

15 Sisters Now Serve in Appalachia

The first religious sisters to serve in southwest Virginia's Appalachian region were the Poor Servants of the Mother of God who came in 1948 at the request of the Glenmary missionaries who had arrived only three years earlier.

This group, known as "the hospital sisters," took on operation of the medical clinic in Norton which became St. Mary's Hospital. The SMGs served there until 2003.

Including the hospital sisters more than 40 have served in southwest Virginia since the 1970s, according to [Sr. Jackie Hanrahan](#), director of the diocesan Appalachian Office of Justice and Peace in St. Paul. (276) 762-5050

Currently 15 Women Religious Minister in Various Capacities Throughout the Appalachian Region of the Richmond Diocese

– [Sister Beth Davies, CND](#), profiled above, who since 1972 has been coordinating substance abuse programs and prison ministry in Lee County; **Sisters Margaret Flynn, OP**, and [Beth Jaspers, OP](#), who serve in Wise County, have also been in the region since the 1970s as has [Sr. Bernadette Kenny MMM](#), who established the St. Mary's Health Wagon that provides service to the indigent in Wise, Buchanan and Dickenson counties.

– [Sr. Pauline Champagne, DHS](#), and **Sr. Mary Hecker, SSND**, are in Hurley in Buchanan County and [Sr. Jean Barbara Korkisch CSC](#), serves in Dickenson County. They all came in the early 1980s as did Sr. Jackie.

– **Sr. Stephanie Ward, OSF**, is director of the diocese's Jubilee House Retreat Center in Abingdon; **Josepha Haskins, RSM**, and **Martha Meyer, RSM**, are in Tazewell County and **Sr. Jane McDowell, HM**, serves in Pocohantas also in Tazewell County.

– **Sr. Clare McBrien, RSHM**, recently retired as ecology educator for the diocese, and **Sr. Maria Timony, RSHM**, who provides legal assistance to low-income families, are both in Wytheville. **Sr. Frances Barber, SNJM**, serves in Bland County. Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (276) 686-5093, P.O. Box 882, Wytheville, VA 24382-0882

Daughters of the Holy Spirit

[Sr. Pauline Champagne, DHS](#)

P. O. Box 288
Hurley, VA 24620-0288
(276) 566-7529,

Dominican Sisters of Hope

[Sr. Elizabeth M. Jaspers OP](#)

P. O. Box 826, Norton, VA 24273-0826
(276) 679-0967

Medical Missionaries of Mary

[Sr. Bernadette Kenny MMM](#)

194 Number Ten Street,
Clinchco, VA 24226
(276) 835-1300

[Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary](#)

Sr. P. Clare McBrien, RSHM
P.O. Box 882
Wytheville, VA 24382-0882
(276) 686-5093

Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame

[Sister Beth Davies, CND,](#)

[Sr. Jaculyn C. Hanrahan, C.N.D. or jackiehcnd@hotmail.com](#)

4211 Stone Mountain Road
Coeburn, VA 24230-6323
(276) 395-6282

Sisters of the Holy Cross

[Sr. Jean Barbara Korkisch CSC](#)

P. O. Box 835,
Clintwood, VA 24228-0835
(276) 926-4328