

**Sisters of Holy Cross &
Holy Cross Health Center**

The **HISTORY** **OF OUR MISSION**

The family of Sisters of Holy Cross, Inc. – Priests, Brothers, and Sisters – was founded in 1839 by Father Basil Moreau in LeMans, France. By 1847, during the period of rapid expansion, the Canadian branch of Holy Cross was formed and by 1883, we became an autonomous congregation known as the Sisters of Holy Cross. Founded in order to respond to the needs of the times, our apostolic mission was focused on the education of youth and immigrant populations as well as missionary work in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and South America.

Sacred Heart Province was established in the United States in 1902, and the ministry of teaching prospered in the New England states. As a result of restructuring process throughout the entire Congregation, Sacred Heart Province changed its name in July 1990 to Sisters of Holy Cross, Inc./US Region. The central administration of the Sisters of Holy Cross is located in St. Laurent, Canada, and the regional administration office is located in Manchester, New Hampshire.

In 1925, St. George Manor, in Manchester, New Hampshire, came into existence as a gift from Reverend Monsignor George Devoy and was named by him in recognition of St. George Parish. The Manor was the Provincial House of the Sisters of Holy Cross until 1965, and it served as a Center of Pedagogy and Education, in which Sisters gained college credits toward their teaching degrees. Workshops, conferences, and retreats also took place at St. George Manor. From 1955-1971, the Novitiate of the Sacred Heart was established at the Manor for the formation of young women to religious life. From that time forward, St. George Manor became, and remains, the home of the retired and infirm Sisters of Holy Cross.

The Sisters of Holy Cross, Inc./US Sector incorporated its infirmary as a separate non-profit entity known as Sisters of Holy Cross, Inc., otherwise known as Holy Cross Health Center.

Though the infirmary was always recognized as an unlicensed nursing home in the state of New Hampshire, the Sisters of Holy Cross prepared and filed for licensure of Holy Cross Health Center in 1995. State licensure to operate as a skilled-care nursing home was received on February 28, 1996.

Holy Cross Health Center was founded to provide quality health care to elderly members of the Sisters of Holy Cross, Inc./US Sector. The Sisters in both St. George Manor and Holy Cross Health Center were dedicated to ministries such as elementary and secondary education, higher education, and in a variety of parish outreach programs. Some of the Sisters were missionaries, nurses, cooks, musicians, and artists. No matter what the task, their ministerial life was one of prayer and service with compassionate care and love. The influence of their lives of dedication can never be measured.