

The Path to Joining Us in God's Work

PRE-POSTULANCY - During this period, which lasts at least six months, you may live at home with frequent visits to our community, or you may choose to live within our community. It is a time to get to know the sisters and to discern if our way of life is right for you.

POSTULANCY - This next period of formation lasts from six months to two years and is spent living within our community.

NOVIATIE - This is a sacred two years of intense study and formation. The first year, the canonical year, is spent in intense prayer, study and community living. The second year includes more study, prayer and community living with an added component of ministry work.

FIRST VOWS - After novitiate, you make a commitment of one year to live the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. This temporary commitment may be renewed for a period of no less than three years and no longer than six years.

FINAL VOWS - At the end of the temporary commitment, you may request to make final vows. At this time, you commit your life to God forever.



*To begin your journey or to simply
learn more about us, please connect with us:*

Sister Adelina Garcia, OSF

EMAIL: garcia.adelina@gmail.com | **PHONE:** 325-374-5220

WEBSITE: SchoolSistersOSF.org

SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLE: @SchoolSistersosf



Women of Prayer + Women United in Community Women of Service + Women of Peace & Joy



School Sisters of St. Francis

*An international congregation of Franciscan women living
in "Intimate Union with God in the midst of Apostolic Service."*

SchoolSistersOSF.org

Our History in the United States

1843 – Our congregation is founded by Mother Frances Antonia Lampel in Graz, Austria.

1888 – A new branch of the congregation is established in Bohemia by the three Zahalka sisters: Sisters Hyacinth, Jacoba and Adalberta. The early sisters minister in Czechoslovakia, now known as the Slovak and Czech Republics.

1911 – Mother Hyacinth Zahalka comes to the United States to seek ministry among Eastern European immigrants in Pennsylvania. Six pioneer sisters arrive in 1913 to establish our presence permanently.

1947 – The seat of the congregation moves to Rome, with provinces in Prague, Slovakia and Pittsburgh, Pa.

1956 – The Pittsburgh Province is divided, and a province is established in Bethlehem, Pa.

2007 – The Bethlehem and Pittsburgh provinces reunite to form the United States Province.

2013 – Our sisters celebrate 100 years of service in the United States.



Our Values

We lead vowed lives of poverty, chastity and obedience and embrace values of Gospel living, prayer, the Rule of St. Francis, and relational living. Our sisters continually strengthen their relationship with God through personal and communal prayer, the Eucharist, Liturgy of the Hours, Adoration and devotions. Likewise, our relationships in community with our sisters are perpetually nurtured. We also foster relationships with those to whom and for whom we minister through Christian witness of Gospel values.

Our International Congregation

An international congregation is one that has branches in different parts of the world. Our congregation has its general headquarters (generalate) in Rome, Italy. We have provinces (units of government) in the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and the United States. We also have regions in Chile, India and Italy and missions in South Africa and Central Asia. Usually our sisters live and minister in their own jurisdictions. However, some sisters are moved by the Spirit to minister in other provinces, regions or missions. As an international congregation, we sometimes have opportunities to meet with our sisters from around the world for gatherings and workshops.

Where We Minister

The sisters of the United States Province serve in multiple locations in the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Texas, as well as in Rome and South Africa. Our sisters serve in a wide array of ministries:

EDUCATION

Elementary & Secondary Schools
Religious Education
GED Preparation
English as a Second Language
Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults

PARISH MINISTRY

Liturgical Ministry
Music Ministry
Pastoral Care
Parish Administration
Social Concerns

SOCIAL SERVICES

At-Risk Youth
Emergency Food Assistance
Sustainable Farming
Social Justice Advocacy

NURSING & ELDER CARE

Senior Residences
Personal and Nursing Care
Adult Daycare
AIDs Ministry

SPIRITUAL CARE

Retreat Ministry
Prayer Apostolate
Graveside Committal Services
Chaplaincy to Sick and Elderly
Bi-lingual Spiritual Programming
Franciscan Pilgrimage

