



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan to establish a convent in the Diocese of Rockville Centre

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. – April 10, 2026 – With tremendous gratitude to the Risen Lord Jesus Christ, Bishop John O. Barres is pleased to announce that the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan have accepted his invitation to establish a new convent in the Diocese.

Three Sisters will reside at the Convent of the Church of the Holy Spirit in New Hyde Park:

Sister Miriam and Sister Karoline will serve as Senior Vice Presidents for Mission Integration for Catholic Health, our six Catholic Hospitals and related healthcare facilities on Long Island.



Sister Miriam MacLean,
R.S.M., Ph.D., LMSW



Sister Karoline Marie To,
R.S.M., J.D., Ph.D.



Sister Christina Mariana
Koonce, R.S.M., MD

Mercy is the charism entrusted to Venerable Mother Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Religious Sisters of Mercy. Venerable Catherine McAuley, sought to incarnate the Mercy of God the Father to the poor, sick, and ignorant. An attitude of Mercy is present among the Sisters— and subsequently becomes evident—through the Institute's communal life of prayerful service and contemplation. The Religious Sisters of Mercy primarily serve in health care and educational ministries.

The majority of our Catholic Hospitals on Long Island were founded by the courageous sacrifices of consecrated women religious over 100 years ago. It is a blessing to welcome the Religious Sisters of Mercy to carry on that legacy and work in a management role at Catholic Health. They will be responsible for the implementation of Catholic Identity, Pastoral Care, Catholic Ethics, and the formation of Management, Staff, and Board Members in the Catholic Mission throughout our system. They will also integrate that mission into cooperation with all our parishes, ministries, schools, and charities.

Please pray for, welcome, and support our newest partners in the work of evangelization in the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

To watch a video of welcome and introduction for the Sisters, please visit drvc.org.