

THE
FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sisterhood

OF THE

Good Shepherd

FOR THE

Year ending Second Tuesday after Easter, 1870.

NEW-YORK :

R. BLAKEMAN, PRINTER, 157 ELM ST., NEAR GRAND

1870.

THE
FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

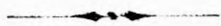
Sisterhood

OF THE

Good Shepherd

FOR THE

Year ending Second Tuesday after Easter, 1870.



NEW-YORK:
E. BLAKEMAN, PRINTER, 157 ELM ST., NEAR GRAND

1870.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sisterhood of the Good Shepherd.

IN the chapel of St. Barnabas House, No. 304 Mulberry Street, the Bishop of the Diocese and a few clerical and lay friends met on Tuesday, the 26th of April, 1870, to celebrate the first anniversary of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The Bishop administered the Holy Communion, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Gallaudet, who read the following report:

THE SISTERHOOD OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

was organized at St. Ann's Church, New York, on the second Tuesday after Easter, 1869, by the Right Rev. Bishop of the Diocese. In observing to-day, the first anniversary of its existence, it seems proper that a brief account of its progress should be presented to its friends. At the time of the organization the Sisterhood consisted of the three Sisters received, three Visitors, and one Associate. One of the Visitors was called home two weeks after, and another, whose heart's desire was to devote herself to

the work as an Assistant, was obliged, about the same time, to yield to her physician's advice, and remove to a milder climate. No one has since offered herself for this class, which is to be composed of those whose lives have been so ordered that they are not fitted for the position of a full Sister, but who yet desire to work for Christ. We feel sure that there must be earnest, devoted women who would gladly devote themselves to such work, if they knew there was a place for them. We would ask our friends among the clergy and laity to make it known. We trust the time will come when every department of Church work will be in the hands of voluntary workers, who devote themselves, in whatever capacity God has given them, to work for Christ's sake.

The remaining Visitor, after two years of most faithful, loving, and efficient service, has been obliged to return home. She has not severed her connection with the Sisterhood, but has become an Associate, with the intention of giving all the time she can command to the work. The Associate has been prevented, by Providential causes, from giving her month's service in the House, but is constantly working for it in other ways.

One other Associate has been received, who has rendered most valuable service, nearly four months in the House. Her place is to be supplied by one who has just been received as a Visitor.

Three other ladies, while temporarily residing with the Sisters, have engaged heartily in the work.

There are now three Sisters, three Associates, and one Visitor, making the number the same as at the beginning.

During the year the work of the Sisterhood has been, the charge of St. Barnabas House, and of the poor applying there for food, besides weekly visits to Bellevue Hospital, and the hospitals on Ward's Island.

The members of the Sisterhood have also, during the year, been in harmony and sympathy with the good work progressing in St. Barnabas Chapel, and we desire to express our gratitude to the Rev. Mr. Warner, the chaplain, for all his kindness and co-operation.

We regret that it has been out of our power to engage, excepting to a limited extent, in the Sunday School instruction. That this important department, however, was not forgotten, was shown in the working of an Easter banner for the Sunday School by one of the Associates.

Since the organization of the Sisterhood 2297 persons have been under our care in St. Barnabas House, and 76,611 meals have been given. We have found work for 866, and homes in other institutions for 611. Three hundred and eighty-nine visits have been made to families outside of the House, and 3789 to persons in the neighborhood,

and in Bellevue Hospital, and the hospitals on Ward's Island.

The necessary support of the Sisterhood has so far been furnished by the Protestant Episcopal City Mission Society, for whom it works, but a separate fund for its support is very much to be desired. During the year \$294 have been received for this purpose.

The Bishop alluded to the gratifying event of the organization of the Sisterhood just a year ago. It was a source of still greater satisfaction to meet them on this their first anniversary. Then taking for his theme the appearance of the Lord to the Disciples on the way to Emmaus, and His Benediction of peace, he showed how all along through the Scriptures Christ had been disclosed in one manner and another to the faithful until His appearing in the flesh; and then, after His resurrection, at various times to His disciples, cast down, wearied, disheartened, and forsaken: bestowing upon those who felt that they deserved only His rebuke, that blessing which embodies the substance of the Gospel, 'Peace be unto you.' It was this peace passing understanding which was left to cheer and aid all those who in lives of self-denial work, for their Lord, and who for His sake endure trials, discouragements, misconstruction, and reproach. The Bishop invoked that blessing of peace upon the Sisters who had devoted themselves to the service of Christ in works of mercy and piety.

The Sisterhood of the Good Shepherd is under the charge of the Bishop of New York, Rev. T. Gallaudet, D. D. being the Pastor.

Its object is to minister to the poor, the sick, the homeless and the outcast and to care for little children.

It is under the control of the Bishop of the Diocese, who is its Head and appoints the Pastor.

No new work is undertaken or rule made, without the approval of the Bishop.

The Sisterhood embraces five classes, Sisters Assistants, Probationers, Visitors and Associates, we all of whom, the Presiding Sister has control.

The Associates are those, who residing in their own families, are able to give only a portion of their time each week or year to the work.

The Visitors are those who wish to become probationers; or those, who desire to give themselves to the work for a limited time, residing with the Sisters, during this time;

The Probationers are those, who, having passed six months as Visitors, and then desiring to give themselves wholly to the work, and being approved by the Presiding Sister, shall assume the dress and be received by the pastor.

The Assistants are those who wish to devote themselves to work for Christ, but whose lives have been so ordered that they are not fitted for the position of full Sisters. They are Probationers or Visitors two years, then (if approved by the Presid-

ing Sister and Pastor) are received by the Pastor and take the name of Sister.

The Sisters are those who having passed a probation of two years, still desire to devote themselves to the work and being approved by the Presiding Sister, Pastor and Bishop, are received by the Bishop and known as Sister.

Family ties being of the most sacred obligation, any Sister may leave the work of the Sisterhood at any time that family duties require it. In such case, if she desires to continue to be a Sister, she may do so, with the consent of the Presiding Sister and Pastor, returning to the work of the Sisterhood when Providence permits her.

Probationers may withdraw at any time by giving due notice to the Presiding Sister and the Pastor.

A Sister wishing to withdraw gives written notice thereof, with her reasons, to the Presiding Sister; but that due provision may be made for the work in which she has been engaged, such withdrawal does not take place, less than two months after the notice has been given, unless by special consent of the Presiding Sister.

Probationers must not be over forty, or under twenty-one years of age, without the special consent of the Presiding Sister and Pastor.

Applications for admission to the Sisterhood may be made to Sister ELLEN, St. Barnabas House, No. 304 Mulberry Street, or to the Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Gallaudet, No. 9 West Eighteenth Street, New York.