

"WE MUST MANIFEST OUR JOY IN THE SERVICE WE RENDER"



Saint Katharine Drexel

Foundress, Advocate, Educator

November 26, 1858 to March 3, 1955

Saint Katharine Drexel, also called Mother Katharine, was born to a wealthy family in Philadelphia. Growing up, she learned faith and generosity from her family. As she traveled the country, Katharine saw the great need for Native American and Black children to receive a quality education. In 1897 Katharine met Pope Leo XIII in Rome and asked him for missionaries to help start schools. The Pope said that SHE should be that missionary! Over the next five years, Katharine entered the convent, became Mother Katharine, and began her community, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. She spent the rest of her life ministering to Black and Indigenous children.

Did you know?



Throughout her life, Mother Katharine spent over 12 million dollars (150 million in today's money) to found Catholic schools nationwide.



By her death in 1955, she had established 49 elementary schools, 12 high schools, and Xavier University.