

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

Winter 2020

“I will Betroth you to Me Forever,

I will betroth you to Me with justice and with judgment, with loyalty and with compassion; I will betroth you to Me with fidelity and you shall know



the Lord.” (Sirach 2:21-22)

Sr. Mary Elizabeth of the Holy Family, a member of our community since October 8, 2012, professed her Solemn Vows on September 5, 2020 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption in Covington, KY.

“When I got here it was like everything that was already on my heart, I found it here.” she said. “... I felt very called to pray for priests and to

work in a crisis pregnancy center with moms and babies and not only to serve the poor but to be poor with the poor like Jesus was.”

After Sister professed her Vows in to the hands of the Community Servant (Mother Seraphina) Bishop Foys presented her with a crown of thorns, signifying unity with her

Spouse who wore the same Crown. Sister Mary Elizabeth lay prostrate before the altar, to signify her total gift of self, and was solemnly blessed.

“The public profession of vows, said Sister Mary Elizabeth, is “a public way of showing the world that this is what makes you happy. Not everyone is called to religious life, but what makes you happy is abandoning your heart to God and letting him fill it...this is my Vow forever, to be the spouse of Jesus Christ .”

“It is not a question of numbers but of quality,” said Bishop Foys, in reflecting on the rarity of professions in today’s world. “It is the radical promises that one makes ... and in making those radical promises the witness that they give to God’s people... of total commitment.”

Above quoted from the Messenger, Covington Diocesan newspaper’s September 11, 2020 issue.

When Sister was a little girl, being a religious sister was already on her heart. But as she matured, she had come to love children and babies and couldn’t imagine herself without children around her, and so put those thoughts aside. (continued on page 3)



Our Lady of Fatima Novena Pilgrimage

St. Pio of Pietrelcina used to say, “Pray, hope and don’t worry.”

With all that has happened in society this year, including the closing of our churches, in August our sisters were compelled to pray a Novena to Our Lady of Fatima.

For nine Saturdays in a row, the 9th ending before the October 13, 1917 Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima, we invited some friends to pray with us each Saturday as we traveled to different churches in our diocese, bringing with us our community’s traveling statue of Our Lady of Fatima to accompany us in our prayer.



We began on the feast of Our Lady of the Assumption at Mother of God church in Covington. Week 2, the feast of the Queenship of Mary was at St. Benedict’s church, where we crowned our traveling companion as well as the beautiful Fatima statue in the grotto behind the church. We were also present following Mass when Bishop Foys, who that day drove throughout the diocese blessing the churches with the first class relic of St. Roch, the patron saint of pandemic, blessed St. Benedict’s and everyone present with the relic.

Week 3 brought our pray-ers to St. Pius church, followed by the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, where we livestreamed Sr. Mary Elizabeth’s Solemn Profession of Vows. The feast of the Holy Name of Mary, September 12,

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The ninth Saturday, days before the 103rd Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima, we gathered at Blessed Sacrament church in Ft. Mitchell for Mass, and the Novena Prayer.

We all then made our way to 15 vehicles and followed in procession behind Our Lady of Fatima, mounted on the back of one of the vehicles, surrounded by hundreds of flowers, to five different churches named in honor of Our Blessed Mother in the diocese of Covington: Our Lady of Lourdes, Mother of God, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Mary Queen of Heaven and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

At each of the church parking lots, we all stood outside of our vehicles to maintain social distance, and prayed one decade of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. At IHM, in addition to the Rosary, we prayed the Fatima



Our beautiful Mother surrounded by flowers led our procession through the neighborhoods to each church.



Our Lady at the Cathedral Basilica. We made her a new gown for the Novena using a wedding dress that a friend donated

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brought us to Immaculate Heart of Mary, Burlington, followed by St. Thomas in Ft. Thomas, St. Joseph in Crescent Springs and St. Agnes in Park Hills.



It was a truly glorious day in honor of Our Blessed Mother



Mary. We then developed an online video of the sisters and all of the families praying through the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary that went online that last Saturday of the Novena.. The final video may be accessed on the Franciscan Daughters of Mary YouTube page under the title, Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrimage and Rosary.

Prayer, and for those who wanted to join us, we made an Act of Consecration to Our Lady of Fatima.

Many people we know expressed an interest in participating but were unable. So that they could participate with us in some way, we had families and individuals send us videos of them praying one Hail



Above is one of 7 magnetic bumper signs we had made for everyone in the procession. The text on the right for the other 6: Pray the Rosary, Pray for Our Church, Pray for Our Priests, Pray for Peace, Pray for Families, Pray for Our Nation.



First Decade prayers outside of Our Lady of Lourdes



Sr. Mary Elizabeth standing on the shore of Ohio's beautiful Grand Lake at St. Mary's State Park as she and another sister were traveling back from a presentation on Vocations

(cont'd from p. 1)

While at prayer one day at Franciscan University of Steubenville, where she was a student, she felt the call once again. Then, she felt like God had whispered in to her heart, "You are going to be the mother of thousands and thousands of children."

At first, she didn't quite understand what He meant, but as the desire to be with Jesus increased, she came to see through her Vocation as a Religious Sister, the beauty of Spiritual Motherhood.



The sisters with Karen participate in the Cross the Bridge for Life. Because of social distancing regulations, the event could not take place, but they asked everyone to wear a favorite Cross the Bridge for Life T-Shirt from years past and get outside with family and take a walk.

Sr. Mary Elizabeth shared some other thoughts on her Vocation as a Spiritual Mother:

"As a Spiritual Mother, I walk with Mary, Our Heavenly Mother.

Our Blessed Mother at the Presentation brought her newborn child Jesus to the Temple to receive the blessing of the Sacrifice. In like manner, we bring our spiritual children to Mass and can place them spiritually in the Chalice.

At the time of the Consecration, Christ her Son is sacrificed, and we have an opportunity to ask the Lord that our children be washed in His Blood and kept safe for the Kingdom of Heaven.



A witness to the sanctity of every human life, the sisters pray outside of Planned Parenthood in Cincinnati

In a very real way at the Mission, we bring individual souls, people out on the street, people lost and hurting, displaced, abused, neglected and forgotten. We search them out and bring them within our hearts to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, where He is still carrying out His Father's work.

I am so grateful to God for calling me to be a mother of souls. Being a Spiritual Mother has brought me great fulfillment.



Newly ordained Fr. Jonah Teller, O.P. offers Mass for the Sisters in the convent chapel

Because our first apostolate is to pray for priests, we are dedicated to praying for the Holy Father and all of the priests we have ever met, who then we consider our spiritual sons.

We are also blessed to participate with a program called the Spiritual Motherhood for Priests, who assign each of us a priest-son to pray for daily.

Other spiritual children that we pray for come from all of the neighbors we interact with each day—souls God has given us to love.

In the Fifth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, Mary and Joseph seek for Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem for 3 days before finding Him in the Temple doing His Father's work.



Mother Seraphina was asked to share with the students at St. Edmund Campion Academy in Cincinnati about her life as a religious sister.

The next day, we ran in to one of the student's parents who shared with us that after the presentation, all of his children wanted to become a nun ... even his 5 year old son! Until he explained about Religious Brothers!

In another occasion, Mother spoke virtually to students at an All Girl's High School in Cincinnati. A student who came to volunteer shared with Mother that her friend said to her that she had never even thought about being a sister before, but after hearing the talk by Mother, she is now thinking about it!



HOME MISSION

Trust in God and He will do everything for you (Psalm 37)

Serving our neighbors in these crazy days has become a blessing for us, and no doubt, for those we serve as well.

First, I must say how grateful we are that Our merciful Lord has kept all

“We would have starved if you all had not been here!”



We received a lot of milk one day, sister counted enough for about 120 families. By mid-afternoon, after giving them out all day, one of our neighbors asked for a second gallon. So sister went to the back to count the milk and see if we had enough. She counted more than 120!!

of the sisters and volunteers in health! For you know, if one of us gets ill, the whole thing shuts down—and the 100-200 families a day that we serve would be impacted! Praise the Good Lord for His love of our neighbors and families in need!

Secondly, Our Northern KY, Tri-



State area is, in our opinion, the most generous and giving area in the country. What we have learned is that our area is saturated with people who love



God and have a desire to serve him in those less fortunate than themselves! And we are greatly blessed with our family of volunteers who have faithfully served Christ at the Rose Garden

“Thank you for caring and worrying about me, you helped me when I needed it! You was there for me when my mom died, you came to the layout! And then when I needed someone to talk to...I don’t know what I would have done without you!”

throughout all of these days!

There are also many other charitable organizations in the area, but we all work together—if we or another one of the organizations is blessed with an abundance, they share with the others in the area.

In times when programs are shutting down and services to the needy are being

While giving a young woman a pregnancy test, she spoke of a friend of hers who was considering abortion. Then she blurted out, “I don’t know why anyone would have an abortion! Don’t they know to come here?!”

slowed or suspended, we have been able to remain open! Daily we have our neighbors tell us how grateful they are that we are there for them.

Remaining outside through heat, cold, rain, sun or snow, the Lord has given the sisters and opportunity to suffer *with* our neighbors and to share in the challenges our homeless brothers and sisters experience.

We pray for an end to the pandemic and the stressors that are associated with it. But thanks be to God, we are able to see His gentle and caring hand throughout it all.



Mom receives everything she needs for her unborn child



Thanksgiving Blessings!

Even with the modifications from the protocols, we had a great Thanksgiving Giveaway. Because of the need to serve our neighbors outside, the Friends of the Rose Garden rented a tent that spanned almost the entire parking lot behind the building. It worked out so well, that they will be renting another tent for our upcoming Christmas Giveaway (still pending as this newsletter is being written). As a matter of fact, we may even repeat it next year.

It had a few challenges, however. Two weeks prior to the giveaway, we tried to arrange the pickup date for the turkeys and we were told that there was a shortage of turkeys and they could no longer provide them for us!

Joe, who coordinates the purchase and pickup for us each year, scrambled to find 800 turkeys! After many calls around, he found somewhere that could provide turkeys, but not in the amount we needed. So they worked it out by supplementing it with ham and turkey breast wrapped in bacon.

When it was all said and done, the cost wound up being twice what we paid for 800 turkeys last year! But praise be to God, the monetary donations designated for the turkeys came to the same amount!

How blessed we are that we can be a light in the world for others to know God the Father's care for His children!



"Do you remember me? You used to talk with me all the time when I was a teenager. I'm older now, but I want to make things right with God. Can you tell me when they have Mass at your church? I want to go to Confession too. When can I do that?"



A woman who comes daily to the Mission for food was going through many family and housing struggles. It was a time of real trial and her usual cheeriness was stifled by sadness. One day she told sister that she felt the only people in the world who cared about her were God and the sisters.

A man came out from working under a car and was surprised to see a sister. He said, "Hi! You're the one who gave the rosary a year ago!"

Pulling it out from under his shirt, he said, "See, I've never taken it off. I was really hard off last year when you gave it to me."

Sister asked, "Are you doing better now?"

He replied, "Am I doing better?! I have my own business fixing cars; I have my own apartment!"

We hadn't seen "Jerry" at the Mission for a couple of months; he usually waited for us at the door as we drove up to the Mission each day.

He recently returned and sister asked how he was doing. He shared with her that a loved one had died and he was experiencing terrible depression. It was so bad that he didn't want to be around people and was about to take his life. But then he remembered how the sisters were so kind to him and everyone else at the Mission and knew he couldn't go through with it! The only reason he didn't end his life, he emphasized, was because of the sisters and everyone at the Mission. Praise be Jesus Christ!



*Right:
On December 12th, feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Fr. Ryan Maher blessed our beautiful new mural of Our Lady painted for the Rose Garden by current and former Covington Latin students under the guidance of Art Teacher Carolyn Hofmann. Artists: Mia Jones, Laurynn Smith, Maria Bossert and Daniel Zalla. Flowers below the image painted by Franciscan Daughters of Mary. You all have done a remarkable job!!*



Little cutie pulling a wagon at Thanksgiving Gave-Away Nov. 24th.

Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing

Health Ministry / Free Clinic
Medical / Dental



A clinic is born! The Center for Hope and Healing in it's early days, before the new location. We only had a small corner, but we made it work until we found a new home!



The opening day in our fully operational free medical clinic! From left: Earlene Barker, APRN, Sheila Carroll, APRN, Dr. Tom Donovan, PHD, Mother Seraphina, fdm. We are so grateful for your many years of generous giving of time, love, prayers, everything!

Right: Many grateful families have received life-saving help from the clinic over the past 9 years!

Below/Right: Ultrasound picture from the new ultrasound machine donated by the Knights of Columbus. "Never in all my years as a nurse have I seen an ultrasound picture like this!" -Sheila Carroll, APRN

This baby is pointing up with his finger!



This little baby appears to be pointing to Heaven, think he knows the way?



Sheila giving a talk at St. Timothy's Parish in Union about the Center for Hope and Heal-



Left: photo of littlest baby from CHH's old ultrasound machine. "A person's a person, no matter how small!"

“The Hygienist was wonderful, cheerful and informative!”



“Rita, Colleen and Sheila...all good!”

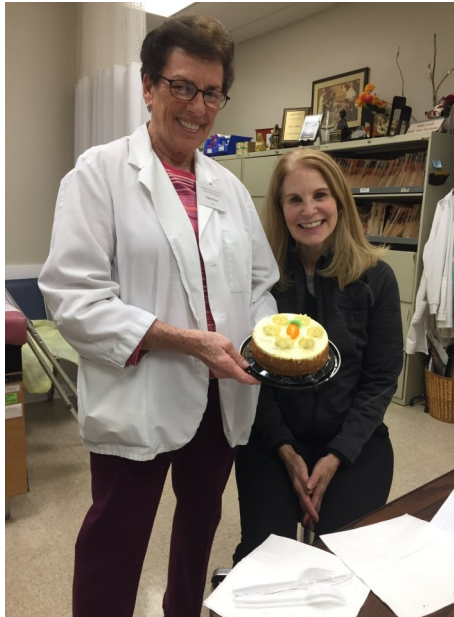
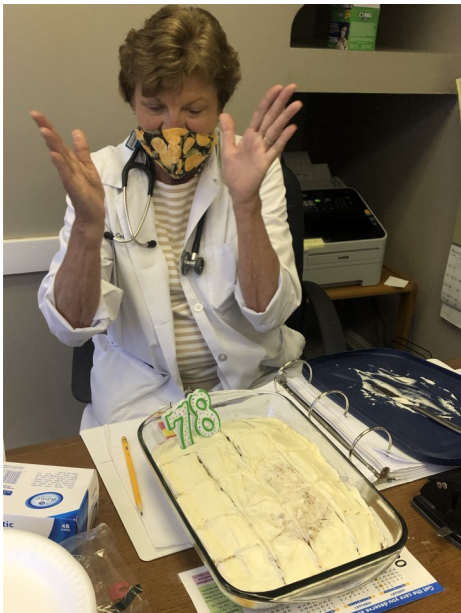


Sr. Catherine with the Mammogram Van



Talking to froggy about the importance of flossing!

“The education I received from Colleen was very helpful and appreciated!”



*Long-time volunteers Peggy Rensing, NP and Theresa Furnish, APRN
WE LOVE BIRTHDAYS!!*



Terry ALWAYS has a smile on!

“Love all of you and so proud of The Rose Garden and all they do for the community!”

“4 years ago today I had my heart surgery. Life has been good since. Thank you so much for all you did back then and continue to do for me. I said a special prayer for you and the Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing today. God bless all of you.”

“Very Helpful.
Great experience!”



I'll drive home mom!



“Hi! Remember me?” asked one of the employees at a local store.

“I used to come in to the Rose Garden when I needed food and things for my 3 kids. I’m the one who used to sit in your prayer room every day and pray for a job. I haven’t been there in a long time because I got myself 2 jobs... And now I’m getting promoted to a manager here! Thank you so much for being there for me, you really helped me!”



You used to give me packets of food when I was on the corner homeless. I remember that! I’m doing much better now. I got a place to stay. Thank you.”

Above: Special thanks to our gardeners this year! What a bountiful harvest!

L. to R.—Doug Bray, Mother Seraphina, Freddy Jones, George Otten.

Below: Sisters enjoy getting some recreation!

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

You make all of the works of the Franciscan Daughters of Mary possible through your prayers, participation as a Helper and the many & varied gifts you send, as well as those you bring to the Rose Garden for the neighbors we serve.

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

May God abundantly bless you for all of the ways you love Our Lord through your many kindnesses toward us.

Mother Seraphina & the Sisters



The easiest & cheapest way to donate to the Rose Garden Mission: Kroger’s Supermarkets

Last Quarter \$763.86 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!