DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY AND COMPASSION

CHRISTIANS:

- Created a *diaconia* that cared for widows (Acts 6:1–7, about A.D. 37)

- Furnished *matricula* (church lists of needy persons)

- Established common treasuries to aid the needy (1 Corinthians 16:2; mid-1st cent.)

- Formed *collegia, soladitates,* or *factionis* (voluntary associations) to aid the unfortunate (2nd and 3rd cent.)

- Provided for orphans:

  —Godparents at baptism (care for their orphaned godchildren)

  —Help solicited by bishops (4th cent. and after)

  —*Orphanotrophia* introduced (buildings for orphans, 4th cent.)

  —*Brephotrophia* established (buildings for foundlings, 4th cent.)

  —Monasteries used for housing many orphans

- Introduced *morotrophia* (mental asylums, begun in A.D. 321)

- Established *nosocomia,* first institutions that served only the sick (late 4th cent.)

- Constructed *xenodochia* (buildings that housed strangers, travelers, and the sick, late 4th cent.)

- Operated *ptochia* (institutions for the poor, 4th cent.)

- Introduced *gerontocomia* (institutions for the aged, 5th cent.)

- Established *typholocomia* (institutions for the blind): first one established in Jerusalem (630)

- Provided medical care by Knights Hospitalers of St. John during the Crusades (12th cent.)

- Provided health care for lepers by Hospitalers of St. Lazarus during the Crusades (12th cent.)

- Maintained *Domus Sancti Spiritus* (House of the Holy Spirit): German hospitals (14th cent.)

- Maintained voluntary associations: primary and longstanding instruments of Christian charity and compassion (1st cent. to present)