

Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence

The [Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence](#) were founded in Houston, Texas in 1930 by Sister Mary Benitia Vermeersch, a member of the Congregation of Divine Providence of San Antonio, Texas. Sister Benita, a true daughter of Blessed John Martin Moye, was deeply imbued with his missionary spirit and charism of abandonment to Divine Providence. As principal of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish School in Houston, Texas at the time refugees fled from Mexico during the Revolution of 1910-1936, she needed more teachers to respond to the special needs both educational, material and spiritual of these people. She gathered young ladies and taught them how to respond to these needs. The Society was established and they made promises to live according to rules as Catechists of Divine Providence.

In 1938 Sister Benitia returned to San Antonio bringing two Catechists with her and with the blessing of the Archbishop of San Antonio started catechetical work in the poor sections of the city. Soon more members were attracted to the Society. When Archbishop Robert E. Lucey, a national promoter of the Catechetical Movement, arrived in San Antonio in 1943 he worked closely with the Society and with Mother Angelique Ayers, Superior General of the Sisters of Divine Providence, requested the Holy See in Rome for the approval of the Society as a filial branch of the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence. On February 7, 1946, the approval was received and the Society became the Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence, a filial branch of the Congregation of the Sisters of divine Providence. The group grew and flourished, developed leadership and governance, and by 1967 elected its own leadership, becoming financially stable while still remaining a filial branch of the parent congregation.

On May 18, 1989, our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, granted the request that the Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence be separately constituted as a religious institute of Pontifical Right. In a decree dated December 12, 1989, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life declared that the Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence be constituted as a Religious Institute of Pontifical Right and approved its constitutions.