

Franciscan Daughters of Mary

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Rose Garden Home Mission
Friends of the Rose Garden Mission
Rose Garden Center for Hope & Healing
Medical / Dental

Summer/Fall 2024

The Power of Kindness

Of all the work we do at the Rose Garden, the most important is loving our neighbor. We always tell our new volunteers and visitors that the first thing we do here at the Rose Garden is give people the Love of Jesus Christ. We have witnessed time and again how much simple acts of kindness mean. It really doesn't take much. A smile, a warm greeting, a gesture of genuine concern. This upholds the dignity of the human person in a demographic where that is sorely lacking.

A neighbor once shared with us that she had never met anyone who was genuinely loving. "I never knew people like you existed! I would watch the Brady Bunch or some other wholesome family



TV show and think it's all fantasy because real people aren't like that. But you all are interested in me, you really care, and the sisters are always joyful! That's when I knew I need to go to your church."

One woman recently said to us, "Thank you so much for helping me, for letting the volunteers help me... my own family doesn't even help at all, not even my own dad. It just means a lot to me. I've never met people before who were so kindhearted."

Another neighbor told us not too long ago that she used to be a drug addict. When we asked how long ago she stopped using, she said it was about 6 years ago. We were greatly surprised by this, because we've known her for about 14 years! So



we asked what made her quit. She replied, "You all! I came here, and you sisters and the volunteers were kind and prayed with me. You really cared about me. So I thought maybe I should care about me too - so I stopped using."

There is one man who comes to the mission almost every day who never makes eye-contact. He speaks well, but very little. He never smiles, gets offended very easily, and sometimes just stomps off mumbling. He always leaves a note on the counter, and the notes never make sense. We'll call him Bobby.

We have just been patient and kind to him all these years, and he is starting to warm up to us. In fact, a few weeks ago, Bobby came up to the counter and handed sister a note with real names on it and said "Here. For the prayers." Sister was very impressed and told him we would put them on the prayer list. When she returned to the counter, Bobby had already left. His customary note was lying there, but this time it said "Bobby Jacobs, 50th."

Sister understood this to mean that his birthday was coming up, and he wanted



us to know. Whenever someone has birthday we always sing to them, and if we find a cake or some other special treat, we give it to them. There have even been a few folks who told us that we gave them the first birthday cake they ever had!

The next day when Bobby came up to the counter, we brought out a birthday cake and sang to him. This man, who NEVER smiles, was having a really hard time hiding the smile that kept peeking out. He even said "Thank you!" and keeps coming back every day, always with a few names "for the prayers."

One day this summer, we passed some children selling water on the corner. When sister explained that she didn't have any money, the little boys looked so disappointed that she decided to bring them some candy. When she returned, one of them looked shyly at the candy and asked "How much does it cost?" "Nothing! It's free, because Jesus Loves You!" she replied. He was so excited, he gave sister a big hug and ran to his friends shouting "Hey guys! Sister has candy and it's free because Jesus Loves us!!"

There are so many people out there that don't know that Jesus Loves them—they don't know that anyone loves them. They have never received a truly free gift, or experienced unconditional and un-earned love. Some people have been so wounded that they are even suspicious for a while toward the sisters.

But we have found that a little kindness and a little time can make the hardest hearts begin to soften, and the gruffest faces begin to lighten up.

You Are Invited
25th Anniversary Mass
for the
Franciscan Daughters
of Mary

Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption
10/4/2024 6pm



National Eucharistic Revival



We were so blessed to participate in the National Eucharistic Revival! The Seton route of the National Pilgrimage passed through Cincinnati, just across the river from Covington - and the sisters got to join in the procession several times. The high point for us was when the people gathered in Fountain Square, downtown Cincinnati to honor and celebrate our Lord's presence in the Blessed Sacrament, what a magnificent opportunity to give witness to Our faith!!

The 4 Eucharistic processions began at 4 points, North, East, South and West, each walking toward the middle with the four routes converging in the shape of a cross. It was in a very real way Our Lord giving a Benediction over the entire nation!

Two weeks later, it was a particular grace to have been able to attend the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis! Jesus in the Eucharist is truly the Heart and Soul of our lives! The highlight being the Eucharistic Procession through downtown Indianapolis with 53,000 Bishops, priests, Religious and lay faithful processing to the WWII War Memorial for Adoration and Benediction.

On the second day, Bishop Cozzens gave a presentation on "Walking With One." Basically, *Identify* someone that God inspires through prayer, *Intercede* for this person and all of their needs, *Connect* with them in friendship and *Invite* them to a deeper relationship with Jesus and His Church. It is his firm belief that in bringing this person to Christ, we can evangelize the whole world, one person at a time.

After the presentation, the sisters were extremely encouraged, for these are the very things that the Lord has inspired us to in our Ministry! Praise the *LORD!* 🎵



25 Years!



This year marks the 25th Anniversary of our Community's Founding!

As we celebrate these 25th years, we are so grateful to God for all that He has done for us and all that He has done through us. This year is also the 20th year Anniversary of our establishment in Covington, KY.

Beginning in New Jersey under the tutelage of Fr. Mariusz Koch, CFR and Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR, we began to grow. With the permission of the Archbishop, we received permission to find a suitable convent to move in to. We soon discovered, however, that there were no available convents in New Jersey that weren't being reused

for some profitable purpose. So we asked and received permission to begin looking in to other Diocese. We began writing to several Bishops in the US whom we knew had a heart for the Pro-Life issues.

In the interim, the sisters went on pilgrimage to Italy, and while visiting Monte Casino we asked St. Benedict to intercede for us in finding a home.

Several Bishops responded to our letters, and when we prayed about it, we felt that the Lord was saying "Go to Kentucky." Bishop Foys gratefully welcomed us, and asked if we'd like to live in the country or in the city. We told him we would like to live in the city so that we could live among the people we would be serving. Bishop Foys took us right to St. Benedict's convent. St Benedict found us a home!

**Please join us for an Anniversary Mass - October 4th, 6pm at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption
Reception to follow at St. Joseph's convent. All are welcome!**



Facepainting "Holy images" at the National Eucharistic Congress



Mother gives a talk on fasting for "Catholics United for the Faith"



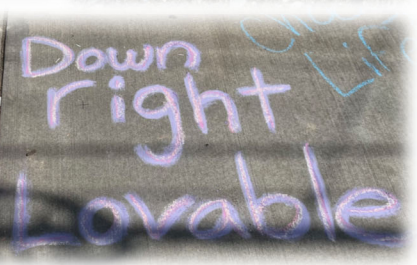
Sr. Clare has perfect form at the Damascus youth retreat jumping



Sr. Therese on the organ for Mass at St. Benedict's

Creative Ways to Serve the Lord

Sisters occasionally do "Chalk Paintings" of cute babies with prolife messages and information for help on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood.



Did you know there is a pro-life phone company?

Charity Mobile donates 5% of each monthly bill to the pro-life charity of your choice; over the last 30 years they have donated over 2 million dollars to pro-life charities! If you choose "Franciscan Daughters of Mary-KY" as your charity, Charity Mobile will donate 5% of your monthly bill to us! Visit charitymobile.com to get started!

Rose Garden

HOME MISSION



"They are always so helpful! I recommend you to this place if ever in need of food or hygiene or things your baby may need—they are wonderful"



"Very compassionate about serving our community."



"The sisters are so kind and judgement free. Out here doing Gods work"



Everyone was so helpful & kind, they were a huge help when we went to see them before our baby arrived. Recommended a young lady who was expecting to go. Ever since it's definitely worth stopping in.



Benefit Concert

The Catholic Order of Foresters, along with Steve and Debbie Mueller, sponsored two "Concerts for Hope" by Eric Genuis earlier this year. Eric writes his own music and travels the country offering "Concerts for hope" in prisons, inner city schools and other communities in need of Hope.

The concerts were held in St Augustine church here in Covington, in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord.

In between the individual songs, Eric shared stories from his ministry and insights about the importance of beautiful music in our lives. He also talked about how beauty helps to lift our hearts and minds to God and can help us achieve a sense of hope. This is why Fr. Shoemaker, pastor, lit the candles on the altar and chose to leave the Blessed Sacrament in the main tabernacle— something that is not customarily done when a church is hosting a non-liturgical event.

The free concerts were offered for our neighbors in need and the school children at St Augustine's, as well as our friends and volunteers at the Rose Garden. Eric, writer and pianist, works with different musicians from around the country and brought with him a violinist, a cellist, and a vocalist.

The music was indescribably beautiful. A collection was taken at the second concert for the Rose Garden and we are very grateful! Thank you so much to The Foresters, Steve and Debbie Mueller, Eric, the musicians, and all who made this event possible!

There is a little boy who has lived across from the mission most of his life. His mom comes to us for food and diapers frequently, and he likes to come and ask for chocolate. He has been around the sisters and volunteers since before he was born, and now he is about 10yrs old.
One Friday-a day that we are not open- he was just wandering around the parking lot . We happened to be there and asked him how he was and what he was doing. He was just fine. He just wanted to walk around and get a good look at everything, "...because when I become a Brother, I'm going to help take care of the grounds and clean up and everything, you know."

Mission Needs:

- Toddler Clothes - 2T, 3T, 4T, 5T, 6
- Diapers - Sizes 6, 4/5T Pullups



Sister Catherine sitting on our new "Trex" bench made with YOUR recycled grocery bags!

Thanksgiving and Christmas

Last year, we gave away 525 Turkeys at our annual Thanksgiving Giveaway. At our Christmas Giveaway, We gave bags of toys to 1028 kids- a new record! We also were also blessed to be able to provide a turkey or ham for each family! THANK YOU for your help!



Whether you donate time, talent or funding, you are making a beautiful difference in the lives of the people we serve here at the Rose Garden. We rely 100% on donations and volunteers. and without you, there wouldn't be a Rose Garden!

THANK YOU!!!!!!!



Mercy on Madison!

Sr. Veronica painted a 12' x 9' Divine Mercy image on the side of the Clinic Building on Madison Ave. The painting was blessed on June 25th, which was also her sister, Samantha's Birthday!



Jesus, I Trust In You



God's Amazing Providence

About a month ago, one of the sisters was driving down a steep hill and the brakes gave out! She quickly turned into the nearest parking lot and no one was hurt.

The lot happened in front of one of the low income housing units. A woman, we will call her Jan, came out who has been coming to the mission for years, but we hadn't seen her for a while. Sister asked how she and her brother were doing and she explained that *she* was OK, but her brother's throat cancer had taken a turn for the worse and he was not well at all. She had been trying to get him down to the mission because they wanted to pray with Mother, but he was just too weak.

Sister called Mother over and the woman was able to bring her brother outside to pray! While waiting for the tow truck, we learned that they were Catholics. They'd been going to the Cathedral, but hadn't been there for quite a while.

Being that we were 2 blocks away from St. Augustine's, Mother called Fr. Shoemaker and arranged for Jan's brother to get an Anointing.

The next day we got a call from the repair shop. The man said "Mother, there is nothing wrong with the brakes on this car."

We know why it happened! Because the brakes mysteriously gave out at that exact time and location, this man was able to be re-united to Jesus! He died a few weeks later, just after being anointed. God is always watching our for His Children.

To Safeguard Everyone's Dignity, Proper Attire is Required for ALL Volunteers

Men & Women



- Shirts must have sleeves
- No low cut necklines
- Underclothes must be covered

- Shorts must be knee length, no "legging" shorts



- No low rise or dropping pants



- Skirts must be BELOW the knee

- "Leggings must be covered by appropriate length skirts or shorts



"Modesty protects the intimate center of the person. It means refusing to unveil what should remain hidden. It guides how one looks at others and behaves toward them in conformity with the dignity of persons. Modesty protects the mystery of persons and their love." Catechism of the Catholic Church 2521-2



March for Life 2024



This year's March for Life in DC was a great experience for the teens, and everyone else involved! Every year the DC trip provides many opportunities for learning, witnessing and fun through prayer, pro-life education, historical site-seeing and peer fellowship.

Our group consisted of 14 teens and 8 adults, and we were very blessed that Fr. Jim Schaeper was able to join us as our chaplain this year!

Some of the things we experienced were taking a walking tour of DC, attending the "March for Life Expo," touring the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America and going to the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception for the Holy Hour for Life and Vigil Mass.

We participated in "Life Fest"- a youth event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Sisters of Life, followed by the National March for Life Rally and the March for Life itself. The next day we went to the National Pro-life summit- a day-long conference in which teens learn about a variety of pro-life topics presented by national pro-life speakers. Everyone had a great time and learned many things!



Pictures clockwise from upper right: March for Life Expo with Kelly Lester, arms spread at the base of the Washington Monument, in front of the National Basilica, Sr. Clare on the "March"

Mary's Pro-life Bootcamp 2024



Bootcamp 2024

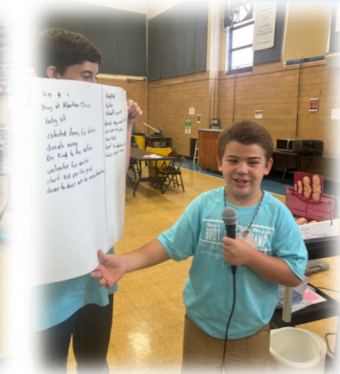
Our 2024 Bootcamps were AWESOME!!!

The High school Bootcamp had 12 participants and was held at Holy Cross High School. The five day retreat included Morning PT, Daily Mass, Morning and Evening prayer, Local and National Speakers, Sports tournaments, Pro-life movie night, Fun and games, and Hands-on experience—serving at the Mission, Praying at Planned Parenthood and visiting a cemetery for the Unborn.

This year we held our first a **Bootcamp Jr** for Middle schoolers! This two day retreat (not overnight) and was held at St Augustine's School. 13 students attended. Jr Boot Camp included Daily Mass, prayer, local pro-life speakers, crafts, games, prayer at Planned Parenthood, and the highlight of the weekend—*a live ultrasound!* Cincinnati Right to Life came to speak to the youth and brought their mobile ultrasound van. A friend of ours who is pregnant with twins graciously allowed the students to get a sneak peek at her little boy and girl! Some of the teens who took part in the high school retreat this year volunteered to be “Special Forces Jr.” and helped run the event for the middle schoolers.



Junior Bootcamp!



Bootcamp Drill

Before the end of the Highschool Bootcamp, the students are asked to make a personal commitment to some Pro-Life activity— this could be a commitment to pray the Rosary everyday for the end of abortion, to volunteer at a Pregnancy Center once a month, to wear Pro-Life T-Shirts to school – it is entirely up to their choosing.

When Autumn rolls around, we have a “Bonfire Reunion” where the students can share about how their commitment is going and brain storm on ideas for future events together. At one of these Bonfires, “Bootcamp Drill” was born—it was the Students’ idea! “Bootcamp Drill” is a monthly event during which teens pray the Rosary, attend Mass, have a potluck dinner, listen to a presentation on Pro-Life Apologetics and then just play games and have fun together. It has been a big hit, and we have even had students join who have not yet attended one of our Bootcamp Retreats!

The Students surprised the Sisters a couple of weeks following Bootcamp this year—the teens coordinated a service day entirely on their own! They spontaneously appeared at the Rose Garden Mission with chaperones and stayed all day to help! It is so beautiful to see the impact Mary’s pro-life bootcamp in the lives of these young people, fulfilling one of the goals of Mary’s Pro-Life Bootcamp in forming Pro-Life leader among the Teens and Young Adults, helping them to grow into the everyday Pro-Life heroes our world so desperately needs!

Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing

Health Ministry / Free Clinic

"Super friendly and organized. Everything is just perfect. Keep doing the good work for humanity."

"They take time with each person and fully explain everything to you. They are caring, compassionate, and truly gifted. I cannot say enough about our clinic."

During 2023, more than 30 health professionals volunteered their time and services at our clinic. With 771 individual appointments, we saw 285 patients, 177 (67%) of whom were new to our clinic. We paid for \$8,900 in prescriptions, and \$19,000 in lab fees for our patients. We distributed 10 glucose sensors/meters and **performed 41, 4-D ultrasounds**. We hosted St. Elizabeth's Mammogram Mobile to provide free mammograms, and we paid for 56 eye exams and 30 pairs of glasses. In addition, we had 1,024 visits to our "Health Ministries" program!



"Thank you for being wonderful and caring. I love all of you and wish you all the best. Thank you for helping me get on track with my health. God bless all of you."

"I cannot say enough good about Sheila Carroll and her team at Rose Garden. They saved my life! Had a serious blockage in my heart that was giving me pain and now after some medical work, I feel like a new person. The ladies at Rose Garden are truly angels. Thanks so much for your time, attention, and caring. I am forever in your gratitude."



As members of the National Association of Free and Charitable clinics (NAFC), The Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing was honored with NAFC's **"Gold Standard"** for the 4th year in a row!

The Gold Standard represents the highest achievement in administration, policies, and breadth and delivery of patient services.



"I work but cannot afford insurance. This place is wonderful. It is the first time I have been able to see a doctor regularly in 3 years. Thank you to all of the people that work here."

"You made me feel like a real person."

Dental

*"The dentist was very kind and informative. No pain!
I'm fortunate to be a patient! Thank you all very much."*

*"Appointments here are like going to heaven. Thanks so much for
everything. I really appreciate the help!"*

Since we began providing dental services in 2017, We have provided free, professional oral care to several hundred men and women! In 2023 we had 126 dental appointments. We saw 67 patients, 39 of whom had never visited us before. We provided 73 X-rays, 48 fillings, 22 extractions and 72 cleanings!

We are very blessed to have several "dental teams" of dentists, hygienists, and assistants who serve when they can, and we are SO grateful! So many people in our community are in need of dental care and our waiting list is long. We are always looking for both active and retired dental professionals to volunteer a few hours of your time and skill -entirely at your convenience. Call or email to discuss details!
(859)261-0323 or rghmclinic@gmail.com

*The cavity treatment was a straightforward procedure. I really
enjoyed the visit of a sister— it was nice talking to her.*

*"Rita [the receptionist] is a very kind and caring person and
takes great care of her patients."*



Friends of the Rose Garden

Partners in Hope for the Poor

Over 400 people attended the Friends of the Rose Garden's Partners in Hope Dinner this year—a new record! The June 6th event was held at “Receptions” in Erlanger, KY, and the keynote speaker this year was Mr. Christopher Bell. Mr. Bell is the co-founder of “Good Counsel Pregnancy Homes,” which he and the late Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR began in 1985 in the Bronx section of New York City. Good Counsel now has four Homes in New York & New Jersey, and they *never* turn away a mom in need.

Chris gave a beautiful and moving presentation, reflecting on God's Love for each individual person and sharing stories from his own experience in ministering to mothers in need.

Mr. Bell is a man of conviction, who with his wife, Joan Andrews-Bell and seven children—six of whom were adopted—enmesh in their own lives what it means to have a true Pro-Life spirit. Please pray for Joan as she is currently serving a jail sentence for here Pro-Life work.



the area of the Mission that became the Center for Hope & Healing.

Bishop Iffert shared some reflections, and really moved everyone by closing the evening with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's D-Day Prayer. Modifying the prayer slightly, he explained how much of it can be applied to the Sisters as well as the daily battles of spiritual warfare.

It was a truly beautiful and grace-filled evening! We want to give a big THANK YOU to the Dinner Committee and all who pitched in to make this event such an enjoyable time for all.



Larry and Kay Sendalbach were our honorees this year. Larry and Kay have been supporters and helpers of the Rose Garden Home Mission from it's very beginning. In fact, it was Larry's deliveries of Pizza that really started the Mission's food pantry!

Among their prolife and pro-family work, Larry and Kay promoted the Northern Kentucky Cemetery of the innocents and hand made around 4,200 white cross to be placed on the lawns of churches throughout NKY as a reminder of the lives lost through abortion. Larry is also a life-long member of the Knights of Columbus, and did much of the carpentry and remodeling in



Rev. Christopher Komoroski,



Drew Bamburger—Action and Commitment



Dinner Committee, Honored Guests and Friends of the Rose Garden Board Members



Mother presents the award to the Sendalbachs

Building Progress

Even though we had several delays from the city, we are really seeing the building start to come to life! Since our last newsletter, the second floor was erected, the exterior was finished, windows installed, sprinkler system and insulation completed and right now we are working on drywalling and other interior details.

As many of you know, the pandemic caused us to begin serving our neighbors outside. Then, with the building being erected, we are staying outside until completed. The sisters are truly looking forward to the day that the neighbors can be invited back in!! We are told that this may happen by October. Please pray for this intention.



The Friends of the Rose Garden Mission
invite you to the

ELEVENTH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Friday, August 23rd, 2024
Registration begins at 8am

4 person 18 hole scramble
Kenton County Golf Courses
3908 Richardson Road | Independence, KY
www.rosegardenmissiongolf.com





Thank You!

*The sisters consider you a member of our family and we are truly grateful for you!
Your prayers, support and volunteer work are what make the works of the Franciscan Daughters of Mary and the Rose Garden Mission possible.
Together, we make something beautiful for God!
You are remembered each day in our prayers.*

*The Lord Bless you and keep you!
The Lord set His Face upon you and be gracious to you!
The Lord look upon you kindly and grant you His peace!
-Mother Seraphina and the Sisters*



Due to PayPal's hostility to Pro-life issues and recent policy changes, the Franciscan Daughters of Mary, the Rose Garden Mission and the Friends of the Rose Garden no longer utilize their services.

If you would like to make an online donation, please see our Vanco account:
~On our website; www.f dofmary.org
~Direct address: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z8CN/home>
~Or scan the QR code at left.

God bless you for your generosity!