

son, Camilla Corish, Margaret Felicity Brady, Scholastica Beams, Julia Shirk, and Louisa Roger, by their humble petition to this general assembly, have represented, that being unmarried women, and above the age of twenty-one years, they have formed themselves into a religious association, by the name of The Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph's, and under the superintendance of certain clergymen of their religious persuasion, for works of piety, charity and usefulness, and especially for the care of the sick, the succour of aged, infirm, and necessitous persons, and the education of young females; which association, from its nature and objects, as well as its positive regulations, must always be composed of unmarried women; that for the purposes of their institution, and as a place of residence for themselves and their successors, a farm near Emmitsburg, in Frederick county, in this state, has been bestowed on them by a pious and charitable person, from the cultivation and rents of which they derive a part of their support, and on which their own industry, and some charitable donations, have enabled them to erect suitable buildings for their residence, and for the uses of their school; that as the individuals who compose their association change by deaths and new admissions, they cannot hold this property in their own names, because of the very great embarrassments to which those changes must give rise; for which reason it has been vested in, and is now held by, two of their friends, for the benefit of their institution; that the untimely death of these individuals, without making the necessary dispositions on the subject, and the difficulty of finding a succession of suitable depositories for such a trust, must expose the petitioners to great embarrassment, and even to the loss of the property; while the danger and fear of similar embarrassments and inconveniencies may, and probably do prevent, other charitable persons, favourably disposed towards the objects of their institution, from making to them such donations within proper limits, as to value and amount, as would enable them to become more extensively useful; for which inconveniencies they are advised, that a proper and adequate remedy cannot be afforded, without an act of the general assembly, constituting them a body corporate, with perpetual succession, and such powers and privileges for taking, holding, and disposing of property, as may be judged adequate and proper: And whereas the facts set forth in said petition appear to be true, and the prayer thereof is reasonable and proper,

1. BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED, *by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the said Elizabeth A. Seton, Elizabeth Boyle, Cecilia O. Conway, Jane Smith, Rosetta White, Margaret George, Bridget Farrell, Mary Ann Butler, Frances Jourdan, Susanna Closey, Teresa Conway, Jane Francis Gartland, Eleanor Angela Brady, Ann Gruber, Adele Salva, Elizabeth Magdalene Guerin, Sarah Thompson, Camilla Corish, Margaret Felicity Brady, Scholastica Beams, Julia Shirk, Louisa Roger, and their successors, hereafter to become Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph's, according to the rules and regulations of their association for the time being, shall be and hereby are constituted a body corporate, by the name and style of The Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph's, with perpetual succession, and power to sue and be sued, and to have and use a common seal, and to take and hold in fee simple, or otherwise,

Incorporated.