



## **PRESS RELEASE** — *For Immediate Release*

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### **Diocese of Charleston remembers St. Katharine Drexel on her feast day**

CHARLESTON – Tomorrow, the Diocese of Charleston celebrates the feast day of St. Katharine Drexel. Born in 1858, Drexel is the founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament – an order of missionary nuns dedicated to the welfare of Black and Native Americans.

Upon her father's passing in 1885, St. Katherine inherited a vast fortune from the family estate. Believing that all people should have access to education, she founded schools for African and Native Americans across the East and West Coasts.

At the time of her death in 1955, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, or Oblate Sisters, had established 51 convents, 49 elementary schools, 12 high schools, and most notably Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

St. Katherine Drexel was beatified in October 2000 by St. John Paul II. As the second American-born saint, she is remembered as the patron of philanthropists and racial justice.

The Diocese of Charleston honors St. Katharine Drexel's legacy today by continuing mission work at the Drexel House, located on Wentworth Street in the heart of downtown Charleston. The location was once the site of the historically Black Catholic Church, St. Peter, and is now a center and residence for young Catholic missionaries and students known as the Diocesan Missionary Team (DMT). The site also once served as a convent for St. Katherine Drexel's Oblate Sisters and as a formation house for men considering the priesthood.

Currently, the DMT works with youth across the state in their walk of faith by hosting retreats and evangelizing. St. Katharine Drexel's legacy of faith and action continues to reach out across South Carolina today.

“Our mission is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and teach about his truth” stated Christian Badilla, a current DMT member. “I love seeing the fruits of God’s love come out. That’s the best part of my work.”

For more information on DMT, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3ZkyCiw>.

For questions, please contact (843) 261-0535,  
or [media@charlestdioocese.org](mailto:media@charlestdioocese.org).

### **ABOUT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON**

Founded in 1820, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston is comprised of 114 parishes and missions, 32 Catholic schools, and 350,000 people. It encompasses the state of South Carolina.

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