



Indiana Historical Bureau

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NEWS

For Immediate Release
April 28, 2017

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“Little Sisters of the Poor” Indiana State Historical Marker Will Be Dedicated in Indianapolis, Indiana

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker commemorating the contributions of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Indiana is scheduled for Saturday, May 20, 2017. This year marks the 50th anniversary since the Little Sisters’ home for the aged poor moved from 520 E. Vermont St. to its new home at 2345 W. 86th St. The Little Sisters began their work in Indianapolis in 1873. The marker dedication will begin at 10:00 a.m. at 520 E. Vermont St., Indianapolis, Indiana. Parking for the event is available along the side streets in the Lockerbie Square neighborhood, as Vermont St. will be closed during the ceremony.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “**Little Sisters of the Poor**”:

The Little Sisters of the Poor, a Catholic religious order devoted to caring for the elderly poor, arrived in the U.S. in 1868 and quickly expanded nationally. At a time when the elderly were often ignored and unseen, the Little Sisters of the Poor provided a home. They came to Indianapolis in 1873 and established a home for the aged poor on this site soon after. The home was open to anyone over age sixty with no means of support, regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity. The Little Sisters solicited alms daily to provide shelter, comfort, and basic nursing care for residents. Their dedication garnered widespread appreciation. In 1967, the home moved to 2345 West 86th Street as St. Augustine Home for the Aged.

The public is invited to attend the dedication ceremony for this Indiana state historical marker that commemorates the Little Sisters of the Poor’s efforts to provide shelter and care for the elderly poor. The religious order began their charitable work in the late 1830s and 1840s in northern France and began opening homes for the aged poor in the United States in the late 1860s. In recognition of their work, which continues today, Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett has proclaimed May 20, 2017 “Little Sisters of the Poor Day.”

State historical markers commemorate significant individuals, organizations, places, and events in Indiana history. These markers help communities throughout the state promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. For over 100 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1946, the marker format has been the large roadside marker, which has the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of the state of Indiana at the top. Over 600 of these markers have been installed over the years.

For more information about the marker dedication ceremony, please contact Kate Wilson, Development Department, St. Augustine Home at (317) 318-3645 or prindianapolis@littlesistersofthepoor.org or Linda Bear at (317) 408-8580. For more information about the Indiana Historical Marker Program and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau’s website at <http://www.IN.gov/history>, follow IHB on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or call (317) 232-2535.