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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### COME CELEBRATE OUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRESENCE AND MINISTRY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY IN HALIFAX

It all began on May 11, 1849 when four sisters from the New York Sisters of Charity arrived on the Halifax waterfront and began their ministry at Saint Mary's School and Convent on Barrington Street.

To accommodate the young women who wanted to join us, we became an independent Congregation with our own Motherhouse and Novitiate in 1856. One year later we had 400 students and were caring for orphans. The number of orphans increased after the Cholera epidemic on McNab's Island in 1866. Three sisters along with a number of others volunteered to go tend to the ill and dying on the island. Some of the orphaned and ill were brought to St. Mary's Convent, thus the beginnings of our ministry at St. Joseph Orphanage, formally established in 1868 and the Halifax Infirmary formally established in 1887.

At this time more women were joining and we expanded our ministries throughout various parts of Nova Scotia, other Provinces in Canada, the United States and Bermuda. With this expansion came our move to Rockingham in 1873, where we built a new Motherhouse, with space for Novitiate, Mount Saint Vincent Academy and later Mount Saint Vincent College. Destroyed by fire in 1951, it was quickly rebuilt and membership continued to increase. We continued to respond to ministry needs throughout North America, in the Dominican Republic and Peru.

Today our 175 year legacy continues. Although fewer in number and less visible, we stand ready to continue our journey into an unknown future. We stand together with Associates and friends as we remember, celebrate and give thanks.

Come join us for our Liturgy of Thanksgiving, celebrated at St. Mary's Basilica at 12:15 on Saturday May 11, 2024. Archbishop Brian Dunn presiding. Reception following the Celebration in the Parish Hall.

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