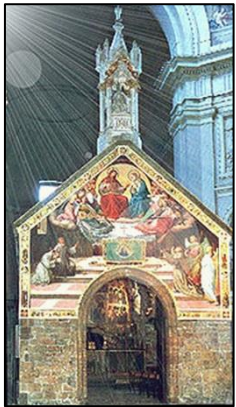


# Poor Clares of Cincinnati Fact Sheet



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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 2012, we celebrated our 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Order of St. Clare (“OSC”), and in 2020, we celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> 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 Bentioglio was sent by Pope Pius IX to the United States to found a Poor Clare monastery. Although attempts were made, 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 Cincinnati. The Duncan, B.C. monastery became the sponsoring monastery for this Poor Clare Foundation.

## 1255

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

# 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.

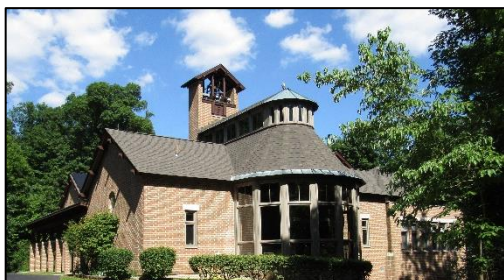
# 2002



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

Since 2002, four Sisters have transferred to our community (Sr. Pia—2008, Sr. Luisa—2010, Sr. Alma—2019 and Sr. Anthony—2019), and three Sisters have made Solemn Vows here in Cincinnati (Sr. Rita—2006; Sr. Luisa—2013 and Sr. Vickie—2014).



Front Row (from left):  
Srs. Luisa, Alma and Anna Marie.  
Back Row (from left): Srs. Vickie, Anthony, Dianne, Ann, Doris, Rita, Pia

## 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  
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](http://www.poorclarescincinnati.org)  
Prayer Requests: [poorclareprayers@gmail.com](mailto:poorclareprayers@gmail.com)