suzanne Herron	Anthony Jankola
Geraldine Hess	

Thank you to the many donors who have chosen to be recognized throughout this report. There are a number of donors who have requested to remain anonymous. Even though your names are not listed, please know your contributions are greatly appreciated. All donors have our heartfelt thanks!



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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our benefactor list. If any errors or omissions have been made, please accept our sincere apology and notify the Office of Mission Advancement at (570) 275-3581, Ext. 153.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS: A TRADITION OF EDUCATION

Saint Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, where quality Catholic early childhood education for students ages three to five is provided.

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius were founded in 1909 to provide education to immigrant children. The First Catholic Slovak Girls Academy, later renamed Saint Cyril Academy, operated at Villa Sacred Heart from 1922-1999 as an all-girls boarding and day school. The dream of Mother M. Valeria Romancheck to establish a Catholic school for young learners came to fulfillment in 1977, when the Villa Preschool opened. A kindergarten was established the following year, in 1978.

After four decades of changes and progress, including a name change and relocation to the west wing of the former Academy building, Saint Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten remains a trusted leader of early childhood education in the community. Today, the school has a diverse student population, represented by many faiths and cultural backgrounds.

In October, Saint Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten kicked off its year-long 40th anniversary festivities, celebrating four decades of quality education. Events included a birthday party for the school complete with a cake, in addition to annual traditions including Family Fun Night, Basket Bonanza, Thanksgiving at the Pine Barn and Christmas Pageant.

Anniversary activities are continuing in 2018. For more information about the school, please contact Principal, Sister Donna Marie, SSCM, at (570) 275-1505.



Principal, Sister Donna Marie Ivanko, SSCM, lights the candles on the school's 40th anniversary cake, kicking off the anniversary celebration.



THEN: Sister Seton Marie, SSCM, teaches her students about the world using a globe.



NOW: Rachel Feng and Argun Leal learn about the world on a white board from Kindergarten Teacher Betsy Finn.

SEEKING: SUPPORT FOR SAFETY

Gifts of all sizes are needed for the conversion of bathtubs to walk-in showers for our senior Sisters living at Maria Hall. The showers will provide a greater level of safety and comfort. The project cost is \$70,000 for the purchase and installation of 20 new showers.

Please send your gift today to:

Shower Renovations
Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius
Villa Sacred Heart
1002 Railroad St.
Danville, PA 17821

CONGREGATIONS WELCOMED TO A NEW HOME

Maria Hall at Villa Sacred Heart is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Maria Hall provides licensed Personal Care and independent living to our Sisters in addition to other religious congregations. Residents of Maria Hall receive compassionate, professional care from a dedicated staff. Additionally, Geisinger Home Health & Hospice is a collaborative service with Geisinger located on Maria Hall's fourth floor that welcomes anyone needing end-of-life care.



From left, Sisters Irene Rose Kmetz, SSCM; Sister Regina Park, OCD; Sister Mary Regina Long, RGS; Sister Joan Ferraro, SNDdeN and Sister Ann Joseph Dye, CGS, represent the five congregations living at Maria Hall.

Last year, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius welcomed three religious congregations to Maria Hall. The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Contemplative Sisters of the Good Shepherd and Apostolic Sisters of the Good Shepherd moved to Maria Hall. They joined the Discalced Carmelites from Elysburg, Pa., who moved in 2015, and our own Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius.

Sisters of these congregations were seeking a permanent place to live and what they found at Maria Hall was a place to thrive! Both new and existing Maria Hall residents found comfortable accommodations and professional care, providing the means for their continued purposeful living. Ranging from temporary rehabilitation to assistance with daily activities, the Sisters receive the level of care they need while continuing to help others through their ministry of daily prayer.

“When we [Sisters of the Good Shepherd] first came to visit and I stepped through the front doors, this place immediately felt like home,” said Sister Francis Altavilla, RGS. “Although we come from different congregations, we are one in the same spirit. We all share the same goal—to love God and help each other.”

With three new congregations, the Sisters also have the opportunity to form new friendships. Programming and amenities including daily Mass in the Maria Hall chapel, ample common space and social activities like Game Night allow the Sisters to connect with one another.

Thank you for your support of senior Sisters throughout 2017. Your generosity helps us to provide a place where all can thrive!

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL WITH WARM HOSPITALITY

Saint Cyril Spiritual Center is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Through the Spiritual Center, we share our charism by providing a warm welcome to people of various faiths and ages, offering gracious hospitality and a place to refresh mind, body and spirit.

Throughout the year, Saint Cyril Spiritual Center was a special place for directed retreats, spiritual direction and accommodations for self-guided retreats. Hundreds of visitors came to Villa Sacred Heart to experience the Spiritual Center, nestled in the serene setting of 120 acres of lawns, gardens, orchards, fields and woodlands. Retreatants had the opportunity to step away from the bustle of life to concentrate on inner peace and time with God.

Directed by Sister Jean Marie Holup, SSCM, the Spiritual Center offered a variety of retreats throughout the year that helped many individuals grow closer to God and restore inner tranquility. Last year, Sister Ann Billard, OLM, Ph.D., adapted her presentation on aging for retreatants at Maria Joseph Manor and Emmanuel Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. The Spiritual Center also welcomed individuals and groups of various faiths and ages conducting self-guided retreats, offering hospitality, rooms and wholesome meals made in-house.

Your generous gifts made in 2017 helped fund the Spiritual Center's programming and maintain Villa Sacred Heart's beautiful buildings, grounds and gardens, including the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Thank you!



Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate and a specialist in the fields of spirituality, received a warm welcome from Sister Jeanne Marie Holup, SSCM, Saint Cyril Spiritual Center Director.

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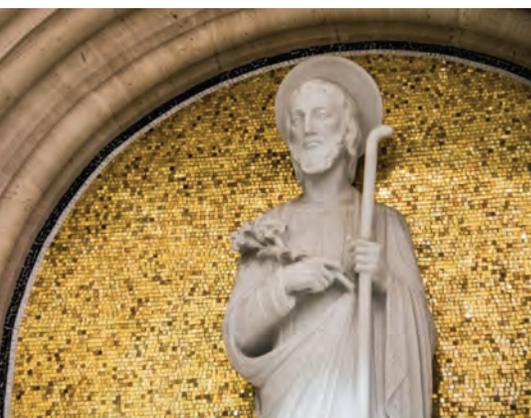
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MEMORIAL GIVING

We receive many generous gifts in memory of loved ones. Families often ask us for the appropriate wording. We suggest:

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be directed to:

Office of Mission Advancement
Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius
Villa Sacred Heart
1002 Railroad St.
Danville, PA 17821

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HISTORY ESTABLISHED AND SUSTAINED BY GENEROSITY

A sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Jankola Library and Slovak Museum promote and preserve Slovak intellectual and cultural life by displaying books, reading material, artifacts and memorabilia that pertain to Slovak and Slavic history, language, literature, fine arts, spirituality and science.

Beginning in the mid-1940s, collections of books, papers and artifacts pertaining to Slovak history, poetry and literature were sent to the Sisters in Danville for safe-keeping and preservation. Throughout the years, materials have accumulated from around the world. Today, Jankola Library and Slovak Museum contain a vast amount of resources that are maintained by Director, Sister Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SSCM, and Librarian and Congregational Archivist, Sister Loretta Marie Hrubec, SSCM.

Jankola Library was named in honor of Father Matthew Jankola (1872-1916), the Slovak immigrant priest who founded our Congregation of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. A scholarly research center that contains educational resources and an archive, the library includes but is not limited to: pictorial books of every region in Slovakia, contemporary periodicals published in Slovakia, bilingual newspapers published by fraternal societies (some dating back to 1892) and rare bibles, prayer and hymnal books. The museum exhibits cultural and material items including: native Slovak clothing and costume, paintings, rare crystal pieces,

handcrafted lace, folk art including carvings and corn husk dolls, and unique ceramic vases, pitchers and plates from Modra.

Generosity established and continues to sustain the Jankola Library and Slovak Museum. We are grateful for the many individuals and organizations who gave gifts to support Catholic education and preserve Slovak history.

Jankola Library is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2018.
Please call (570) 275-5606 to schedule your visit.



Sister Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SSCM, left, and Librarian and Congregational Archivist, Sister Loretta Marie Hrubec, SSCM, give a tour to Renee Chappell Montgomery.

2017 MARIA JOSEPH CONTINUING CARE COMMUNITY BENEFACTORS

The following list shows the generosity of our Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community donors. This list of individuals, organizations and businesses includes all financial contributions made between January 1 and December 31, 2017.

† Denotes a donor who gave a bequest.

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our benefactor list. If any errors or omissions have been made, please accept our sincere apology and notify the Office of Mission Advancement at (570) 275-3581, Ext. 153.

GIFT MAKES CENTER FEEL MORE LIKE HOME

Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, offering a full continuum of care for older adults, ranging from independent living to skilled nursing care.

Our benevolent mission at Maria Joseph is generously supported by our donors, who help us to provide compassionate, professional care for all residents in a secure and friendly environment. That is why Maria Joseph is known as the “Home with the Heart.”

Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community’s Nazareth Memory Center was specifically designed in 2013 to support and maintain the independence of residents with Alzheimer’s and related dementias in a secure environment at the personal care level.

Thanks to a gift for nearly \$50k from a very generous anonymous donor, Nazareth Memory Center recently underwent a major renovation project. The gift was used to update a number of physical features that directly impact the quality of life for residents, making the Center even safer and more homelike.

A laminate plank floor was installed, replacing carpeting. The new floor provides a safer surface for residents to travel. Warm LED lighting with dimming switches replaced track lighting. The improved lighting creates a friendlier, more controllable environment. The private dining room, community kitchen and activities area were remodeled, and the indoor porch was enhanced. The dining room received new furniture and chandeliers and was repainted with subtle, inviting colors. The updates provide a more relaxed and comfortable dining experience for Nazareth residents.

The removal of a wall in the community kitchen and activities area created additional natural light and more accessible space. Residents now sit at the table and enjoy a beautiful view of the secure outdoor courtyard, with ample space to work on special projects and activities. The indoor porch—a favorite area of residents—is a charming space with rocking chairs and a stone façade.

We thank the generous individual who made this important project possible and all of our donors who make a difference in the lives of residents living at Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community.



Resident Douglas Johnson and Dawn Orzechowski, Maria Joseph’s Marketing Director, enjoy a conversation in the newly-renovated Nazareth Memory Center. The capital project was made possible thanks to a nearly \$50k gift made by an anonymous donor.



COMING SOON: NEW WEBSITE & ONLINE GIVING

Our new website will be launched this summer, offering a new way to connect with us and learn more. Additionally, the site will provide a way to make online gifts to support our mission. Online giving provides a flexible, secure and paperless way for you to contribute a one-time gift or monthly donation. Beginning this summer, visit www.sscm.org and click the “Donate Now” button on the top right corner of the homepage to make your online gift.



Thank You...

Dear Friends,

The mission and ministries of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius continue to thrive with the support of you: our donors, Associates and coworkers.

Your contributions make a difference in the lives of our Sisters, students, residents and all those we support through our mission. You help us to achieve Mother Teresa's notion of the greatest good: what we do for others.

Please look forward to receiving Our Times Spring 2018, where you will find more information about the good work of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. If you wish to send a gift at this time, a return envelope can be found inside the newsletter.

On behalf of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, thank you for your continued generosity!

Jessica Pastuszek
Director of Mission Advancement

GIFTS IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

Gifts-in-kind are donated goods and services that support our work. We receive hundreds of these gifts each year, which come in all shapes and sizes. Thank you to our many generous individuals, businesses and organizations who contributed the gifts. Some of last year's gifts-in-kind included:



A car providing safe transportation for longer trips



Items for our Summer Festival's silent auction and flea market



Gift baskets for St. Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten's annual Basket Bonanza



Prizes for Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community's Golf Tournament



Framed artwork and photography for our new website and publications



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SAINTS CYRIL
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