

June 19, 2021 The following was an Archives sharing on FSSH Charism founded and rooted in Father Wilhelm Rule

THE CHARISM OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF SACRED HEART IS FOUNDED AND ROOTED IN REV. WILHELM BERGER'S RULE. FATHER BERGER, BEING THE SPIRITUAL FOUNDER OF OUR CONGREGATION, ENVISIONED LIVING THE GOSPEL – NAMELY PUTTING INTO PRACTICE THE SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL WORKS OF MERCY (works of neighborly love).

Our deceased Sisters were firm in the roots of our charism of living out the “works of neighborly love” as numerous opportunities challenged them to live more deeply the Gospel Life.

Throughout our 145 years of ministry in the United States and Brazil our Charism has remained the same, but always with the vision of adapting to the culture, the challenges and the circumstances of the present day.

In today's environment many opportunities and challenges continue to be present for us to live and to immerse ourselves into the never-changing Gospel Life of putting into practice the Spiritual and Temporal Works of Mercy.

FATHER BERGER'S RULE – CHAPTER 2

REASONS FOR THE FORMATION OF THE CONGREGATION

The first and foremost reason for forming a Congregation is in general - the sanctification of its members, the honor and glory of God and the good of our neighbor by putting into practice the Spiritual and Temporal Works of Mercy, namely:

1. Taking care of the sick, regardless of difference in Religion whether in private homes or hospitals.
2. Caring for the poor people.
3. Caring for the mentally ill, also in homes for the mentally ill.
4. Caring for beneficiaries
5. Care of the new born babies and their mothers
6. Taking over Orphanages and homes for the Blind, the Deaf and Dumb.
7. Taking care of buildings connected with Churches, Prisons, and places for Correction of women and irresponsible people, practicing the Works of Mercy.
8. Taking over different schools for the preservation and education of such children who are not old enough to go to school - caring for such pupils who are going to school, as well as for those who have graduated from the grades but want to continue with their education.
9. The Reason is this - self-sanctification as well as assisting others to practice works of mercy through separation from the world, necessary recollection to follow Him Who sent us. Since those girls who wish to become "Sisters of Mercy of the Sacred Heart", by adopting and practicing the three vows it is necessary to retreat from the World, to adopt a certain rule for spending her lifetime which consists of the three vows. After the time of her personal probation, then she may enter the Congregation.

Let us remain faithful and rooted in our Founding Charism.