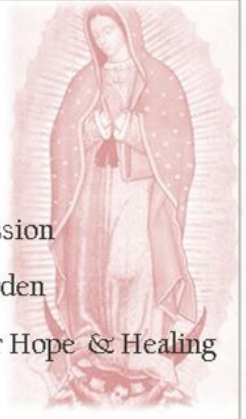


Franciscan Daughters of Mary



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Rose Garden Home Mission

Friends of the Rose Garden

Rose Garden Center for Hope & Healing

Autumn 2014

Well done
good and faithful
servant... (Mt. 25:23)

Many times we've heard this scripture fall from the lips of Fr. Benedict Groeschel, regarding our meeting with the Lord at the end of life. He would say, "What joy it would be to hear, 'Well done, good and faithful servant... come, share your Master's joy.'"



Fr. Benedict Groeschel feeding our furry friends on the streets of Pietrelcina, Italy

On October 3, 2014, the eve of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, as his community was commemorating St. Francis' passing from life in time to life eternal (referred to as the Transitus), our beloved friend and brother in the Lord went home to God

Fr. Benedict Groeschel has been a great friend to the Franciscan Daughters of Mary. When we first began the community, it was Fr. Benedict and his confrere, Fr. Mariusz Koch, CFR who gave our community for-

mation, helping us to grow in our understanding of Franciscan Spirituality and living out the Evangelical Counsels of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. Fr. Benedict would even invite us to the Friars formation days when they had guest speakers.

There are two favorite personal stories about Fr. Benedict.

Once, when we were visiting him on business in Larchmont at Trinity Retreat., he turned to us and asked us if we liked ducks. Telling us, "Wait here!" he came back with stale bread in hand, saying, "Come with me."

As we walked with him the short distance to a bridge that crosses the inlet he very grandfatherly pointed out the constellations that began to appear in the early evening sky.

Upon reaching the bridge, he called out, "Ducks! Ducks!" As the geese and mallards began swooping in, he told us to stand back, because they didn't know us.

Feeding the ducks by hand, he inquired of them, "Where's Grandma?" He hadn't seen her in a few days. Fr. shared with us that he had named all of the "regulars."

Father's genuineness and love always made you feel like you were part of his inner circle, like family, even though we were from another community.

Being on pilgrimage with Fr. Benedict was always an adventure. In Italy for Padre Pio's Beatification, almost 80 pilgrims followed him on a walking tour of the churches of Rome. Father's energy and walking speed sometimes left even us "young'uns" in the dust.

A local guide led our tour which ended at the Sistene Chapel. But what fun we had when Fr. Benedict would embellish the stories the guide told, even sometimes correcting the tour guide.

The most endearing moment on pilgrimage was when Fr. noticed some stray dogs on our visit to Pietrelcina, Padre Pio's hometown.

Fr. Benedict stopped in a store nearby and got some treats for our furry friends. The picture to the left captured this precious moment. Looking like his Spiritual Father St. Francis, he in like manner had compassion on the starving dogs, giving us a greater ap-

preciation for all creatures Our Good Lord has created.



Gennaro

A Matter of Heart

My cousin recently emailed a conversation she had with her 4 year old son Gennaro:

G: Hey Mom. When does God and Jesus sleep? Is it at night-night time or in the morning?

Mom: I'm not sure G. But I do know that when we talk to them they hear us at any time.

G: Well, I can't hear them.

Mom: You hear them in your heart.

G: Where's my heart?

(Mom takes his hand and puts it over his left chest, he feels his heart beating)

G: THAT'S SO COOL!!!

(He starts to walk away, patting his chest, head slightly bent downward, exclaiming loudly)

G: Hey Jesus!!! Are you in there?? Do you like my heart??

What great purity of heart! It's no wonder Jesus told His disciples, "Let the little children come to me and ... for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these?" Perhaps someday little 4 year old Gennaro will understand how profound these comments are, and how his little example can lead us to God. Asking "When does God and Jesus sleep?" he must have been thinking of God to ponder this question. Scripture is replete with exhortations to meditate on the things of the Lord; like Mary, "reflecting on them in her heart."

Psalm 1:2-3 informs us that there are blessings that follow meditation. "The law of the Lord is his joy; and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted near streams of water, that yields its fruit in season; its leaves never wither."

Through the advice of his Mom, he is then encouraged to listen. What profound wisdom! Many people ask us how to hear God, but many do not take the time to listen. At Baptism the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within. God is not "out there somewhere," He is here—always within, loving me in every moment of my life. But how can we come to Know Him if all we do is talk and never listen. This is especially true when we make a choice to grow our relationship with the Lord, "Be still before the Lord, wait for Him." "Be still and know that I am God."

Gennaro then has the awesome experience of feeling his heart beat. He is captivat-

ed by it and this inspires him to dialogue with God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that God's, "invisible nature... has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made." For those who have the eyes to see, everything leads them to God.

Lastly, recognizing God's Presence within his own heart, he is moved toward wanting his heart to be pleasing to Jesus. Isn't this what love does? Wanting to be pleasing to the one loved?

A firm choice and intention to make the heart pleasing to God is, I believe, a sure path to holiness, the holiness Sacred Scripture calls us to:

Leviticus 19:2 "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, Am Holy."

Ephesians 1:4 "Be holy and without blemish before Him."

1 Thessalonians 4:3 "This is the will of God, your holiness."

1 Peter 1:15 "Be holy yourselves in every aspect of your conduct."

The sisters and I pray to the Lord for the grace to practice these things diligently, so that we may be, as Our Lord Jesus encourages us, "perfect as (my) Heavenly Father is perfect."

Thanksgiving & Christmas



Thanksgiving and Christmas are my favorite times at the Rose Garden. Although the atmosphere at the Mission is always positive and uplifting, those two give-away days are pure joy. So much goes in to them and so many volunteers have to be involved, that by the time the food or gifts are shared, so much of Christ's love has been poured over them. My first experience with the Mission was at the Christmas give-away. I love being a Greeter (even though it is out of my comfort zone) because it allows me to be face-to-face with my brothers and sisters and to show them they are loved. Sr. Ann Mary introduced me to the first family, a dad that just lost his wife to cancer and living in a shelter with his two young children. I'll never forget him hugging me when we found him a coat. - Amy



Thanksgiving at the Mission is a step in to the sea of humanity, one person at a time; allowing the love of Jesus Christ go to work!! - Amy



Miracles every day at the Rose Garden, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas - Earlene



It represents what the true meaning of Christmas is to me - which is family and friends and giving. - Bill



It is so much fun! It is one of my favorite experiences at the Mission because it is so joyful... Above all, the neighbors who greet me with a smile and welcome me as much as I am trying to welcome them. The Mission is full of contagious energy that is irresistible. I know the Holy Spirit is flowing through the work of our hands every time we are there, but on thanksgiving it is special, beyond words...I'm so thankful for the opportunity to take part. - Amanda





Rose Garden Home Mission



Thanksgiving

Set up—11/22, 11/24 10am-?

Give-Away—11/25 10am-5pm

Christmas

Set up—12/19, 12/20 10am-?

Give-Away—12/22 10am-5pm

Clean up—12/23 10am-?



Helping those in need during Thanksgiving and Christmas makes me appreciate everything we take for granted all year long. The smiles on people's faces is very touching. The hugs and thank you's from people make it all worth helping others in our local community. The Christmas give-away is very spiritually rewarding. It reminds us as a family that Christmas isn't about receiving gifts, it's about giving...It touches my heart and truly strengthens my faith. — Jean

If you would like to help at our Thanksgiving or Christmas Give-Away, contact Sarah at rgmhlpers@gmail.com. Helpers are scheduled in 2 hour increments.

Looking for "Turkey Donors"

Please consider joining our group of helpers who provide turkeys for our friends and neighbors by a tax-deductible donation to the Mission, with "Turkeys" in the memo.



I feel so absolutely blessed to be there . I think of all the people who are less fortunate than I am and I'm so glad there is a place like the Rose Garden that can provide them with the help they need - always , but especially around the holidays. There would be so many people who wouldn't have anywhere else to go.—Nancy



It's really a family reunion. It gives you the warm fuzzies because you see Christ in each person, and they are always very appreciative for everything.—Andrew

Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing

Health Ministry / Free Clinic

One afternoon I was called to check a homeless man who had fallen on his way to the Mission. In his hurry to get a coat and pick up food for himself he had stumbled and fallen. He was homeless and he had been drinking.

His cheek was badly abraded, with numerous facial lacerations, and he was bleeding profusely from a deep open gash above his eye, which was certainly going to need stitches.

Initially he resisted being taken to the hospital, but after conversation and some gentle persuasion, he agreed. As we waited for the EMT's, he took my hand and wordlessly held it against his cheek for several long moments.

A gentle touch, a brief encounter—yes. I was, however, moved beyond words and reminded that God is so very present even in our simplest actions done in love. Sometimes, in those small quiet moments Our Lord is good enough to remind us of His Presence.—Joan Mc Donald. RN

Annie who is uninsured, is one of the most pleasant, up-beat persons you could possibly have the joy of meeting. She works very hard as a housekeeper at one of the larger hotels in the downtown area. She also has debilitating Rheumatoid Arthritis. The clinic arranged an appointment with a Rheumatologist who treats her joint symptoms, but the Center for Hope and Healing sees her on a regular basis for continuing care and medication.



Last month Annie told us with tearful eyes of the kindness shown to her by one of the arthritis office staff who paid her medication fees that month! Talk about the “ripple effect!” How beautiful to witness God’s grace in action.—Sheila Carroll, ARNP

When I came to the Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing I had no idea how much healing I would receive in helping our needy friends and neighbors. The people I am privileged to care for give



me much more in return than I give. One man in particular, “Harold”, has brightened so many of my days. I met Harold when I first began volunteering at the Rose Garden. I was so impressed by his positive attitude and his humor, he always seemed to brightened the room.

Last year he was the victim of a brutal assault requiring a lengthy hospitalization and rehabilitation. After several weeks he was able to return to see us at the clinic. He continued his recovery while I got to attend to his medical needs. Watching his gradual improvement and his ability to meet his impediments with patience, faith and courage is a great joy in my life. I am humbled and honored to be a member of the Rose Garden team.—Sue Mills, ARNP



Sheila presented a poster for the Health Ministry Association, National Conference Poster Presentation

Friends of the Rose Garden Mission

Dear Friends,

May God's blessings be with and your loved ones. As the Christmas Season approaches, The Friends of the Rose Garden would like to take a moment to thank all of you for your tremendous support over this past year. Because of your generous financial support, more than \$325,000 has been donated toward our mortgage in only 3 years!

And the Mission has been the beneficiary of so many of your gifts-in-kind: you have helped us to repair a section of the building that had extensive fire damage, repair and replace a floor that had damage from termites, make our clinic handicapped accessible, replace our aging roof, repair damage to the facade of the clinic, replace the Mission's air conditioning compressor, build 2 handicapped ramps, paint inside and out and so much more!!

Whether through financial assistance, volunteering at the Mission, attending our Annual Dinner or our First Annual Golf Outing in September, your commitment is greatly appreciated and so necessary.

Winter is approaching, and the needs of underprivileged Moms and families in the Northern Kentucky & Greater Cincinnati areas also increase. The cold brings with it more illness, flu, and other expenses. Without the help of the Sisters, many would go without necessary baby items, would go hungry and be without adequate healthcare.

We ask you to please renew your pledges and your donations to the Friends of the Rose Garden so the Mission may remain a sanctuary which gives hope and love to all those who enter.

On behalf of all of the Friends of the Rose Garden, thank you again for your support and prayers. May God bless your Thanksgiving and Christmas Season this year.



Sr. Clare had fun putting

Greg Ionna



Special Thanks to Golf Outing Coordinators Greg & Gloria Ionna, Janette & Steve Courtney and Cindy Biecker for a successful 1st Annual event.

Greg & Gloria Ionna
Cindy Biecker

Baird Company
Regency Manor



AmerisourceBergen



Best Friends

Thanks to all of the "Best Friends" whose generosity helped to cover the Rose Garden Mission's monthly Operating expenses. Below are the Plaquards that hung on the window of the Prayer Room of the Father's Love each month.

Will you prayerfully consider becoming a "Best Friend" of the Friends of the Rose Garden Mission by making a pledge of \$6,000 or just \$500 per month? As always, any monthly pledge amount that the Mission can count on for operating costs would be greatly appreciated.

Gifts can be made out to the Friends of the Rose Garden, writing "Best Friends" in the memo or online by clicking the PayPal icon on our website.

ROSE GARDEN MISSION OPERATING EXPENSES
Sponsored by:
GREG & GLORIA IONNA
for the month of **January 2014**
Please remember them in your prayers

ROSE GARDEN MISSION OPERATING EXPENSES
Sponsored by:
JOE & RUTHIE BESSLER
for the month of **March**
Please remember them in your prayers

ROSE GARDEN MISSION OPERATING EXPENSES
Sponsored by:
WILLIAM & AMY SCHULT
for the month of **April 2014**
Please remember them in your prayers

ROSE GARDEN MISSION OPERATING EXPENSES
Sponsored by:
THE BUTLER FOUNDATION
for the months of **June & July 2014**
Please remember them in your prayers

ROSE GARDEN MISSION OPERATING EXPENSES
Sponsored by:
THE RUTH J. & ROBERT A. CONWAY FOUNDATION
for the months of **August 2014**
Please remember them in your prayers



Beautiful Baby Faces!

Mother Seraphina & Sr. Catherine offer a prayer of thanks to God for a great Golf Outing as the sun sets at the end of the day

Sister's Needs

- * More of Jesus
- * Diapers and baby items
- * Toiletries for Mommy Bags
- * Newborn-Safe Toys, Onesies
- * Formula
- * Baby Food—all stages
- * Toiletries for Homeless
- * Living Room Type Couches

Ways to Give

- PayPal (www.f dofmary.org)
- Stock or CD Transfer (friendsrghm@gmail.com)
- Bequest (friendsrghm@gmail.com)
- Legacy Gift through your Estate Planning (friendsrghm@gmail.com)

We are very grateful to God for the gift you are to us. It is through your prayers and donations that the Franciscan Daughters of Mary are able to serve God in the Northern KY & Greater Cincinnati area!

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

*May God bless you for all the ways you love Our Lord through your kindness to us.
Mother Seraphina & the Sisters*

Please keep us in mind as you consider your year-end giving



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

The Mission receives Rewards when you use your store card

Last Quarter \$400.61 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!