Santa Maria Community Services is very aware and appreciative of the many incredible contributions that Sisters of various religious orders have made to Cincinnati's West side community and beyond. Santa Maria would like to be part of the greater community who recognizes the Sisters' initiatives: their efforts on behalf of children, the elderly, and the disenfranchised are noted in every social service endeavor.



You are cordially invited to

Santa Maria's Celebrating Our Sisters Breakfast!

Saturday, August 15, 2009

10 am—1 pm

(Although there will be a short program, the informal Breakfast will be anytime between 10 am and 1 pm)

Santa Maria's Sedamsville Center

617 Steiner Avenue (map on back)

RSVPs required by August 6th

Leslie Schultz: 51-557-2730 ext. 408 or leslie.schultz@santamaria-cincy.org Nune Krayterman: 513-557-2730 ext. 412 or nune.krayterman@santamaria-cincy.org

As their welfare work expanded, Sr. Blandina regarded by a representative of Cincinnati's secular Associated Charities as "the very best social worker in Cincinnati," organized the Willing Workers. This group consisted of Catholic laywomen whose primary goal was to help raise money for the sisters' work. On December 8th, 1897, "The Santa Maria Educational and Industrial Home," more popularly known as The Santa Maria Institute, was incorporated. The Santa Maria, the first Catholic settlement house in the country, became the pioneer catholic social center in Cincinnati, providing the multiplicity of services for Italians, but also for Hungarians, Poles, Syrians, Mexicans, Germans, Irish, and blacks.

(Faith and Action, a History of Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Roger Antonio Fortin—The Ohio State University Press, Columbus, 2002)



Sr. Blandina Segale

Santa Maria was founded nearly 112 years ago by Sisters of Charity Blandina and Justina Segale, two nuns of Italian heritage who responded whole-heartedly to the needs of fellow immigrants and young Western Americans.

The young Italian mothers, helped by Santa Maria, benefited from child care, after school programs and English language classes offered by Santa Maria. It is amazing that one hundred years later Santa Maria continues to provide new generations of immigrants and underserved individuals and families with the services that mirror the services offered in the beginning days of Santa Maria.



Sr. Blandina Segale with a young mother and her children

Again, we would like to extend you an invitation to the Celebrating Our Sisters Breakfast, so that we may personally congratulate those individuals who have served their fellow travelers with such distinction.

Please share this invitation with your sisters and brothers in faith, colleagues, families and friends.