

# Franciscan Daughters of Mary

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The Rose Garden Home Mission  
Center for Hope and Healing  
Friends of the Rose Garden Home Mission



Autumn 2011

## What we wear

### *Habit sign of hope, eternal realities*

By Mother Seraphina

*"You shall be called  
by a new name...  
You shall be a glorious  
crown in the  
hand of your God."  
Isaiah 62:2, 3*

On Oct. 7th, 2011 Sr. Clare Marie of the Holy Eucharist was invested in the habit of our community, as she entered into the Novitiate stage of formation. At her Investiture ceremony, Sr. Clare consecrated herself to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the true Superior of our community. She received the medal of Our Lady of Guadalupe as a sign of her consecration.

She was then tonsured, a total rejection of the vain things of the world, by willingly offering her one crowning beauty before she received our habit.

We are often asked why we wear a habit. The answer: We choose to!

Every part of our habit has meaning and significance. The tunic clothes our sister in the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ and is a sign of willingness to endure every distress and hardship. The cords are a sign of her readiness to embrace penance. The Rosary girds her with the armor of God, so that she may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil, for "our struggle is not with flesh and blood, but with the principalities and powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens, so to be able to resist on the evil day." (Ephesians 6:12)

Our Novices are invested with a white scapular, a sign of purity and of her consecration to Our Lady as well as a commitment to live out her vocation with the Blessed Virgin Mary as her role model and intercessor. The veil is our helmet of salvation and hope, a sign of her humility and unflinching obedience and of her firm intention to turn her eyes away from foolish vanities.

Our habit is meant to be a sign of hope for others and to "remind the world of eternal realities." (Foundations of Religious Life, CMSWR) Living in the inner city, we find it especially important to give an external witness of hope, to be a light in the present darkness and to let our "light shine before all so they may see our good works and give glory to our Heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:16)

Whether walking our dogs around the neighborhood, walking to the Mission, gardening in front of the convent or shopping in one of the



local food stores, people can see us and remember God.. And if we were nice to them, and this we take great care to do as a way of living our vow to uphold the dignity of every human person, they know God loves them. Very often, people ask us to pray for them, so we do, even in the midst of a busy shopping center. You see, it is not about the individual sister, but about Who we represent.

However, it is truly the habit of penance, as was evidenced one day while in a local food mart. A man who was very inebriated and "cussing up a storm," used the Lord's name in vain. I very gently said, "Please don't use the Lord's name in vain." He responded by heaping upon me a litany of "cusses" and appeared very agitated and aggressive. Understanding that I may be put in a position to "take a hit for the Lord," I knew that this man, whom I had never met before, was not angry with me, but angry at Who I represented. Consequently, the man was ushered out of the store by the people who came with him, after the store manager turned to call the police.

"The Church must always seek to make her presence visible in everyday life, especially in contemporary culture, which is often very secularized and yet sensitive to the language of signs... consecrated persons, called as they are in every situation to bear clear witness that they belong to Christ... The habit is a sign of consecration, poverty and membership in a particular Religious family.

(Vita Consecrat, 25, Bl. John Paul II)

## No numbers here

# Center offers personal healing, hope for all

Even in a country, like ours, in which 85 percent of citizens will never know poverty, there are still people like the 39 year-old gentleman who sits in a chair inside the Rose Garden Home Mission Center for Hope and Healing on a recent Tuesday.

The gentleman, one of millions of Americans who cannot afford health care, is worried about his feet. He salvaged some old boots from a dumpster. They are causing pain. The man suspects his blood pressure is high. He is desperately trying to stop drinking, to make healthier decisions.

Sheila Carroll instantly recognizes the man, calls him by name and grabs his card from a file. In a few minutes, the nurse practitioner and director of the center has taken and recorded the man's blood pressure. She has examined his feet. She hands him a brown bag with a new pair of socks inside. Then, looking into the man's eyes, like a long-time friend, Carroll talks to the man about God, his desire to stop drinking and a 12-step program. "I come in here almost every week," the man says. "I can't afford to go to the doctor. I got a flu shot here a couple weeks ago."

The Center for Hope and Healing has detailed data on the 2,200 visits made to the center this year. The free center records every visitor that receives blood sugar and blood glucose screening, diabetes education, referrals to doctors, co-pay and prescription assistance. Volunteers know how many people have received free flu shots, a mammogram and a bus pass for visits,

But to grasp the big picture - what the faith-based community health ministry through St. Elizabeth Parish Nurse Program means to the friends and neighbors it serves - requires a visit on a typical Tuesday.

There are no numbers here. There are simply individuals needing the dignity of receiving health care and volunteers willing to give it.

On one side of the room, Nurse Practitioner Joan Ziegelmeyer stuffs a pair of socks or a roll of toilet paper in brown bags. Each visitor receives one bag, a token for coming in to have their health checked. On the other side of the room, several people line up for free flu shots. Nurse Cathy Sherron administers them, one by one, with a



**Center director and nurse practitioner Sheila Carroll, talks to a visitor, after having his blood pressure read.**

quick shot to the back of the arm. In the middle of the activity, a woman from the neighborhood, who is encountering additional stress caring for both of her parents, hands Carroll and nurse practitioner Earlene Barker a bouquet of flowers. The neighbor has come to have her blood pressure checked.

"They treat me real nice here," she says, as volunteers search for a vase. "It helps me get through the week."

Sometimes a visit can extend a life..

"Often we find out they have hypertension, catching it early, reduces the risk of strokes and heart attack," Ziegelmeyer says. "We also catch diabetes. Diabetes is rampant here. There are other factors. One-third of our visitors have high blood pressure, two-thirds smoke."

## Want to help?

The Center for Hope and Healing, open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, is awaiting a state license before moving into its new home. The larger, renovated section of the Rose Garden Mission has three examination rooms. The move, will also allow nurse practitioners to take appointments and write prescriptions under the supervision of a doctor.

The center welcomes medical volunteers - physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dentists, dieticians, pharmacists, physical therapist, occupational and mental health therapists, pharmacists. The center also needs donations. It may be reached at [rgcenterforhopeandhealing@zoomtown.net](mailto:rgcenterforhopeandhealing@zoomtown.net)) Address: P.O. Box 122038, Covington, KY 41012-2038 or for online donations: [www.fdomary.org](http://www.fdomary.org), click on "Donate" and in the comments put Center for Hope and Healing.

*You and Your Family  
are Invited to Join the  
Franciscan Daughters of Mary  
for*

## *Prayer & Reflection*

- \* *Vespers in the Presence  
of the Blessed Sacrament*
- \* *Spiritual Reflection*
- \* *Holy Hour for Priests*
- \* *Devotions*

*2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of Every Month*  
*7pm—9pm*

*Convent Chapel  
336 East 16th St., Covington      **RSVP: 859-491-3899***



# Volunteers work hard, hang out' with sisters

A line of friends and neighbors starts to snake around the waiting area of the Rose Garden Home Mission.

Sister Ann Mary - a familiar face behind the counter - greets each person and asks how she can help them.

"Food, please." she is told. Sister then lists for them what was donated that day and asks if this is O.K. "Yep." her neighbor responds.

"Bag of food, please," Sister calls out to the group of volunteers behind the window.

The volunteers jump into action.

On any day at the Rose Garden Home Mission, volunteers come from across Northern Kentucky and the Cincinnati area to help the Franciscan Daughters of Mary serve the needs of the community. Some volunteers come a few hours a month. Others - such as biological sisters Tina and Martene Beimesch - work up to two days a week. For several years, they have worked behind the scenes, quietly sorting through countless bags of children's clothing. They carefully coordinate tops and bottoms, so that each mom receives a matching outfit. They keep donations organized, so fellow volunteers can quickly grab what they need.

Volunteers stock shelves, repackage donations, fill freezers, stock diaper shelves, sweep, clean, grow vegetables, work in the Center for Hope and Healing. Volunteers were recently responsible for renovating an entire section of the Mission for the Center for Hope and Healing.

Whatever the role, volunteers say they receive much more than they give. In serving Christ, volunteers say they learn from the sisters, experience hope in a chaotic world and simply have fun.

"I especially appreciate the pure joy and charity everyone shows in their service to the poor and in giving witness to them," says Dennis Miceli. "The teamwork is inspiring."

Volunteer Michelle Deubell represents many moms who bring their children to the Mission. "Sister Mary Joseph is so good about finding tasks for my daughters Greta, 7, and Bernadette, 6. It makes them really feel a part of helping," she says. "My daughter, Anna, 12, and son Marcus, 13, also love going to help the sisters. One thing we love is the sisters' total trust in Our Lord. When the shelves are low, they don't worry, they just pray."

Jean Schirtzinger is another mom volunteer. As a child, she was on the receiving end of giving. "I grew up with a mother on feed stamps, WIC and living in public housing," she says. When Schirtzinger brought her two children to the Mission's former location a few years ago to help sort and hand out Christmas presents, the family was instantly hooked on helping. "The Mission is a great place to volunteer as a family and together feel the rewards of doing God's work," she says. "My favorite experience is being witness to the sisters prayer when they run out of food. God provides 99 percent of the time."

"I volunteer at the Rose Garden for many reasons, but most of all I enjoy working with people who want to help other people and care



**Kim Schamer lends a hand to Sister Clare Marie**

for them and love God as I do," says Nurse Practitioner Earlene Barker, who volunteers in the Center for Hope and Healing.

Lisa Harms came to volunteer after she was laid off from her job. Now employed, she says she can't wait until she retires, so she can return to volunteer a couple of days a week. "My favorite aspect was seeing immediate results," she says. "I saw the people who received the food and baby items. When I write a check to charities, I don't see the people. ....It is special because of the love you feel there. Prayer is an important part of the day. God is always number one."

When asked why she volunteers with her family, volunteer Pam Bucher offers the message Mother Teresa delivered in a 1994 Wall Street Journal article. "Human rights are not a privilege conferred by government. They are every human being's entitlement by virtue of his humanity."

She and her family, however, also simply enjoy being around the sisters. "I get to give back to the Lord; to teach my children the Works of Mercy and hopefully foster an attitude of gratefulness for their blessings.... We also get to 'hang out' with some of the most beautiful women I know. The Franciscan Daughters of Mary are such a gift in our lives."

If you would like to volunteer  
at the Rose Garden Mission  
during the holidays or anytime, contact Sarah Cecil at  
[rosegardenhelpers@yahoo.com](mailto:rosegardenhelpers@yahoo.com) or 859-428-7464.



**Opportunities!**  
Sisters Clare Marie and Catherine make a new friend at  
Opportunity Day, hosted by the  
Knights of Columbus, in Alexandria.

# Our youngest friends



We are grateful for all contributions, big and small, this year. Please consider including us in your year-end giving. To obtain a year-end statement for tax purposes, please e-mail us or call the Rose Garden and leave a message (859) 491-ROSE.



**Thank you!**

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!  
*Numbers 6:24*

You are invited:

**Rose Garden  
Nights of  
Praise & Worship**

7pm Wednesdays at the Mission  
2040 Madison Ave., Covington

*Come praise the Lord  
with the Sisters!*

*Refreshments & Fellowship following prayer*

## General Needs

- Spanish interpreter for the Center for Hope and Healing
- "Fixin's" for Thanksgiving
- New computer to "go digital" with our Mommy Books
- 55 gal. plastic garbage cans
- Clorox wipes, Lysol spray and cleaning supplies

## **Mission needs**

### Baby Needs

- Large sized diapers
- Infant toiletries - wash, shampoo,
- Infant car seats
- Baby blankets, bottles and receiving blankets

- Baby bottles
- New infant onesies
- 3T, 4T, 5T clothing
- Laundry baskets
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toiletries for Moms