

# Franciscan Daughters of Mary

Newsletter Spring 2010

## *Blessing Upon Blessing*

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever! On February 22, 2010, Bishop Foys came to our Open House to bless the new location for the Rose Garden Home Mission. What a wonderful way to begin ministry in our new place.

At the new Mission, which is just two blocks further south on Madison Avenue from our prior location, we are better able to help our neighbors in need due to the extra room (it is significantly larger), abundant parking and off the street drop-off site for donations. Having a larger area to welcome our friends and neighbors was always important to us, especially because every so often the line of people waiting to get in would have them standing outside. This to us was never the ideal; we were never pleased that our friends would have to wait outside, exposed to the elements. Nor were we pleased that it would sometimes mean that they'd have to wait in front of our neighbor's houses. The way we look at it is our new move is a "win" for everyone; the sisters and volunteers, our friends and neighbors in need, and other Covington residents who live in our area.

Bishop Foys had some very kind words about our Mission, which were printed in the Messenger, our diocesan newspaper February 26, 2010:

*"I am so pleased with the wonderful charitable work that Mother Seraphina and the Franciscan Daughters of Mary have undertaken in our diocese. When I visited the mission later in the afternoon following the blessing I was touched to see so many people being helped and so many people helping. The Lord was always attentive when he walked the earth to the poor and the disenfranchised. We can do no less. The Rose Garden Home Mission bears witness to how we are called to live as Christians."*

So many of the neighbors we give assistance to are very grateful to us. Below are kind words that they wrote to us.

*"When I first walked in this place I could feel God's love pouring out. I felt loved and knew God was going to provide for me. I needed that! I felt there was hope for my family."*

*"Thank God for the sisters and the Mission! I'm reminded of a line in the poem I Saw Jesus. Every time I walk through the door I'm reminded of Jesus.*

*'I see Jesus everywhere, giving food to the poor, welcoming others into His home, being friendly to a new-comer, and for a minute I think He's someone I know, but it's always Jesus. I can tell by the way He serves.'"*

*"The Rose Garden Mission gives families help when other places in our community are depleted. You fill a void when families do not have other options."*

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And from one of the Daughter's Helpers who lives in Covington.

*"You sisters have rallied our community and organized its efforts and given the vulnerable people of Covington a welcoming place of assistance. As a woman on the street corner on Madison Ave. once told me, 'You go to the sisters when you need help. They don't look down on you, they don't ask you all kinds of questions about why you need help. They just smile at you, chat with you, look you in the eyes, smile and give you help.' However much assistance you give, you excel even more in recognizing the dignity of each person regardless of their circumstances. That could be why word has spread across Covington—'Go to the sisters!'"*

*"I will sing your name forever, fulfill my vows day after day"*  
*Psalm 61:9*

Sister Ann Mary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus made her First Profession of Vows on March 6, 2010 at St. Benedict Church in the presence of Bishop Roger J. Foys, D.D.

"I was so excited to become the spouse of Jesus Christ," said Sr. Ann Mary, "that I didn't sleep the night before my vows. The next morning I woke up singing *Holy Is His Name*.

That whole morning it seemed like I couldn't sit still. Then, when I walked in to the church, the nervousness finally went away. As I walked up toward the sanctuary to profess my vows, I felt like I was walking in to Heaven."

*"The King desires your beauty, He is your Lord"*  
*Psalm 45:12*

On February 11, 2010, the Franciscan Daughters of Mary welcomed a new member to our community. Sr. Terry had been discerning a call to the religious life for some time when she kept running in to us. So she began volunteering at our Mission, and came to our Franciscan Experience in August and felt very drawn to our community.

"I felt a great sense of peace and joy each time I volunteered, and it seemed like the Lord was saying that this is where my gifts lie. I felt the presence of Our Lady very powerfully when I came for the Franciscan Experience, and had an incredible amount of joy whenever I was around the sisters. Then I had, what I refer to as the "holy nudge" of the Holy Spirit through the influence of the Blessed Virgin Mary," so I took that as a prompt to approach Mother Seraphina

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with the possibility of becoming a sister in this community. What great joy and peace I experienced when she accepted my application!

## *One of Our Helpers Writes*

There were so many people who expressed genuine thanks and appreciation at the Christmas give-away; everything from what the sisters do all year to help them get by to how their children would not have had a Christmas this year without the toys donated to the Mission. As they would express their thanks, many of them would get “choked-up,” their eyes welling up with tears. They were so sincere in their thanks...the thanks all go to God!

We are so grateful to the Lord for the way you love Him through the prayers, assistance and support you give to us.

You and your intentions are remembered each day at the sisters' Morning and Evening Prayers. May our Lord Jesus Christ shower you with an abundance of graces and blessings.

*Mother Seraphina*