SISTERS OF THE SOCIETY ST. PIUS X
BEGINNINGS

- 1970, Bishop Charrière of Sion, Switzerland, officially approves the statues of the Priestly Society of St. Pius X.

- The statutes contain reference to a future congregation of Sisters: "Members who are not priests, and affiliated Sisters when God raises them up, will have devotion to the places and objects used in the liturgy." (De Sodalitii Fine, #4)

- Speaking of the duties of District Superiors, the statutes mandate: "The District Superior also organizes the establishment of communities of Sisters of the Society, together with the priory superiors and the agreement of the Sisters’ Superior General."

- Local superiors (priors) will also pay special attention to the vocations of priests, Brothers, and nuns. They are also responsible for the chaplaincy of the Sisters of the Society if there is a community in the priory’s area. (De Sodalitii Administratione)

- The Society of Sisters were, therefore, as much part of Archbishop Lefebvre's vision for the restoration and sanctification of the priesthood as the Society of Priests.

- 1973, during a visit to Australia, Archbishop Lefebvre meets a young lady, Janine Ward, who wishes to enter the religious life. In September of the same year, Janine arrives at Ecône, and discovers that she is the first postulant of the future Sisters of the SSPX!
FOUNDING FAMILY MEMBERS

Father Marcel and Sister Mary Gabriel, Missionaries in Africa

Both of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost
MOTHER MARY GABRIEL

- Former Assistant General of the Sisters of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost, the largest missionary organization in the Church.
- Sister of Archbishop Lefebvre
- He asks her help in founding the Sisters of the SSPX.
OLD AND NEW

- Mother Mary Gabriel has been working for 40 years as a missionary Sister in Africa.

- In 1974, while recovering from illness in Europe, Archbishop Lefebvre asks her to help him found a new congregation of Sisters.

- The signs are clear: the crisis in the Church, the continual loss of faith and religious spirit in her own Congregation, her weakened health, her brother’s insistent appeal for aid in transmitting the religious life.

- Despite her great love for her congregation, Mother Mary Gabriel decides to help her brother. She takes to her maternal heart nascent congregation of the Sisters of the Society.

- Mother Mary Gabriel goes with Janine Ward to Albano, near Rome and begins to teach Janine the religious life. On September 22, 1974, Janine takes the habit, and the name of Sister Mary Michael. A new religious family is born!
September 22, 1974:
First taking of habit at Ecône and birth of our Congregation
September, 29 1976:
First Profession of Sr. Mary Michael at Albano

After two years, the first profession is held in front of 12 novices and 8 postulants.

Mother Mary Gabriel writes to her sister: "I admit that more and more I am becoming attached to this new congregation, so much do we see how Providence watches over it."
Archbishop Lefebvre, Sister Mary Michael, and Mother Mary Gabriel
PATRONS

Pope St. Pius X, a guiding light in a time of doctrinal crisis

Our Lady of Compassion, first helper of the priesthood by her union with Christ's sacrifice on Calvary
WHAT ARE THE SISTERS OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. PIUS X?

- Society of Apostolic Life
- Bound by the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience
- Semi-contemplative
- For the sanctification of the priesthood
- Under the special patronage of Our Lady of Compassion
From the Constitutions:

- "The first patronage of the Society belongs to Our Lady of Compassion: the cross and the holy passion of Christ being the source of every grace of redemption. Mary was efficaciously co-redemptrix by her compassion, partaking as much as it was possible for creature in the passion of Our Lord."

- "The Sisters will imitate Mary by participating with all their body, mind and soul in the Sacrifice of the Cross renewed upon the altar.

- "The spirit of the Sisters of the Society St. Pius X is entirely centred on devotion to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass."
As Our Lord, Sovereign High Priest, offered His sacrifice, Mary stood at the foot of the Cross, offering the Divine Victim in union with her Son.

As the priest renews the sacrifice of Calvary at holy Mass, the Sisters stand at the foot of the altar, offering the Divine Victim in union with the priest.

This is their first disposition and purpose whereby they participate in the salvation of souls.

Just as the priest belongs at the altar, in union with Our Lord, the sisters belong at the foot of the altar, in union with Our Lady.
Just as the priest belongs at the altar, in union with our Lord, the Sisters belong at the foot of the altar, in union with our Lady.
HELPERS OF PRIESTS

- On Calvary, Our Lord entrusted the priesthood to His Mother in the person of St. John: "Woman, behold thy son ... Son, behold thy Mother."

- Our Lady was the first helper of priests
  - By her prayers
  - By her material aid
THE SISTERS' PRAYER

- Daily assistance at holy Mass
- Daily hour of adoration
HOUSEKEEPERS & SACRISTANS
District House of France, preparing a feast day
APOSTOLIC COLLABORATORS

- Elementary schools
- Catechism classes
- Home Economics and music
- Caring for the elderly, sick, poor, needy, and handicapped
- Summer Camps
- Marian Groups, Eucharistic Crusade
The Sisters manage 7 schools in France, Switzerland, Gabon, Australia, and the Dominican Republic.

The Sisters collaborate in 11 schools in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Argentina, Italy, Germany, and the U.S.
CATECHISM BY CORRESPONDENCE

- English, French, and German versions available.
- 2000+ students registered worldwide.
- Begins at Kindergarten level and extends over 9 years.
- Personalized mentorship, excellent service.
- Designed to engage parents as well as children.
FORMATION

- Young ladies between 18 and 30 years may request admission.
- 6 months of postulancy.
- 2 years noviciate, where the novice learns the essentials of the religious life and what it means to live in a religious community.
- Prayer & study: Catechism, Holy Scripture, History of the Church, Church Magisterium, Liturgy, Latin, Gregorian Chant.
- Apprenticeship in cooking, cleaning, flower arrangement, music, teaching, sacristy maintenance, etc.
- Noviciates at Ruffec, France, Browerville, MN, Pilar, Argentina, Goffingen, Germany.
DAILY SCHEDULE

- 6:00 Rise
- 6:30 Office, meditation
- 7:15 Mass
- 8:00 Bedrooms
- 8:10 Breakfast
- 8:30 Housework
- 10:00 Class or Work
- 10:45 Class or Study
- 11:45 Adoration
- 12:15 Sext
- 12:30 Meal, dishes, recreation
- 1:45 Rest
- 2:30 Work
- 4:15 Snack
- 4:30 Chant
- 5:00 Study
- 5:45 Spiritual conference or reading
- 6:15 Adoration
- 6:45 Rosary
- 7:30 Meal, dishes, recreation
- 8:45 Compline
- 9:45 Lights out
St. Michel en Brenne, Mother House
Mother House Community after a "First Mass."
A FEW STATISTICS (AS OF 2021)

195 professed Sisters from 19 countries:

- France
- Switzerland
- USA & Canada
- Germany & Belgium
- Mexico
- Argentina & Chili
- Australia
- Philippines
- Brazil & Colombia
- Italy & Poland
- the Netherlands
- South Africa
- Korea
- Gabon
“It is slowly, very slowly, that one understands the religious life: its beauty, its fruitfulness—because of its profundity, its truthfulness, its goal....We understand that it is not what we do that is important, but what we are.

Very slowly, new horizons appear...and only then do we understand that the Lord has spoiled us in giving us the best part.”

(Mother Mary Gabriel)