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Poor Clare Dentist Society Breaks Silence!

The Poor Clare Dentist Society has been quietly supporting the Sisters for more than six decades. It started in 1947 with a group of seven headed by Dr. Larry Donahoe, who became aware of the Sisters' needs. The six members of the founding dentists are: Drs. G.G. O'Connor, John Klein, Emory LaPorte, Cecil Muller, L.J. Ripp, and Stan Honsa. They bought and provided groceries for the monastery. They started the Poor Clare Dentist Fund.

For 30 years Dr. Donahoe sought donations from more and more dentists who would send their checks to Mrs. D.L.S. Clark. Mrs. Clark was the aunt of Sister Mary Camenzind. She would find out from her niece what the nuns needed, order the groceries, and have these delivered to the monastery.

According to the notes of Dr. James Smith, food was delivered to the monastery 6 times a year: Easter, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. This was done to make sure there would never be a shortage of food on these special days, they referred to as "Dentists' Holidays". From 1947 to the present, the Poor Clare Dentist Society faithfully and quietly observed the 6 holidays, and provided for the nuns. No one outside the society and the monastery knew much about it. But the silence is broken this year.

In the 1970s Dr. Donahoe had the donation checks sent to him, and later



Dr. James F. Smith, D.D.S.

"No one outside the society and the monastery knew much about it. But the silence is broken this year."



Dr. Marvin B. Dvorak, D.D.S.

his son, Ed Donahoe, an attorney of the Omaha Union Pacific assumed the

responsibility to write the letters, collect the funds and buy the groceries. In addition to the dentists' donations, two other of Dr. Donahoe's children, Harry Donahoe and Margie Donahoe Walsh from Virginia Beach, VA participated. Fr. Eldon McKamy took the place of Msgr. Nick Wegner on the donor list. Mrs. Walsh and Fr. McKamy continue to send their donations every year.

Ed Donahoe recruited Dr. Ben Lynch to carry on the tradition. In 1980 they both shopped and delivered the groceries. Over the years the food was bought at Grocery Company Supply Warehouse, World of Food and Baker's Supermarket. Prior to his death, Dr. Lynch requested Dr. Hank Kreski to take over for him, and in 2008, Dr. Jim Smith volunteered to assist. At the retirement of Dr. Kreski in 2012, Dr. Jim Smith and Dr. Marv Dvorak assumed the leadership of the group.

In recent years, the dentists deliver the checks 6 times a year, and the Sisters do the shopping. Mrs. Ben Lynch continues to be involved in the group to deliver checks to the monastery. In 2012 the donor list increased to over 100 dentists. As of 2013, they are now known as the Poor Clare Dentist Society. In their 67 years, the Poor Clare Dentist Society have contributed approximately \$150,000.00. Recently, they paid for "Assisi" or community/family room of the new monastery. Among the dentists of Omaha who provide for the dental

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