

ANGEL OF MERCY

The Story of Sister Margaret Slachta



Sister Margaret Slachta, SSS
(1884-1974)
Sisters of Social Service

**A documentary film
by GEORGE CSICSERY**

Angel of Mercy tells the story of Sister Margaret Slachta, a courageous woman who defied the Nazis and the communists in her fight for social justice. Slachta, a teacher



Sister Margaret with the
Sisters of Social Service in
Canada in 1925

and activist, became the first woman elected to Hungary's Parliament in 1920. Her unique vision of social intervention on behalf of the poor, combined with a strong feminist streak and devout



Sister Margaret and the Sisters of Social Service at a
group retreat

Catholic faith, led to heroic acts of courage during the Hungarian Holocaust of 1944–45.

Slachta and the Sisters of Social Service, the order she co-founded, are credited with saving over 1,000 lives. Hundreds of letters of safe conduct were obtained by the sisters from the International Red Cross, the Swedish Embassy and the Papal Nuncio.

www.zalafilms.com/films/angelofmercy

ANGEL OF MERCY is a film in progress.

- In 2006, a shoot at Budapest's St. Stephen's Basilica documented the beatification ceremony for Sára Salkaházi of the Sisters of Social Service. Sister Sára was murdered by the Nazis in 1944 along with several people she was helping to hide.
- In April 2008, interviews were filmed with Marika and László Somogyi in Kensington, California. Marika Somogyi was eight years old when her parents gave her to Sister Slachta to protect her. Her story is an anchor piece in the film.
- In December 2008, we filmed in Buffalo, New York, at the cemetery where Margaret Slachta is buried, and interviewed three sisters who knew her. We also interviewed Tibor Baránski, who worked for the Papal Nuncio in 1944 in Budapest and participated in the Vatican's ambassadorial efforts to secure thousands of safe conduct visas to Jews in Hungary. In October 2013, we covered the award ceremony where Baránski was honored by the Hungarian government for his actions in 1944.
- A 2010 interview was taped with István Csicsery-Ronay in Budapest. He knew Slachta when they were both in the Hungarian Parliament. In August 2014, an interview was conducted with two children of one of the victims murdered with Sister Sára Salkaházy.



Sister Margaret in her garden

Production will require 8 to 10 more shooting days in Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Israel, and 5 to 6 shooting days in the United States and Canada.

In 2014, the project was awarded a generous grant from The Hungary Initiatives Foundation. We anticipate completion of the film in early 2017.

DONATE TO *ANGEL OF MERCY*

Completion of the film requires additional financial support. Your donation will be acknowledged in the film's credit sequence.

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See a sample reel of scenes from *Angel of Mercy* at <https://vimeo.com/22847382>

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