

## About Us – A Brief History

A Polish noblewoman, Frances Siedliska, who became the namesake of the hospital, founded the Congregation of the Holy Family of Nazareth in 1875. Born to a cultured and wealthy family near Warsaw in 1842, she felt called to dedicate her life to God in the service of others. Known in religious life as Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd, Mother Frances gathered together other young women to found an order, which spread quickly throughout the world.

In 1885, Mother Frances traveled with 11 other Polish Sisters to Chicago, founding a hospital and schools in the Polish community there. The Sisters came to Texas in 1927 to teach in schools and care for the sick. In 1937, the Catholic order of the Sisters of The Holy Family of Nazareth committed to bringing a modern hospital to Tyler. CHRISTUS Mother Frances Hospital - *Tyler* was scheduled to open on March 19. The opening day dedication that was planned never happened. Mother Frances was called on to open one day early to care for victims of the New London school disaster.

Nearby, the staff of the Bryant Clinic, which later became CHRISTUS Trinity Clinic, also responded to treat the injured. Almost 300 children, teachers and townspeople were killed by the blast and hundreds of the wounded were brought to CHRISTUS Mother Frances Hospital - *Tyler* for treatment.

Numerous expansions and additions over the last seven and one-half decades have turned the once modest hospital and small clinic into Smith County's largest employer and one of the highest rated integrated health systems in the United States.

