

Franciscan Daughters of Mary

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Rose Garden Home Mission

Friends of the Rose Garden

Rose Garden Center for Hope & Healing

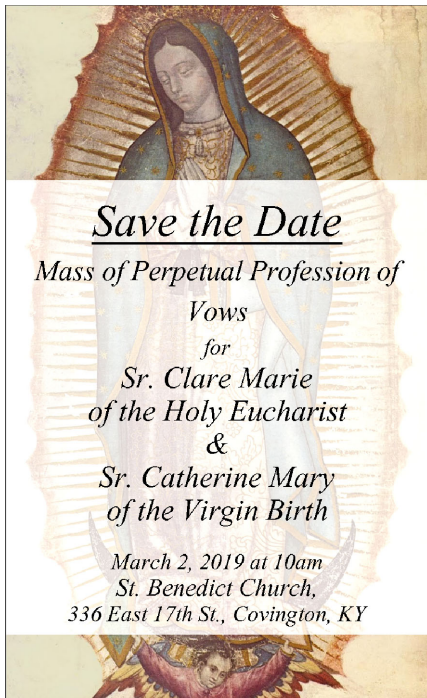
Winter 2018

Spiritual Motherhood

As I kneel here at 5am in Adoration before the sun rises, my heart is filled with so many thoughts on Spiritual Motherhood.

Mother Theresa told America, 'Give me your unwanted children.' She said, 'The Sisters and I will take them. We will love them.' (1994 National Prayer Breakfast, Washington, DC) What gave Mother Theresa the right to claim all the world's unwanted children as her own? It was by virtue of her vow of chastity which enables a religious sister to be a faithful spouse to Jesus Christ; this gives her the freedom to love all of His sons and daughters, to take them in to her heart and love them as He loves them.

I heard a recording by Bishop



Save the Date
Mass of Perpetual Profession of
Vows
for
Sr. Clare Marie
of the Holy Eucharist
&
Sr. Catherine Mary
of the Virgin Birth
March 2, 2019 at 10am
St. Benedict Church,
336 East 17th St., Covington, KY



Sheen in which he says for a woman to be a true mother, she must care for more than just the body, she must also care for the soul of each child as they are formed and shaped. This is the heart of Spiritual Motherhood, to love our spiritual children unconditionally for the benefit of each soul as we participate with God in "birthing" souls in to Eternity! What



a grace! What great dignity! And we, like natural Mothers, even have our share of crosses that we bear for our spiritual children.

One spiritual son who comes to mind is "Manny." Manny was an orphan as a child that was never adopted. His gruff exterior and boisterous personality - likely scare some people away - but I was patient and kind (and unafraid) toward him each time he came in. I can't explain it, but there was just



something endearing about him, a kind of sadness that made me believe he didn't have a friend in the world. I would show him tenderness and kindness and even go out of my way to give him my time or give him something extra.

One day he brought me a clock that was rather dirty, but had a picture of Jesus on it. He may have found it in the trash, but that didn't matter to me, I felt like the Mom who is so very grateful for the bouquet of dandelions her son picked for her! So I cleaned it up, gave it fresh batteries and hung it on the wall

where people coming in could see it. He would look for that clock every time he came to the Mission, and even noticed it had moved one day when sister put it in the food room to replace a broken clock. We promptly put it back where it belonged.



He would seek me out every time he visited us (and still does) and I always do my best, even when inconvenient, to give him that personal touch he needs. I pray daily for my spiritual son, rejoice when things are going well, have compassion when he has a problem and help in any way I can. I love him, and thank God constantly for the great privilege of being his spiritual Mother.

A little girl followed Sister around the mission staring at her. Finally she came up and asked her "Are you Jesus' sister?"

So many of the children and adults - because Spiritual Mothers are not limited by the age of their "adopted" children - are broken from past hurts or lack of wholesome nurturing. It is a matter of the heart, the hearts of our spiritual children.



Through the Vows we profess to Our Lord of Poverty, Chastity, Obedience and to uphold the Dignity of every human person we understand that it is a Mother's love that opens a heart and allows Our Lord to begin the healing.



We, the Daughters of Mary, learn from Our Heavenly Mother how to carry souls in our hearts and bring them to Christ until they are born into everlasting life.

Over the years, many people of all walks of life have come through our door. There are elderly who just feel alone, like no one cares about them or remembers them. They wait all weekend for us to open so they can come and experience true love.

There are children who have no one waiting for them when they come home from school because their parent or caretaker is always working. There are children who you could probably guess have not been treated according to their great dignity as sons & daughters of God. There are mentally and spiritually handicapped individuals with whom society is not patient. They all come, not just for what they can get materially but because they long to be listened to, appreciated, and loved.

Some of these beautiful souls will always be little children. They teach me to be selfless, which is the primary requisite of truly loving another. Our friends and neighbors need our compassion so they may see the great dignity they have in the Heart of God. They need to know that they too are worthy of love.



HOLIDAY HELP NEEDED

2018 Thanksgiving Give-Away—Tuesday, 11/20

Set-Up Days—Nov. 16, 17, 19

To donate toward the purchase of turkeys: checks payable to Rose Garden Mission, PO Box 122070, Covington, KY 41012 (write "Turkey" in memo)

2018 Christmas Give-Away—Thurs. 12/20

Set-Up Days—Dec. 14, 15, 17, 18, 19

Sign up online:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0948A8AE23A2F58-thanksgiving3>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0948A8AE23A2F58-christmas2>

****ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST BE VIRTUS COMPLIANT****

Virtus Training at the Mission

Mon. 11/19 at 6:30pm

Register online: www.virtus.org
Click on "First Time Registrant"
and follow prompts

Questions: rgmhelpers@gmail.com



That they may see
your good works
and give glory to God



"I felt God's presence when we brought our 6th graders down to the RGM" -A man who sat next to Sister on the plane

I walk 20 blocks from the river every day that you're open, because this is my "happy place." I love you guys!
-a homeless woman

Dear Sisters and Volunteers,
Thank you for your Mission in Covington. My brother suffered a severe brain injury in 2013...Now living with my parents, your Mission has served not only to meet the physical needs of my brother and his 2 girls, but also his spiritual and emotional need to contribute something to the household. He qualifies for many programs, but he told me that he's most comfortable coming there because it's no questions asked and there's no judgement. Thank you for being there for him in this way and for all you do to show love to your neighbor and solidarity with them. God bless you.
- a Neighbor



A man walks into the mission who looked like he had just gone through a rough time and was at the end of his rope. We gave him 1/2 a cherry pie and a smile. Later, he came to the counter upset because someone had just stolen his pie. Sister looked in the food window and there was a whole cherry pie sitting there. So she gave it to him and said calmly, "Sometimes God allows evil to happen to make an even greater good come from it." The man's face lit up with a smile and he walked out.



A man came into the mission and donated a beautiful statue of The Holy Family's flight into Egypt. He said "I'm actually an atheist, But I saw this statue and thought 'This should go to the Sisters.'"



There aren't a lot of places that can help people without going through a lot of loops and hurdles. But you can just walk in here and get help, you don't discriminate who you are, color, shape, size or anything. I'm blessed and thankful for you!

Mission Needs

- * Car seats, pack & plays, strollers (new or excellent condition)
- * Diapers 5's & 6's
- * Toddler clothing, sizes 2T-6T (new or excellent condition)
- * Toiletries for Moms to go with the Baby Baskets
- * Baby Food & Formula
- * Toiletries for Homeless
- * Afternoon or After School Volunteers to help clean up at the end of the day



The days you are closed, I feel like I'm missing something.



Seeing you, and talking with you'all makes my day that much more joyful!

Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing

Health Ministry / Free Clinic
Medical Dental

There are many parts but one Body.

by Sheila Carroll, APRN

Each must do their part with the gifts/talents God has given to them.

At a recent financial transaction, the accountant asked what my profession was. When I told her how long I have been a Nurse Practitioner, her answer came back quickly, "Well, you make a lot of money." The Christian couple I was with drew a breath and exchanged looks. I said, "I have been a Nurse Practitioner volunteer for the past 9 years at the Rose Garden Home Mission.

Her look was one of utter disbelief as she said, "Why would you do that?"

It's not the first time I have been asked that question. Perhaps this question was due to putting money over God and relationship. Perhaps she never experienced the joy of just giving from the heart the gifts you have been given.



So, why do I do I volunteer at the Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing? The world needs Hope - Hope based in love of God and neighbor. This world, most especially, needs Healing. Healing of body, and of spirit.

We recently lost a patient who had multiple serious medical problems. Bob came in weekly, sometimes just to sit in the waiting room and talk with us, sometimes to come to the exam room and talk about different things in his life. I asked him once about God and belief. His Christianity came

pouring forth in a gentle and humble way, talking about his nightly prayer and making sure he (on a very limited budget) had been able to help someone that day.



Another patient who has a cardiac stent brought his brother in to be seen. His brother had a recent cardiac arrest and has no insurance. Both need expensive medication which we were able to provide through a national non-profit.

What happens when you have no insurance and live on \$753.00 monthly? Rents in our neighborhood average \$500.00. People come to "The Sisters" for baby items, food and other practical items. They come to the clinics for medicine and treatment.

Not only do patients receive Hope and Healing, but this applies to volunteer staff also – myself included.

How does it feel to see tears of happiness when we sing happy birthday and give a sweet treat to

our patient? How does it feel for a patient to hug and thank you for being their medical provider? What do you think?

Why would I work for free? Why not?!

A nurse mentioned one Tues. that our self-inflating blood pressure cuff just stopped working and it was hard to pump the manual cuff all day long for Healthy Tues. The next week we were donated a self-inflating blood pressure cuff out of the blue just before we opened for Healthy Tues. God providing for His people!

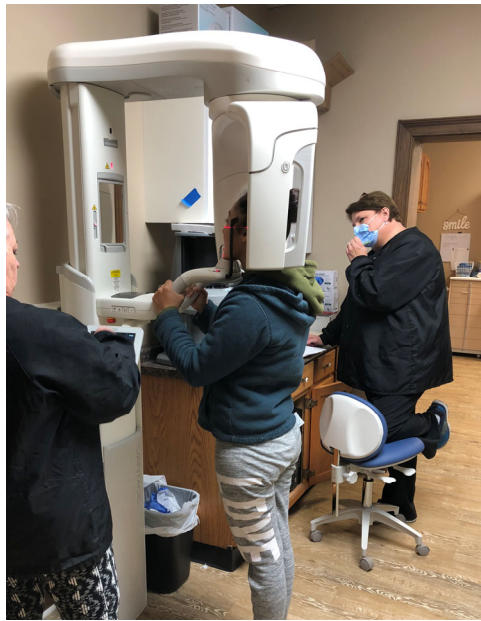


American Association of Nurse Practitioners presents Sheila Carroll, APRN with certificate for Nurse Practitioner of the Year for her work with the Center for Hope & Healing.





Sheila & Mother with the Plaque for earning Nurse Practitioner of the Year



A Panorex provides the Dentist with full-view x-ray images of the upper & lower jaws, TMJ & sinuses.



Our new Dental Chair and Panorex!!



Everything is so organized and clean!

What I like best is how you all show love for people who come in.

I can't believe the kindness and respect you show; there are not enough words.



I feel like the staff was great! They put my mind and nerves at ease and Dentist Dan was fantastic!

I really like that the whole staff is very honest and polite and explained everything to me so I could understand.

After being told we needed to draw blood for a test, a patient said, "You can do whatever you want, nobody has ever treated me so good."



Comfortable surroundings. Pleasant personnel. I would recommend this dentist to even my grandchildren.

Dr. Dan and his assistant were so very kind and caring. Wish everyone was like them!



Coming here is just like visiting a friend.



A very good experience with very kind and compassionate people

Friends of the Rose Garden Mission



"I wish I had a Rose Garden Mission to help me when I was younger." Star Parker told attendees at the Annual Partners in Hope for the Poor Dinner.

Building up the Kingdom, The Body of Christ

"When I walked through the doors of the Rose Garden Mission, I could feel God's presence. Just like all of these people in the lobby who stepped off of the street into this refuge..." Star Parker exclaimed at the 2018 Partners in Hope for the Poor Annual Dinner, after touring the facilities at the RGM earlier that day.

When Star was younger, she could have fit in well with the neighbors we help at the Mission. Then through someone she met who showed her the love of Jesus, she came into a relationship with the Lord and came to understand her great God-given dignity. She also came to know that she didn't have to be a slave to public assistance if only she made a few changes in her life. She gave an extremely moving and powerful pro-life testimony.

The Dinner Honoree this year was Rose Garden volunteer and good friend of the Sisters' Judy Hoffmeister.



Judy accepts the Partners in Hope Award from Mother Seraphina

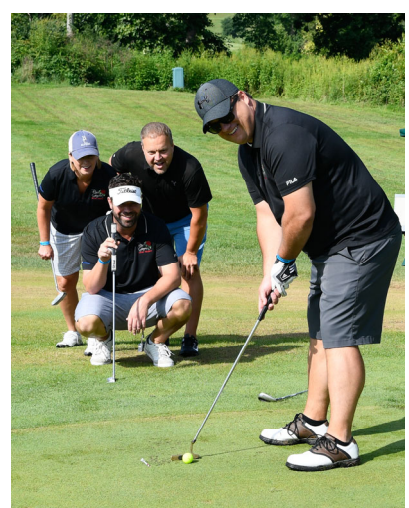
Judy, Board Member of the Friends of the Rose Garden, is Mother Seraphina's right hand in the business office. From accounting, data-base management, acknowledgements, mailings, etc., to the Dinner & Golf Outing's financial transactions, assistance with the silent auction, all of the follow-ups, acknowledgements, etc. Judy, with all of her God-given gifts, helps everything run more smoothly!



The sisters greet good friend Roger Baik at the Partners in Hope for the Poor Annual Dinner

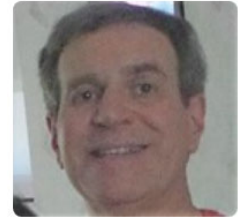


*Many hands went in to making our Golf Outing the huge success it was!! Above is the committee that organized it all under the leadership of Cindy Biecker (directly above Mother S.).
God bless each one for a job well done!!*



Members of the Blue Star team support each other on a critical shot!

R equiescet in Pace



Pictured second from the left on January 22, 2016, the auspicious day when the Friends gave Heritage Bank the last of the Mortgage for the Mission's property.

On October 15, 2018, the Friends of the Rose Garden lost one of our original Board Members to colon cancer. Shawn McCormick, a self-employed lawyer, volunteer of the Rose Garden Mission, drew up all of the legal documents erecting the Friends of the Rose Garden Mission and helped the Franciscan Daughters of Mary and the Friends of the Rose Garden with all of the paperwork pertaining to their tax-exempt status. He will truly be missed.

Eternal rest grant unto him, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace!

R ose Garden Repairs & Improvements!!



Moving donated equipment



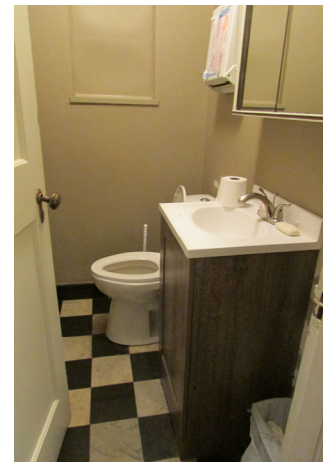
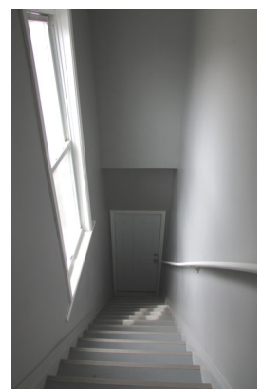
Painting the exterior
Before After



Installing new brighter lights



Sr. Clare covers up where the roof has leaked in to the Mission so we may control the "drip spots." Plans are in the works to replace the roof.



New commode and sink for the guest bathrooms at the Mission

Mission Cuties!



We are very grateful to God for the gift you are to us!

It is through your prayers and donations that the Franciscan Daughters of Mary are able to serve God in the Northern KY & Greater Cincinnati area!

In addition to our daily prayers for you, once per month Mass is offered in our convent chapel for your intentions.

*May God abundantly bless you for all of the ways you love Our Lord through your kindness toward us.
~Mother Seraphina & the Sisters*

Ways to Give

- Cash/Check
- PayPal (www.f dofmary.org)
- Stock or CD Transfer / Bequest / Legacy Gift through Estate Planning (friendsrghm@gmail.com)



Please keep us in mind as you consider your year-end giving



The easiest & cheapest way to donate to the Rose Garden Mission: Kroger's Supermarkets
The Mission receives Rewards when you use your store card

Last Quarter \$623.84 received!!! THANK YOU!!!

To enroll:

- go to: www.krogercommunityrewards.com
- click on Cincinnati, Ohio
- enter NPO # 82777
- designate Rose Garden Home Mission for the rewards

Then, when you shop using the Kroger Plus Card, the Rose Garden will receive a reward check each quarter
This in no way interferes with the fuel points rewards
Any questions can be directed to Mother Seraphina.

Thank you! God bless you!