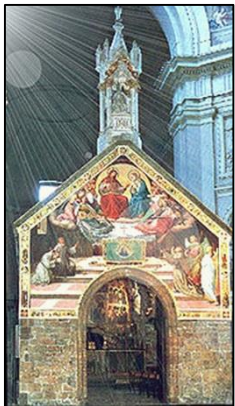


Poor Clares of Cincinnati Fact Sheet



We are a community of sisters known as the Poor Clares, the contemplative branch of the Franciscan family founded by St. Clare of Assisi in the 13th century. As Poor Clares, we take the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and enclosure. Our mission is to pray for the needs of the church, the world, and all people.

In 2009 we celebrated the 800th anniversary of the beginning of the Franciscan movement and the 150th anniversary of the Tyrolese friar missionaries becoming the Custody of St. John the Baptist in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 2012, we celebrated 800 years of Poor Clares, and in 2015, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the day the first Poor Clares took up residence in Cincinnati, at the invitation of the Minister Provincial of St. John the Baptist Province, for the purpose of forming a Poor Clare foundation and bringing the contemplative Franciscan tradition to the area.



1212

On Palm Sunday, March 18, 1212, the young noble woman, Clare di Offreduccio, became the first of St. Francis of Assisi's "Poor Ladies" at Our Lady of Angels, the Portiuncula. Thousands of pilgrims continue to visit the Portiuncula each year, where the Franciscan movement began.



1875

Mother Mary Magdelene Benti-voglio was sent by Pope Pius IX to the United States to found a Poor Clare monastery. Although attempts were made in these early years, Cincinnati would not see a Poor Clare foundation for many years.



1253

On August 9, 1253, Clare became the first woman to have the Rule she wrote receive Papal approval. Clare died two days later. Clare had spent 40 years with her sisters at San Damiano living the life of the gospel. Many women wanted to follow Clare's example. During that 40 year period, 147 monasteries had been founded throughout Europe.

1956

The Poor Clares in Evansville, Indiana requested Archbishop Alter of Cincinnati to permit the sisters to establish a Poor Clare monastery, but Cincinnati would have to wait another 34 years for a Poor Clare foundation.



1990

On June 24, 1990, Sr. Doris Gerke, Huehuetenango, Guatemala, Sr. Anna Marie Covely, Langhorne, PA, and Sr. Dianne Short, Bronx, NY, moved into St. Vivian's Parish Convent in

1255

Two years after her death, on August 15, 1255, Clare was canonized by Pope Alexander IV.

Cincinnati. The Duncan, B.C. monastery became the sponsoring monastery for this Poor Clare Foundation.

1991

On January 2, 1991, Rome approves the establishment of the foundation in Cincinnati.

1996



On September 1, 1996, after many prayers, and generous donations from many benefactors, the sisters celebrated the ground-breaking ceremony and blessing of land by Archbishop Pilarczyk for the new monastery building.

1998



On March 19, 1998, Archbishop Pilarczyk presided at the first Mass in the Chapel at our new Monastery on Miles Road.

2002



On April 13, 2002, we celebrated our first Solemn Profession of Sr. Ann Bartko. Sr. Ann's brother, Fr. Louis Bartko, a friar with St. John the Baptist Province, was one of the concelebrants.

Our Vision Statement

*As followers of Clare and Francis, this is what we ardently seek and long for:
To live as a loving community the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
in poverty, littleness, simplicity, and joy;
open and sensitive to the Spirit working within us,
among us, and beyond us; lovingly surrendering ourselves to the Lord;
witnessing to the primacy of contemplative prayer and trusting in the care of the Lord each day of our lives.*

Our Community

We are grateful for all the many blessings we have received as we continue to live our Poor Clare way of life in Cincinnati.



Left to Right: Sisters Luisa, Dianne, Anna Marie, Ann, Pia, Vickie, Doris and Rita

Visitors are Welcome

(Please contact us for more information)



Meeting Room — Our Meeting Room provides space for up to 35 people to meet for workshops, day-long group retreats, meetings or special occasions.



Guest Area — Our Guest Area provides a wonderful prayerful atmosphere for those who want to schedule a private retreat.



Chapel — We welcome anyone who wants to come and share in prayer with us for Mass, Morning, Noon and Evening prayer.

Our Ministries

*Spiritual Direction/Spiritual Companionship
Directed Retreats
Classes on Prayer and Franciscan/Clarian Spirituality
Clerical Work
Sewing Habits for OFM Friars
Selling Individually Designed Cards and Craft Items
Providing Meeting Room Space for Groups to Meet
Providing Space for Retreatants in our Guest Area*

For more information, please contact:

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Website: www.poorclarescincinnati.org
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