

# Franciscan Daughters of Mary

P.O. Box 122070, Covington, KY 41012

[www.f dofmary.org](http://www.f dofmary.org)

[fdmsisters@gmail.com](mailto:fdmsisters@gmail.com)

Rose Garden Home Mission

Friends of the Rose Garden Mission

Rose Garden Center for Hope & Healing

Medical / Dental

Thanksgiving/Christmas, 2024



In the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, our Cathedral here in Covington, are some of the most stunning stained glass windows you will ever see. In fact, one of them is the largest stained glass window in the western hemisphere and the second largest in the world! Among the 81 other windows, you will find the above window depicting the Nativity.

At first glance, it is your typical Nativity scene. However, you may notice something a little different about this window. Our Lady is not actually looking at the newborn Jesus, nor is she looking at Joseph so to invite him to gaze upon his foster-Son, nor is she welcoming the shepherds into the scene. When you see the window in person, it is obvious that our Lady is looking past the manger—looking at a lamb.

The small lamb has been bound, sacrificed, and is now lying in front of the manger-bed, reminiscent of the old Jewish Temple sacrifices. Our

Lady is looking at the “Lamb of God,” the Lamb slain, as the Prophet Isaiah had foretold, by Whose wounds we would be healed. This is a foreshadowing of the Cross.

This idea is not unique— it is not uncommon to find a Cross, a bound lamb, or some other symbol of the Passion hiding somewhere in a painting of the Nativity.

Our Lady was well versed in Scripture, although perhaps she didn’t know all the details, she knew that Jesus was this Lamb sent to give His life to save His people.

In receiving the Magi, one of them brought a gift of myrrh, a perfume that was used to anoint the dead. This alludes to Jesus’ sacrificial mission. I wonder, did this surprise her? Or was the shadow of the Cross always in the back of her mind?

It is interesting what the knowledge of someone’s mortality can do. If you knew beforehand that someone you are very close to would soon pass away, wouldn’t you try to spend as much time as you could with them? Would there not be a certain ache in your heart to just be with that person, even though you might not be able to do anything to alleviate their suffering? And suppose your loved one was dying of injuries they received in saving YOUR life. Wouldn’t your heart be bound to that person in a way unlike any other?

It had to be bittersweet to know that He had come to give His life. But I’m sure it was a knowledge that made our Lady’s heart burn with love for Him -even more than it would have otherwise- because the knowledge of Jesus’ future Passion

and Death speaks profoundly of how much He loves each of us.

At Christmas time, *We Three Kings* is a fairly popular hymn. Each year we sing of the gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold was brought in recognition of Jesus’ Kingship, Frankincense was brought proclaiming that He is indeed God. Myrrh is the spice or perfume used to embalm the dead—this speaks to us that this God-King is going to die.

The fact that the King of Kings and Lord of Lords would humble himself so much to become a tiny infant is itself amazing, awe-inspiring and unfathomable! But to know that the precise reason He became man was to Die, so to take away our sins, is astounding!

For God, Who is Immortal, to die, He would have to arrange His own death and make Himself capable of dying!







Even more remarkable is to ask why would God choose to die? Why would God have become fully man, while remaining fully God—and not have chosen to remain immune from suffering and incapable of dying?

I think that most of us in our right minds would find very few reasons to choose to suffer—and even fewer reasons that one would choose to die.

Our Lord and God chose to die out of Love—to die in order to save someone. That someone is you! That someone is me!

This is why I prefer to look at Christmas under the shadow of the Cross. It makes me Love Jesus more! The All-Powerful has become a helpless Baby, the Immor-

tal One is now capable of pain, suffering and death, all because He wanted to save *me*.

If God would humble himself so much and choose to suffer and die for me, I must have immense value! The same is true for each one of us. This is where our inherent Dignity comes from.

Looking at Christmas under the shadow of the Cross can be intimidating; there is something that makes us think that it will put a damper on the joy of the Season.

But to think of how God loves me so much that He would humble Himself and take on our human condition, that He would make Himself capable of experiencing pain and death—and did indeed suffer both—just to save me... It almost unlocks something inside of me that desires to give my heart to Him completely.

And as I surrender to that desire, I receive that kind of Joy that the world cannot give, that the world cannot take away unless I allow it to be taken.

Is there any joy that can be deeper than the Joy that comes from knowing how much God loves you? How much He values you and wants you? Is there any peace that can be greater than the Peace that comes from knowing that you are His, that He holds you in the palm



of His hands? That He has purchased you with His own Blood and that nothing can touch you without His permission? What Love can compare with His love?

*“God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through Him.*

*In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as expiation for our sins.*

*Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another.”*

*1 John 4:9-11*

**Blessed Christmas!**



*The Sister's gift to you  
this Christmas  
Your intentions will be  
remembered in prayer  
each day during the  
Octave of Christmas*





## **We're getting ready to move in!!!**

The flooring is installed, the walls are painted, and shelves are being constructed. There are just a few more projects to finish before our new building is ready for us to move into. We are so excited! We were able to use the front classroom of the new building to host the check-in stations for the thanksgiving giveaway, which we plan to do again for Christmas. We are hoping that the building will be ready for us to begin utilizing in late December or early January—just in time for the coldest part of the winter here. Thanks be to God!



# **Save the Dates!**

## **June 5, 2025**

**“Partners in Hope for the Poor”  
Annual Dinner**

**Keynote Speaker— Father Jonathan Meyer,  
from All Saints Parish, Indiana**

## **August 22, 2025**

**Annual Golf Outing  
Kenton County Golf Course**



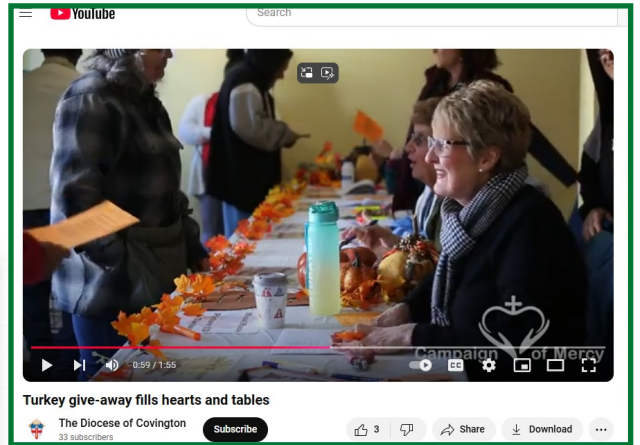
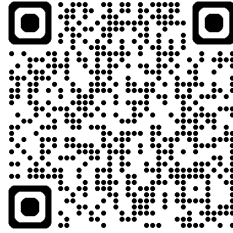
# Rose Garden

HOME MISSION

## THANKSGIVING GIVEAWAY, 2024

This year we gave a Turkey and several bags of groceries to 552 families!  
It was a beautiful day and a very peaceful, joy-filled event.  
During meditation later that evening, one sister remembered a man to whom she had given a cup of water. She felt like the Lord was reminding her,  
“you did it to Me.”

Jesus was the personal recipient, 552 times. “you did it to Me.”  
The Diocese of Covington put together a video about our thanksgiving giveaway as one of their monthly “Campaign of Mercy” features.  
Check it out at - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzmXT8sYRDw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzmXT8sYRDw) or scan the QR code!





At the Thanksgiving Giveaway, a neighbor approached one of our volunteers and said, "You prayed with me last year. My whole life changed after that."



"These are the kindest and most giving of human beings on earth, may they all be blessed by the grace of God."



"Hey, she told me to come down and sign up for Christmas... They really care about me. There isn't anything they wouldn't do for me, is there?"



A Christmas Card from a neighbor:  
 Thank you so much, you all have helped my family out so so much with food, diapers, wipes, baby supplies- or even just someone to talk to or someone just to be there for you- that alone means so much.  
 You are a Godsend.  
 When I was down and out with two grandchildren I am raising- with no income at one time- you all helped with no questions asked and helped with everything we needed.  
 That means so much to me.  
 I always felt welcome and never felt judged for needing help.  
 Thank you so very much and have a happy and safe holiday.



We told our boss about how kind you are all, how you help us unload and you're always happy with whatever we bring you. He decided that we're just going to bring all our donations to you all from now on.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.....

Our Christmas Giveaway is December 19th, and so far we have over 900 children on our list! But babies don't wait, and the moms who come in anytime this month for a New baby welcome basket will get a Christmas themed Baby Basket to help them welcome home their Christmas Baby!





# Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing

Health Ministry / Free Clinic

One of the first things noticed in our medical clinic is the “wall of fame” which now encompasses almost the entire wall.

The photos show patients, volunteers, and friends. Each person, each photo is a unique story, and part of God and a story of a gospel of love.

These are people you and I would never have a chance to meet. They are volunteers in my profession who I would never know or know the depth of their caring, healing, loving abilities.

These are the faces seen on the streets, in the store, and behind the scenes cooking and cleaning, building, and repairing. You won't see them in church— because they don't have “church clothes.” These are people who usually have a home and generally have a low paying job. They have trouble getting to appointments on time because if they do not work, they do not eat. Many do not have a reliable means of transportation. If you have a bus token but cannot read, you do not reach your destination.

If you can't pay for a doctor's office visit, you don't go. If you have some medicine, you ration it to make it last longer. It is really difficult initially to understand that our clinic is here to provide the things you cannot afford until you can afford them.



The “Wall of Fame”

This is the face of poverty. This is the widow who gave her last two coins to the synagogue. In the reality of poverty sharing with others is a reality. Our patients are generous to those in need, that is, someone worse off than themselves at the moment. We are blessed to know and serve entire families and/or households until they are able to provide for themselves. This year we expect to exceed 300 individual patients. The mark of an effective free medical/dental clinic is having greater than 50% turnover of patients annually. Each year we exceed that.

One reward of serving here is seeing “graduates” return and tell us they have insurance and have been doing well. Some cry when they are ready to move into mainstream medical care. Sometimes we cry when we see suffering.

Mostly, we are glad to serve God in His clinic.



## Family







Our Staff; the Craniotomy team

**Services provided and paid for by the Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing**

- Screening vital signs including three month average blood sugar.
- Laboratory service, including drawing specimens evaluating results.
- Vision screening and glasses as needed.
- EKG
- Ultrasound
- Women’s wellness
- Health education for hypertension and diabetes especially
- Referral to specialists and assisting with co-pays.
- Multiple language interpretation
- Write and pay for prescriptions and for over-the-counter medication.
- A cheerful listening ear and a prayer if needed.




# Dental

**What our patients are saying...**

“You all are wonderful care takers. Thank you”	
“Su amabilidad gracias” (thank you for your kindness.)	“It was a great experience”
	“I received wonderful care here at the Rose Garden.”
“Easy to make an appointment given you are only open when someone is available.”	
“After being on a waiting list for 1 1/2 years, I’m finally getting appointments at a frequency that is acceptable.”	



As you can see from our surveys, our patients are truly appreciative of our volunteer dentists and hygienists, from whom they are receiving exceptional care. The need for dental services is only growing– we typically receive a few calls every day from new patients inquiring about dental help! We are truly in need of more dental professionals to help care for the smiles of God’s people. If you are interested in volunteering a few hours of your time and skill, please contact us! (859)261-0323 or [rghmclinic@gmail.com](mailto:rghmclinic@gmail.com)



The Franciscan Daughters of Mary  
wish you and your family a

# Blessed Christmas and a Joyful New Year!

The sisters will offer 8 days of prayer for you and your intentions this  
Christmas Octave.  
Our Lord give You His Peace!



If you would like to make an online donation, please see our Vanco account at:  
<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z&CN/home> or scan the QR code at left.  
Thanks for your support!

Artwork: "Godhead here in hiding..." by Sr Veronica Mary, fdm