

# Franciscan Daughters of Mary

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Spring 2019

The sisters have celebrated a milestone this year! **Twenty years of living out the Evangelical Counsels and Upholding the Dignity of every human person from the moment of conception until natural death!!**



*Mother Seraphina and Sr. Mary Joseph are planting our first convent garden with the neighborhood children*

February 2, 1999, on the feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, the religious community of the Franciscan Daughters of Mary was born in the Archdiocese of Newark.

We opened up a crisis pregnancy center, the Rose Garden, where we assisted local moms with making good choices in their pregnancies, their relationships and their lives. We also offered material assistance for whatever their babies needed and food for them and all of their family members whenever it was donated to us.

When we began gaining members, Archbishop John J. Meyers gave us permission to find a convent to move in to, but after searching the archdiocese, we couldn't find one convent that was suitable for our needs.

With the Archbishop's blessing, we wrote to several bishops in the country who we knew to had a heart for pro-life issues. We received a few replies, and through prayer we determined that it was the Lord's Will that we graciously accept Bishop Foy's

## 20 Years!

offer to move the community to the Diocese of Covington, KY.

On September 15, 2004, with the assistance of about 35 parishioners, we moved in to the convent at St. Benedict's Church in Covington.

Bishop Foy's had requested that we open a pregnancy center as we had in New Jersey, because at the time there weren't any fully *Catholic* pregnancy centers in his Diocese. So in October of the following year we opened the Rose Garden Home Mission on Madison Avenue in Covington.



*A recent community photo*

Expecting to mostly work with Moms and babies, we saw the Lord's hand guiding us to feed local families in need because many of the lay faithful kept donating food to our Mission. With this in mind and also because our neighbors had come to rely on us for food, we made a "deal" with God that as long as He kept sending food, we would keep giving it out.

Everything that we have and everything that we give to others is donated to us, we have just always trusted that the Lord would send us what we need when we need it. And, you know, He

is a very faithful provider for His spouses- this small family of sisters.

He inspired us to adopt 3 Scripture verses to follow at the Mission: Mt 5:42, "Give to the one who asks of you," Mt 10:8, "Without cost you have received, without cost you are to give," and Mt 25:36-37, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."

We try to do as many of these as He has presented us with, including beginning Health Ministries in 2009, opening a free medical clinic in 2012, and a free dental clinic in 2017.

The Lord has also inspired two new initiatives : Avow Discernment Groups, as promoted by Vianney Vocations, for young women discerning God's Will in their lives; and partnering with IHM Saints for Life in Mary's Pro-Life Boot Camp, a respect life retreat-style camp for High School teens to foster leadership among young people to be pro-life witnesses and helping them to engage in "Life" issues in a more active way.

Please pray for us that we continue to faithfully follow God's Will in all things, while Upholding the Dignity of every human person from the moment of conception until natural death.



*Sisters on a day of prayer*



“I will espouse you to Me forever”



Yet another landmark for our community—on March 2, 2019, Sr. Clare Marie and Sr. Catherine Mary professed their Perpetual Vows to Jesus!

As part of the Rite of Profession, the sisters prostrated themselves in the Sanctuary during the Litany of Saints to symbolize their willingness to die to the “world” and to live for Christ alone.

In addition, each sister received a cross ring to signify their fidelity to Our Lord, as they are espoused to Jesus Christ. They also each received a crown similar to the one He wore—a Crown of Thorns.

May God bless them with abundant Grace and perseverance in their love and fidelity to Our Lord Jesus Christ!

## Meet Sister Thérèse Marie of the Divine Child



*“In my teen years I came to know God’s merciful love for me in a deep way that made me desire to give my whole self to Him as His bride.*

*Driving home after visiting this community the first time I prayed to St. Therese to send me a rose if this was the right community for me. On the way home, I stopped to see some friends in Steubenville. At Mass the next day someone told me that the Missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was at Franciscan University, so I went to see it. In front of the image was for one rose and I felt that this was my sign. “*

*Sister became a Novice on 5/31/2019. Please pray for her.*

*Newly ordained Rev. Ambrose Dobrozsi, whose family have been Rose Garden volunteers since he was a child, gave the sisters a blessing after celebrating his First Mass at St. Gertrude in Cincinnati.*



*The Franciscan daughters of Mary received the Respect Life Award, along with a hand-made Franciscan Crown Rosary from the Kentucky State Knights of Columbus at their annual dinner.*

*L. to R.—State Deputy Cameron Peck, Bishop John Stowe, the Sisters and Eric Ritchie, State K of C Culture of Life Chair*



*Sister Catherine had a lot of fun giving out popcorn for our “Wave of Happiness Day” Sponsored by the R.C. Durr Foundation*



*Mother Seraphina Marie had the distinct honor to share her conversion story on The Journey Home, EWTN. If you would like to hear about Mother’s “journey” of faith, it can be found on [CHNetwork.org](http://CHNetwork.org)*

The sisters met up with seminarians Tom Hunyar and Benjamin Dolarhide, who are also Rose Garden volunteers, at the annual March for Life in Washington, DC

Our Sisters have spoken to several groups of young women who may be discerning a call to the religious life. At right, they are with young women at the Called to Love Retreat in Walton, KY





# Rose Garden

HOME MISSION



*"I tell my daughter, 'I'm going to the sisters to get some gifts from God' and she said 'Yay! Gifts from God!' I told her I was going to get diapers and she said, 'Diapers from God!'" -A neighbor*

*One night, we got a call from this mom saying that her baby had turned blue and was rushed off to Children's Hospital because her lungs were compromised. No one knew if she was going to live. Her mom wanted the Sisters there, so we rushed to the hospital with some Holy Water and asked if she wanted to Baptize the baby. She agreed and as soon as she was Baptized, Sister noticed a difference in her. She perked up! She is now a healthy, happy little girl!  
Praised be Jesus Christ!*

*"I want you to know that I respect y'all. Y'all are my mom!"  
-A young man to Sister*



**A** woman came into the mission the other week looking for Sr. Mary Joseph. She cried when we told her that she passed way. She then shared with us that sister helped her and her now 10 year old son and wanted him to meet her.

"When he was born a distant relative abandoned him at a bus stop. Someone I know told me and I picked him up. It was then that I called the Mission for help. Sr. Mary Joseph was so sweet, she told me to come down right away, even though they were closed and she would help me. This gave me hope that everything was going to be alright. You all gave us a car seat, stroller, pack n' play, clothing and a baby basket! If it wasn't for this place and her kindness, I would have had nothing for him!" This woman raised him like her own. He was born a premie and was sickly, but today is the picture of health!



*"This place saved me, especially when my daughter was in diapers. I don't know what I would have done without you all."*



*"Before coming here, I used to have to do things I was ashamed of to get money for diapers. But because of you all, I don't have to do those things anymore." -A neighbor*





# Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing

Health Ministry / Free Clinic

**H**ugs abound in the medical clinic! Last month as I unlocked the door, a patient entered and said, "I'm so glad to see you!" and gave me a big hug.

He is the same person who came initially for ear wax removal. We noted his high blood pressure and told him it should be treated. He was against that because he couldn't afford the medicine. We explained our procedure for obtaining prescription medication from a local pharmacy, so he agreed to cooperate.



Coming in on subsequent visits, we addressed his 30+ pack/year history of smoking and obtained a low-density CT scan from St. Elizabeth. He did not have cancer, but took this as a wake-up call and quit smoking.

His scan revealed blockages in his heart arteries, and he was referred to a cardiologist who recommended surgery. But the surgery could not be completed until his infected teeth were extracted and

the remaining teeth cleaned. After several visits to our dental clinic, he was well enough to have his surgery, and now his health is doing very well.

This same gentleman shared with us that he did not qualify for Medicaid because his pension gave him \$3 per month too much. He couldn't afford insurance on his own because it costs too much based on his pension.

*"I am very grateful for the free services I was given. Everyone was extremely nice and professional. You can feel the ministry behind the services provided, which means a lot!"*



**W**hat our patients have to say

*"This clinic offers patients confidence in their care. 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."*



*"God bless you and may He always continue to help you. You give excellent service! A real friendly hand in the community!"*

*"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."*

*"Each time I'm so happy to be here at the Rose Garden Center. May God Bless all of the doctors and staff for their great job!"*  
*"Everything is so perfect here!"*





# The Dignity of Dental

The Rose Garden Mission Dental Clinic received a perfect score on their

patient survey! All the patients agreed on the absolute quality of 4 aspects of their experience: Making appointments, The Facility itself, The Friendliness, Professionalism and Compassion of the unpaid staff, and their actual Dental Treatment!

“I am truly blessed to be here at the Rome Garden. Everyone here is awesome and very accommodating. They treat you with care.”

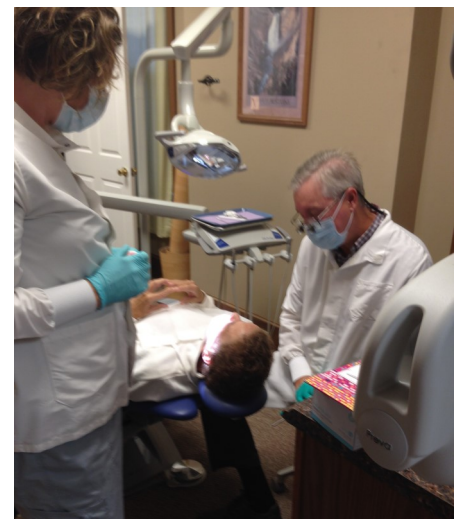
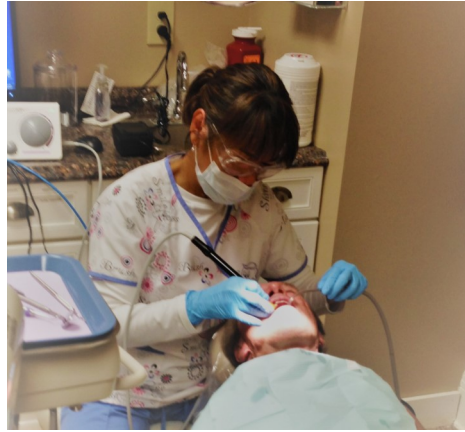
## What Our Dental Patients Have to Say:

“I wish I could try to get more help for the Rose Garden to get more Dentists to understand how important it is for poor people and their health.”

“I have met several dentists and they are all very good and professional. They make you feel good at the end of each treatment.”

“I can’t believe the kindness and respect!”

“Thank you for your assistance with my dental problems and for your excellent care and understanding. Your work and service is greatly appreciated.”



## Thank You

To the Knights of Columbus for raising the money and donating a state of the art 4D Ultrasound machine!!

This new ultrasound displays beautiful 4D images of the baby that can also be sent to the mom’s cell phone and even make a DVD of the session!

Thank you to all who made this possible through your generosity!!



“If I knew it was this easy, I’d have done it years ago!”





# Friends of the Rose Garden Mission



Thanks to the Friends of the Rose Garden Mission, major work was done to replace the roof



Ruth painting the concrete on the ramp of the RGM so the delivery trucks can see the boundaries!

Projects accomplished this year or currently being accomplished:

- New Roof Exterior and Interior
- Expanded Garden
- New Lighting throughout the Mission
- More new Shelving for basement
- Major repairs on the 2nd floor of Guadalupe Center
- New heating and air
- Replaced broken windows
- Replaced Mission door
- Looking for a new/used van for the sisters
- Providing the Mission with diapers and wipes



THE FRIENDS OF THE ROSE GARDEN HOME MISSION invite you to the SIXTH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2019  
REGISTRATION 8:00 AM  
SHOTGUN START 9:45 AM  
4 Person 18 hole scramble

KENTON COUNTY GOLF COURSES  
3908 Richardson Road | Independence, KY  
859.371.3200

[www.RoseGardenMissionGolf.com](http://www.RoseGardenMissionGolf.com)



2018 Golf Committee



# Expanded Vegetable Garden!



Friends of the Rose Garden recently bought the property behind the RGM garden, bulldozed the garage, expanded the garden and put up a new fence. Thanks to our good friends Doug Bray and Vince Kroger, our garden will be beautiful and full of fresh vegetables this summer!



*Let Your  
Light Shine*  
MATTHEW 5:16

THE FRANCISCAN DAUGHTERS OF MARY AND  
THE FRIENDS OF THE ROSE GARDEN HOME MISSION  
INVITE YOU TO

## *Partners in Hope* FOR THE POOR DINNER

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019  
6:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR | 7:00 PM DINNER  
RECEPTIONS | ERLANGER, KENTUCKY

### *2019 Honorees*

THE MOST REVEREND BISHOP ROGER J. FOYS D.D. - GUEST SPEAKER  
*Bishop of the Diocese of Covington*

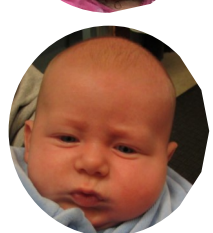
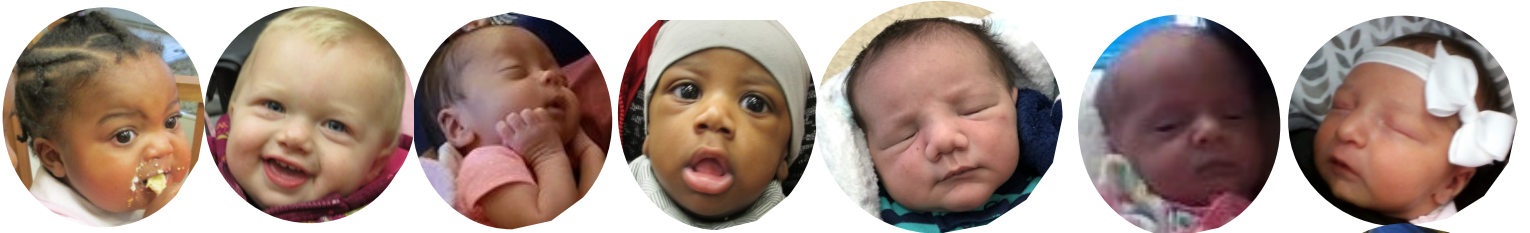
ART SCHNEIDER - *Volunteer*

Dinner Reservations:  
[friendsrghm@gmail.com](mailto:friendsrghm@gmail.com)

## Friends & Helpers







**W**e 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*

## Mission Needs

- 2T-6x New/Gently used toddler clothing
- Size 5, 6 diapers & wipes
- Homeless Hygiene
- New or Gently used Strollers & Car seats
- **More volunteers** to sort incoming donations in the warehouse! The Sisters can't keep up!



**Mary's  
BOOT**

**Pro-Life  
CAMP**

**Strengthening hearts for Christ**

Calling all Catholic youth, ages 14 to 17!  
Mary's Boot Camp is kicking off our first event with a theme for all ages.

**Super Heroes for Life**

Come for a weekend experience that will strengthen your heart for Christ and empower you to uphold the dignity of all life, from conception to natural death.

\$75 per "camper"  
July 19-21, 2019

Registration: [www.marysprolifbootcamp.com](http://www.marysprolifbootcamp.com)



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 \$558.48 received!!! THANK YOU!!!*

**To enroll:**

- go to: [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://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!*