

## ***Sister of the Strategic Placement of Lysol Cans***

While exploring my surroundings on a winter writing retreat at St. Mary of the Woods in Owens Hall, a residence for the Sisters of Providence, I began to notice Lysol spray cans everywhere, not just in the restrooms, but in the lavatory on the back of every toilet, the sink room, the shower room, the dining hall and my guest room, all impeccably clean. As I went down this morning for some breakfast and a coffee I noticed a Lysol can placed on a little table just off the main entrance to the residence next to a vase of plastic flowers.

Now I was on a quest as I carried my cup of coffee around peeking into empty offices, counseling rooms and the parlor. What was this all about? Was someone in charge of this? A sister whose sole or perhaps soul duty is to insure that should the need arise there would be a can of Lysol spray within arm's reach. What were the sisters trying to cover up? Owens Hall was shiny clean, the floors freshly polished, the sisters welcoming, pure. Does Lysol have some magical power that I am unaware of? Perhaps it can exorcise evil spirits, keep the devil from riding in on the coattails of outsiders. Whatever its powers, the lingering effect is a slightly medicinal, almost nursing home-like aura its vapors leave behind, not the lavender and powdery scents I associate with ladies of a certain age.

I like the sisters, not only are they the brides of Jesus, they take a public stand for things they believe in. They fight for the abolition of the death penalty. They run an eco farm and use green technology. And they believe the powers of the ubiquitous Lysol can to kill germs that could cause an illness in one of their own, a disruption of the cleanliness and order that gives comfort to those who give comfort to us.

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