

Franciscan Daughters of Mary

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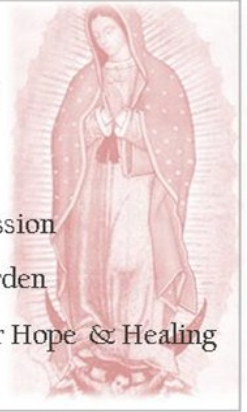
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Spring 2012

Rose Garden Home Mission

Friends of the Rose Garden

Rose Garden Center for Hope & Healing



Life, Liberty and Love in truth

How great the wisdom of the founding fathers of our country in constructing our nation's Bill of Rights, when in forming the document they gave pride of place in the First Amendment to the free exercise of religion, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."



The sisters take a prayer-break in the Mission's Prayer Room

To freely exercise my religion, it is not only about my ability to go to Mass on Sunday or pray the Rosary at home, I must be able to live it out and let it naturally effect my day-to-day decisions and behaviors. For Christians, this means to be Christ-like, to be the face of Christ to others.

But in light of the Health and Human Services Mandate that requires employers to provide insurance plans that cover contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs under the umbrella of "women's preventive medical care," people of faith and Christian religious institutions may be forced by the government to provide coverage for contraception or sterilization, even if that violates their religious beliefs.



The sisters at Fountain Square, Cincinnati for the Rally for Religious Freedom

As a practicing Catholic who agrees with the Church's teaching about contraceptives and abortion being "intrinsically evil acts," this is a clear violation of my Constitutional rights.

Many people, it seems, don't understand what the "big deal" is about contraceptives and why the Church opposes it.

The first reason is biological. All chemical contraceptives have an abortifacient nature, meaning they could cause an abortion, and the Church has always considered abortion an intrinsically evil act. Contraceptives work on a three tier program, on the first tier it attempts to prevent ovulation and on the second, fertilization. But at times, these fail. So on the third tier, it changes the lining of the womb, making the uterus incompetent and thereby preventing the baby's placenta from attaching to it. Consequently, the newly conceived child passes most often without the Mom even knowing it.

The second reason is because of what it says about relationships that are supposed to be founded on love. But do we really understand what true romantic or marital love is? Society would tell us that, "Love is to have a deep, tender, ineffable feeling of affection and solicitude, to have a feeling of intense desire and attraction, and to have an intense emotional attachment." (Websters)

To follow this logic is to say that I love you because you make me feel good. Well, isn't that kinda cheap love? What if someone makes me feel better, or what if someone else makes you feel better, where does that leave me?

Ask anyone who has been happily married for 10 years or more if it always "feels good"

to love their spouse, they'll tell you it's a daily decision, a choice, to love them. Love must be **free**, a free choice to love another, in spite of what my emotions may be telling me.

Anyone who follows Gospel values knows that love must be **total** to be true, an unconditional 100% gift of yourself to another without counting the cost, for Jesus tells us, "No greater love is there than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (Jn 15:13) If we were to follow our emotions, this would put a condition on the way we love – I will love only if it makes me feel good.

Love also must be **faithful**, i.e. forever. Who of us would marry someone who only wanted to be married for 2 years? Or 5? Or 10? You see, our hearts know that this type of "love" is not really love at all, it may be affection or infatuation or lust, but it is not love.

And love must be **fruitful**, open to life. Jesus explains that, "by their fruits you will know them." (Mt 7:20) To discern whether something is good or evil, we must look to the fruit it produces. Is it fruitful and loving to say to one's spouse in effect, "I love you, but I don't want your baby?" This is what contraceptives "say" through the action.

We know that through one holy man's prayer and fasting (Moses) an entire nation was saved from destruction. To work toward preserving our **Constitutional right to exercise our religious beliefs freely**, we invite you to



All are invited to pray twice daily

join the sisters in *prayer* and *fasting* that the HHS Mandate be repealed, so that the intentions of this nation's founding fathers regarding religious liberty be upheld, and that all Americans may be **free** to live out the tenets of their religion without the intrusion of the government.

P

arenting: Lessons learned in love

Next to a statue of the Holy Family - Mary, Joseph and Jesus - 'Al' puts pencil to paper, answering questions about just-learned information on disciplining children. As 'Al' fills in his homework, an expert on a videotape reiterates that discipline is an act of love. Discipline should be safe, predictable and loving. The long-term goal of predictable discipline is - through loving consequences- to teach your child how to regulate himself, the expert states. His wife, 'Anna,' who is eight-months pregnant, turns to her husband to ensure he has understood what the expert has said. 'Al' nods.



Taking notes

For the past 15 weeks, 'Al' and 'Anna,' have been coming to the Rose Garden's new Parenting Classes, the only free parenting classes in Northern Kentucky. We offer classes on how to reduce the chances of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Shaken Baby Syndrome and tips on health, including the health and emotional well-being of parents.

Both 'Anna' and 'Al' have children from previous relationships. Their new baby will mean they will have three children less than the age of five in their care. At one of the classes, Fran was encouraging 'Anna' to hold the baby, talk to him, read to him, sing to him, walk with him, etc. 'Anna' responded that she never knew these things and that she was going to go home that day to interact more with her son using the skills she had just learned.

"I have learned a lot," said 'Anna,' of



Parents study class materials

Covington. "My favorite part was learning about synapses," she said. "I had no idea how important it was for you to read and communicate with your infant. When you touch and talk to them, they are actually taking it all in. It is helping develop their brain cells."

"I have learned how to take time outs (when frustrated)," said 'Monica,' who attended class, as her infant son 'Peter Jr.,' slept in his stroller. "Patience is a big thing for me," added 'Monica.' "I also learned I have to take care of myself, in order to take care of my children." 'Monica' was among the first group of parents to graduate from the program.

Our new classes began this past December after Fran Miceli had a conversation with Mother Seraphina Marie at a Knights of Columbus fish fry. Parenting Classes had been in the works for some time at the Rose Gar-



Mother Seraphina with Parenting Class Coordinator, Fran Miceli

den, but lacked the space and a volunteer willing to direct the classes. After the Rose Garden moved to its new, larger location and learning that Fran taught parenting classes for several years in Cincinnati, both she and

Mother Seraphina felt this was a perfect fit.

Fran, joined by her husband Dennis, both know that most new parents are only equipped with the parenting skills they have learned from experience. And because poverty can be so oppressive, we find that most often these are negative experiences stemming from the parent's childhood.

If parents suffered neglect or were disproportionately spanked as children, they are



Jon Paolucci, left, with Dad in our

more likely to turn to the only thing they know - their experience. "Our answer to that is to offer the positive," said Fran. "It has been wonderful to watch the growth of the students in our classes. They have come a long way."

As the small group discussed their final questions, Fran gave the women in the class a Certificate of Completion and small cross necklaces - a gift for completing the class. They posed for a graduation picture. And as a culmination to the last 15 weeks, Dennis unveiled a cake. Fran and Dennis, whose children are grown, know that these new parents' journey has just begun, but they hope the classes will make those journeys more successful.

As the cake is eaten and the students say their goodbyes to Fran and Dennis, the statue of the Holy Family remains in the new parents' sight. "Remember. There is no such thing as the perfect parent," an expert on a videotape has just told the graduates. But Fran and Dennis have witnessed a lot of progress and that is what parenting is all about, they say.

The Rose Garden is now a registered charity with Krogers supermarkets to receive rewards with their Community Rewards program.

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

First Annual Partners in Hope for the Poor Dinner a Success



Sheila Carroll was honored for her continued "Yes!" to the Lord

With more than 250 attendees, the first annual Partners in Hope for the Poor dinner held on May 24, 2012 at the Madison in Covington, KY, was a great success!

On behalf of the Friends of the Rose Garden Mission Board, I extend heartfelt appreciation to all the attendees, spon-



The medical professionals in attendance at the Dinner stand to be recognized

sors and volunteers that helped make this inaugural event a great success. Your generosity of time, talents and treasure was a great help to the Friends in their assistance to the sisters and Rose Garden Home Mission.

The financial results from the dinner were beyond all expectations and greatly appreciated! We are especially grateful



Mother Seraphina gave a very moving presentation

to those who were kind enough to make an annual pledge for the next five years. We can report that \$40,000.00 was committed and another \$40,000.00 pledged over the next four years.

Be assured that 100% of all gifts will go directly to cover the operating expenses for the Mission, which includes the outstanding bank loan for the Rose

Garden buildings and property. In fact, since January, 2010, your financial support has helped to reduce this note from \$525,000.00 to \$265,000.00! {raise the Lord!}



This young volunteer & Mom enjoy the evening

Finally, your continued support and prayers for the Rose Garden Mission and the Franciscan Daughters of Mary are greatly appreciated!

You may assist us in our commitment to providing the Mission with a "home" in the Northern Kentucky / Greater Cincinnati area by making your financial contribution to:
Friends of the Rose Garden Mission,
PO Box 122089, Covington, KY 41012.

God's blessings, Greg Ionna - Chairman



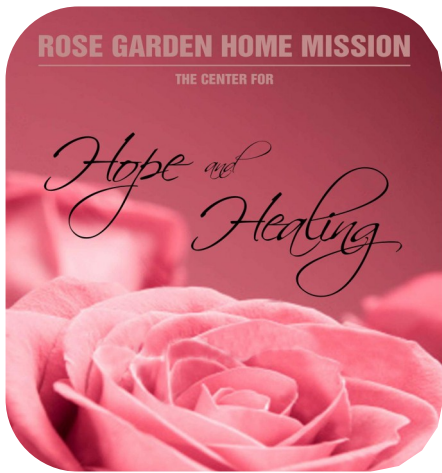
Emily Hicks and Nathaniel Egan, both Mission volunteers, offer beautiful, uplifting music during the cocktail hour and the dinner



Greg Ionna, Chairman, with wife Gloria, secretary and event coordinator

Many are the hands that gave generously of their God-given skills to help us make needed repairs





Moments of Hope & Healing



Assessing our neighbor's needs

After much anticipation, the Rose Garden Mission Center for Hope and Healing opened its doors on January 24, 2012! Inside, examination rooms, housed in a portion of the Mission, Sheila Carroll, director of the newly opened medical clinic, along with other volunteer medical professionals examine patients, diagnose health problems and prescribe needed, non-narcotic medication. Our nurse



Checking blood pressure

practitioners love being there so much, they alternate the days they volunteer at the clinic and the Health Ministries.

The Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing is Northern Kentucky's only free medical clinic that serves the uninsured who are not homeless. Most patients had no previ-

ous access to primary medical care before the clinic opened in January.

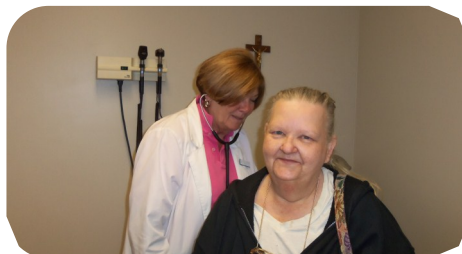
Seeing patients, and even when needed helping them obtain their prescriptions, the center charges nothing. It depends on financial contributions and volunteer medical professionals who are willing to share their time, skills and the love of God to those who have



Say Ahhh

no money or insurance. "We receive no government funding. Instead, we rely on the donations of people who have a heart for giving to the poor," said Mother Seraphina Marie, fdm.

For the first 6 months the clinic saw 140 patient visits. One of our friends and neighbors was referred to the Center for Hope & Healing from the Health Ministry in the main part of the Mission. He had lost his job and health insurance 18 months earlier. This led to becoming homeless and depressed, then



Take a deep breath

making bad life-style choices and eventually becoming suicidal. He told us he never imagined he would be in this position.

He wanted to work, but no one would hire him because of a chronic cough. He wanted to change his life. He was through with bad life-style choices and wanted to stop smoking. He wanted to live!

We changed his medication and made an appointment for him with Dr. Meyer, the Psychologist who donates time each week to the Mission, and we had him promise to call if he was having thoughts of suicide.

Seeing that we really cared, he could not believe we were doing all of this, "No one has ever done this for me before," he said. He was beginning to feel good about himself. Then he smiled at us, it was like being face-to-face with Jesus.



Making our neighbors smile

Another friend and neighbor who came to the clinic talked a lot about her life situation - losing her job and her health benefits, about her feelings of isolation and loneliness.

She also wanted to hear about smoking cessation, and then made a plan to make this work. Smiling most of the time, she commented that she's confident she can do this because we took the time to teach her and we will be there to help her. Seeing the face of Jesus in her, she said, "I don't know why you do this, but I am glad you do."



This won't hurt a bit!

Since January 2012, we have had 1393 visits in the Health Ministry. We see it as 1393 visits with the face of Christ.



Reviewing the day

Clinic looking for:

- Ultrasonographer
- Medical specialists
- Medical labs to do testing at free or reduced rate
- Radiology services at free or reduced rate
- Cross cut paper shredder

Rose Garden's Volunteer Psychologist

We are very pleased that Psychologist, Dr. Richard Meyer, Psy.D., has become part of the Rose Garden Home Mission team. Very quiet and unassuming, he has been volunteering 3 hours of his week to see our friends and neighbors at the Mission's Guadalupe Center since March 31, 2011.

Dr. Meyer is a Catholic Christian Psychologist who remembers that we are made of both body and spirit and so treats the whole person. He takes a "developmental view" of life, which means that each of us is born in to the earthly environment which God the Father Himself planned, "a hand-in-glove experience. We must then grow in to this place and our role within it."

For those who participate in their own healing, by doing what Dr. Meyer recommends and growing in relationship with God, we have seen veritable miracles.

One friend and neighbor of ours, who was in her 40's when we met her, had been mentally, physically and sexually abused from infancy. She had suicidal ideation since the age of 7 and had about a dozen attempts.



Mother & Dr. Richard Meyer, PsyD.

A former Catholic, we suggested Sacramental Confession, after which she began to see Dr. Meyer. Our friend made the choice to completely change her life for the better. This was a total transformation from the woman she was when we met, to a happy, healthy productive member of society! Our most gratifying moment came when pointing to herself she told us, "I think I can come to love this person!"

Dr. Meyer has come to understand that God's plan presupposes our deep and loving involvement *with Him*. Human beings were and are made primarily to be "in relatio," in an on-going relationship with God which is mutually loving, but grounded in the Divine Reality. The reality that we have a Father who loves us and desires us to be with Him for eternity...even if that means we have suffering in this life.

After the Fall, our original parents had to leave that daily, familiar relationship with Our Heavenly Father. Thus, sin entered our world and we up to the present day suffer the consequences of their bad choices, along with our own bad choices.

But our hearts still yearn for love and for wholeness. St. Augustine has said, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in God." This is where Dr. Meyer's counseling departs from secular psychology. "God is love." (1John 4:8) He loved each one of us in to existence and He alone knows what is best for us. Dr. Meyer encourages His patients to allow God in to their lives and the problems with which they struggle, so that the One Who loved us in to being, the Divine Physician can heal us. St. Paul reminds us, "We can do all things through Christ (Jesus) Who strengthens us." (Phil 4:13)

Another friend had spoken to us of her son and the difficulties he was having. At our recommendation, her son began seeing Dr. Meyer. Three months later, this Mom came to us overjoyed - her son was told that day by Dr. Meyer that it was their last session, but that he would be there for him in the future if her son ever needed him again.

Because of Dr. Meyer's "whole person" approach to his counseling and his generosity with our friends and neighbors, we have witnessed many friends and neighbors come to a place of healing and wholeness.

Volunteer Yard-Saler

Behind the scenes are many "Angels" who are instrumental in keeping the Mission filled with all of our friend's and neighbor's needs.

At right, standing next to bins of baby clothing is one such "Angel." Meet Kathy Murphy from Hamilton Ohio, she visited the Rose Garden in 2009 with her parish pro-life group who had done a collection of baby things for the Mission.

After Mother Seraphina expressed a desire to have more time to visit yard sales for the Mission's baby needs, she thought that this was one way she could contribute and volunteer without having to



be there due to her work schedule.

An experienced "yard-saler," she would find new or like-new baby clothes and furniture at drastically reduced prices, very often paying .25 cents per outfit. She would then take them home, wash the clothes, stuff them in to bins and clean up the other baby things, and bring them to us.

Because of Kathy's love for children and commitment to our Mission, we have been able to *keep* giving clothes to needy Moms. We are very grateful to Kathy and all of our "Angels" for their love of Jesus Christ through their generosity toward the Rose Garden Home Mission.

We are looking for more "yard-salers." If you or someone you know enjoys "yard-saling," please call the Mission at 859-491-ROSE.



Mission Needs

For Babies

- * Diapers
- * Toiletries for Mom & Baby
- * Newborn Onesies & Clothing
- * Toddler Clothing 12mo.-6T
- * Baby Blankets
- * Receiving Blankets

*Volunteers to harvest produce for the Mission at the Giving Fields in Melbourne, KY. Please call Mother Seraphina: 859-491-ROSE

*Volunteers to assist with office/computer work. Must be able to make a weekly commitment. Call Mother Seraphina



what a Beautiful Baby!



Sr. Ann Mary, recently began using a power wheel chair.

Seeing this, one of our young 3 year old volunteers whose Mom recently gave birth said:

"I know you're sick, but that's OK, you'll have a baby soon and you'll feel better."

Then she invited her to her birthday party, but told her she couldn't spread any germs.



From a young volunteer: "Everybody here is named sister, you're named sister, she's named sister, and she's named sister."

Someone came in and said, "Hi sister."

Turning to Sr. Clare our young volunteer said, "See, everybody is named sister!"

A young girl looking at our display case asked her Mom if she could have something from it.

Mom said, "Ask sister."

So she turned to her own sister and asked her if she could have it.



*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



Our youngest volunteers

Srs. Mary Joseph and Catherine Mary relax at St. Benedict's neighborhood grill-out.



Thank you for all of your prayers and kind notes for Sr. Mary Joseph's recovery from transitional cell carcinoma.

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!