

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



Winter 2012

Why worry?

'Pray, fast, get holy,' for our nation

In these days that follow the government mandate that religious-affiliated institutions be obligated to include contraception, drugs that cause abortions, and sterilization among the "preventive services" offered in virtually all Americans' health plans, many fear the direction our country is going.

It seems it is acceptable and permissible now to thrust aside the Constitutional rights every American has enjoyed since the founding of our great nation, which was founded under God. Considering this, are anyone's rights safe? Is anyone really protected under law?

What do we do in times like these? First, we should enter the public arena and make our voices heard. We should write politicians, sign petitions opposing the mandate and "take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them." [i] Most importantly, we should do what Christians do best - pray, fast and get holy.

Remember when Abraham was interceding for Sodom, which the Lord had revealed to him would be destroyed? He asked God if there were 50 righteous men in the city, would He destroy it? Our Lord replied that for the sake of the 50, He would spare Sodom. Abraham kept reducing the number of righteous as he continued to speak with the Lord until the number was 10. For each question, God said He would spare the city. [ii]

Then, there's Moses. He interceded for an entire nation with prayer and fasting and, "the Lord changed His mind about the punishment He had threatened to inflict on His people." [iii] As Alfred, Lord Tennyson once said, "More things are wrought by prayer than this

world dreams."

What about us? How generous can we be to the Lord with our prayer and fasting? Are there any Moses' among us, any intercessors like Abraham? Will God spare our nation for the sake of those who are holy? Lent is upon us, a great opportunity to increase in our prayers and sacrifices to

the Lord, remembering that He cannot be outdone in generosity. Jesus Himself said, "All that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours." [iv] And in Psalms we read, "Find your delight in the Lord, Who will give you your heart's

desire. Commit your way to the Lord; *trust* in Him and He will act." [v]

Even though times seem bleak, Our Lord's voice resounds in our ears, which cries out "Fear not!" [vi] Blessed John Paul II has many times referred to the second millennium as a "new springtime in the Church." [vii] We have reasons to be encouraged. This is an opportunity for a teaching moment in our society and in the Church on the truths of abortion and contraception. Another positive aspect is that already one may find even secular news items giving a *defense* of American religious liberty, instead of removing religious references from society. We may be called to give public witness to our Christian faith. Matthew 10:32 tells us, "Everyone who acknowledges Me before others I will acknowledge before My Heavenly Father."

So fear not! Our Lord has assured us that, "Everyone who acknowledges Me before others I will acknowledge before My Heavenly Father." [viii] "Finally, draw your strength

Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power.



from the Lord and from his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you 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, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground." [ix]

[i] Ephesians 5:11

[ii] Genesis 18:23-32

[iii] Exodus 32:14

[iv] Mark 11:24

[v] Psalm 37:4-5

[vi] Luke 12:7

[vii] 1998 remarks by Bl. John Paul II to pilgrims gathered in Rome for Pentecost

[viii] Matthew 10:32

[ix] Ephesians 6:10-13

Simple dignity saves lives, transforms hearts



If you have spent time with the sisters or been to the Rose Garden Mission, you have probably heard us say, “The *only* thing the Franciscan Daughters of Mary and the many volunteers who help at our Mission do, is uphold the dignity of every person we encounter. Then, we simply do what we can.”

Loving and respecting each person is a manifestation of the sisters’ pro-life Vow to uphold the dignity of every human person from the moment of conception until natural death. We uphold the dignity of human life at its very beginning stages by offering free pregnancy testing for moms. We encourage Mom to make good, healthy choices during her pregnancy and in her life by providing her with pre-natal vitamins and information. We offer Mom maternity clothing, parenting classes and a New Baby Welcome Basket filled with baby essentials. The basket is a way of welcoming the baby home after he/she is born.

Once the baby is born, we assist the family with diapers, wipes, clothing, formula, baby furniture and other assorted baby items. We try to provide for the baby’s needs, based on what has been provided to us through donations. The Mom or legal guardian, can receive assistance for the child, as long as there is a need.

We also uphold the dignity of all human life by simply greeting each person we meet with a smile and genuine kindness. This communicates to each individual that they are loved, and that God loves them. What we have come to understand, is that the greater percentage of our friends and neighbors have no experiential knowledge of love, not even from a parent. The sisters and our volunteers have heard several of them say that they didn’t know people like us existed. They have never encountered people who care about others, who are not trying to “get something out of them,” or who are nice only for the purpose of feeling good themselves. Upholding other’s dignity is simply treating each person with the honor and respect due them as a son or daughter of the Most High God.



We offer them the love of Jesus; giving them hope, and loving them as God loves them. Then, we simply do what we can to assist them with food from our pantry or by giving the uninsured an opportunity to receive medical attention at our Center for Hope and Healing.

Through this approach, we have seen lives saved and hearts transformed. One of our “regulars” came in one afternoon and told us that she loves coming to the Rose Garden, especially when she is having a hard day. She says when she comes to the Mission and sees sister smiling, she realizes things are not so bad. “You’ve changed my life! When I heard you had food, I came down to see what I could get from you. I was using you. But you’re all so nice and you talk to me and you’re glad to see me. I’m praying

now, I feel good about myself, I try not to let life take me down. You’ve changed my life!” she said.

There is also the young woman who came in for food and had been to the Mission for a pregnancy test the month prior. After asking how she was, she turned to Mother Seraphina and said, “Sister, I heard what you said about saving myself (for marriage) and I’ve been ‘working it’ for a month!”



And then there’s the group of high school students who, on their way home from school, drop by for a cookie, candy or a drink of punch. The Mission is a “safe” place for these students to sit for a minute. The day after a young man asked a volunteer to explain the meaning of the picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Mission’s display case, the young man returned and told us, “I couldn’t do my work today, all I could think about was coming to the Mission.”

What we’ve come to understand is that by upholding each person’s dignity, we become a beacon of light in the world that points to God’s love for each one. Matthew 5:16 reads “Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Heavenly Father.”

Loving others, by the numbers

In 2011, the Sisters and volunteers:

- * administered 139 pregnancy tests
- * handed out 184 New Baby Welcome Baskets
- * assisted 815 registered moms and their 1,400 babies
- * handed out 3,239 Packages of Diapers (64,780 diapers total)
- * helped 76,289 families who came the mission
- * supplied 710 families with 'turkey & fixin’s' for Thanksgiving
- * gave Christmas toys to the parents or guardians of 685 children.



It's official! Clinic opens

After much planning and anticipation, the Rose Garden Mission Center for Hope and Healing (CHH) free medical clinic for the uninsured saw our first patients on January 31st. "We had been praying for this day for almost eight years," says Mother Seraphina, "ours is the only free medical clinic for uninsured people in all of Northern Kentucky besides the Pike Street clinic who only help



those who are homeless."

It has been a long time in planning and preparation, over two years, but CHH Director, Sheila Carroll, APRN assures us that every roadblock hurdled was followed by an abundance of blessing.

One example of this is the day after Sheila noticed that the clinic bank account was almost empty we received a check for \$1,000 to continue providing prescriptions and copays for the poor. She had been praying about the situation the evening before and felt as if God told her He wouldn't bring the clinic this far and then drop it. She said, "God has moved it in His time and will not forget us now as we continue to bring His



face to those who have had little hope in the past for medical care." This and several "God instances" has led our medical professionals to call the Center for Hope and Healing "God's Clinic."

Although the clinic just opened, our medical professionals have been helping our friends and neighbors since October 2009 by



L to R: Mother Seraphina Joan Ziegelmeier, APRN, Clinic Director Sheila Carroll, APRN, Carol Adams, office staff

monitoring blood pressures and blood glucose levels, providing diabetes education, medical counseling, assistance with prescriptions for those unable to afford them, psycho-



Bishop Roger Foys, Rev. Dan Schomaker, Sheila Carroll, Mother Seraphina and Knight Fred Meade next to the donated ultrasound.

logical counseling and copays for regular doctor visits.

Last year the health ministry bustled with activity. Sheila and the volunteer medical staff cared for 717 patients who visited 2,803 times during the four hours a week they were open and our volunteer psychologist had 65



counseling sessions since March 2011. Each visitor took home either a roll of toilet paper or a new pair of socks. "That's over 2,000 rolls of toilet paper or socks," Sheila pointed out.

Thanks to St. Elizabeth Hospital, the health ministry was able to provide 240 flu vaccines and has been offering diabetes education classes for an average of five people per month during 2011. St. Elizabeth also donated 68 free mammograms, while a hospital grant provided office supplies and bus passes for medical visits.



Some of our staff with the "mammogram van."

Carol Adams joins the clinic as the registration and scheduling volunteer and Sr. Catherine Mary will assist patients to obtain free or reduced cost medication, as well as maintain a Franciscan presence in the clinic. We hope to expand our volunteer base with many different health care professionals. We especially need Registered Nurses.

The clinic's new phone number is 859-261-0323. An e-mail account has been set up at rgcenterforhopeandhealing@zoomtown.com.



A diabetes education class

Thanks to so many, who through their kindness made it possible for the Rose Garden Mission Center for Hope and Healing to become a reality!



Friends of the Rose Garden Home Mission

PO Box 122089, Covington KY 41012-2089
friendsrghm@gmail.com

Dear Friends of the Rose Garden Mission,

On behalf of the Board for the Friends of the Rose Garden Mission, I want thank you for your continuing support of the Rose Garden Mission and the Franciscan Daughters of Mary.

As you know, last summer the Friends were able to take title of the building that houses both the Rose Garden Mission and the Center for Hope and Healing. Much progress has been made in the improvements of the property and building structure. Because of God's blessings and wonderful, giving volunteers, most of these improvements were accomplished without cost. The Mission is very grateful!

However, there remains an outstanding bank note and ongoing monthly operating expenses that need attention. So we again write to ask for your generosity and "partnership in hope" for the poor of Northern Kentucky and greater Cincinnati. Please know that 100% of your gift is used for the service of the Mission.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration. You remain in the prayers of this Board and the Franciscan Daughters of Mary.

God's blessing to you and your families.

Greg Ionna
Chairman

PS – Our annual fund-raising dinner "Partners in Hope for the Poor" will be held at the Madison Event Center in Covington on May 24, 2012 at 6pm. Call Gloria for reservations: 513-683-6257.



July 22, 2011 the Friends of the Rose Garden Mission sign a mortgage with Heritage Bank. Pictured above: Greg Ionna Chairman of the "Friends," & Mother Seraphina shaking hands with Heritage VP Pamela Goetting



"Friends" in front of newly acquired property housing the Rose Garden Home Mission. L. to R. Duane Froehlicher, Joseph Bessler, Mother Seraphina, Gloria Ionna, Greg Ionna, Dennis Miceli, Shawn McCormick.



Above: A joyous harvest of donations for our Thanksgiving Turkey N' Fixin's Give-Away



Middle: Friends & Neighbors line up for the Thanksgiving give-Away



Right: Sr. Catherine Mary and Helper Deema Romer serve hospitality to our Friends & Neighbors



One of our "Friends" sent a cake to celebrate the purchase of the building. The sisters celebrate with Our Lady of Guadalupe and share the cake with our Friends and Neighbors who visit us at the Mission.



Above, some of the new Rose Garden Parenting Class staff. L. to R.: Kim Combs , John Paolucci, Fran Miceli, Dennis Miceli, Paula Duvall and Mother Seraphina



Sr. Ann Mary takes her maiden voyage on the new porch lift donated by the Knights of Columbus. Knight, Ray Rehtin who spearheaded the construction stands by to assure success—which it was!! God bless the Knights!



Students from Mother Seton High School in Cincinnati look on as Mother Seraphina shares with them what a vocation to the religious life is like.



Sr. Mary Joseph holds a bundle of joy that was born to a Mom she helped at the Mission. This beauty is only 5 days old!



The sisters sit for a family photo on the day of Sr. Clare Marie's Investiture.



Sr. Ann Mary, a.k.a. Head Reindeer, greets people at our Christmas Give-Away, where we gave away toys for almost 700 needy children.



Fr. Ryan Maher, Pastor of St. Benedict's Parish gave everyone a blessing and helped us at on our Christmas Give-Away.



An 8 month pregnant Mom receives a New Baby Welcome Basket from Sr. Catherine Mary.



Sr. Clare Marie had an opportunity to play the "big organ" at St. Benedict's Church for All Saints Day.

Rose Garden Cuties



Please join the
Franciscan Daughters of Mary
for
Vespers & Holy Hour
for Vocations

2nd & 4th Fridays every month
7pm-9pm

Convent Chapel
336 East 16th St., Covington



New Baby Welcome Baskets
awaiting a home

Thank you for all of your prayers for me and my family as we suffered the loss of our Dad. God bless you!
—Mother Seraphina



Family members bring up a rose during the Offertory at our Mass of Remembrance for all deceased Benefactors and Volunteers

We are grateful for all the ways you make it possible for the Franciscan Daughters of Mary to continue serving God and neighbor with our life-saving work in Northern Kentucky!
God bless you!

*The Lord bless you and keep you!
The Lord let His face shine upon you and be gracious to you!
The Lord look upon you kindly and give you His Peace!
~ Numbers 6:24-26*

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



Sisters at the Annual March for Life in D.C.