

Sisters of the Precious Blood

Volume 1, Issue 11
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Please consider saving paper, ink and the environment —print only if necessary. We have eliminated much of the heavy color areas to minimize the use of colored ink. Thanks

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Enacted in our ASSEMBLY DIRECTIVES 2015 we will remember to...

- Continue to articulate and integrate our Spirituality in our sharing among ourselves and with others.
- Increase our use of social media to promote Precious Blood Spirituality.
- Stand with the marginalized, make a collective commitment to promote and witness nonviolence, and strive to effect reconciliation among God's people.
- Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet's resources.
- Network with other individuals, agencies, and groups to be effective in our current reality.

Stories from around our CPPS world

From San Raymundo, Guatemala

Again this year the girls who attend Holy Mary of the most Precious Blood School planted our extra land space in corn. We were really blessed as our corn production supplied enough to feed our girls and neighbors at least 10 times. When the girls went home after graduation the neighbor children feasted on a whole lot more ears of corn. And another neighbor is presently cutting down the stalks to be fed to his pigs as well as the plants that were left behind after we feasted several times on the quisquil (somewhat like squash hanging in the air) plant that the girls had also planted. If you like fresh garden foods, come on down to Guatemala as we still have carrots, okra, lemon tea spice as well as several other spices and healing plants left.

The students number 28 and neighbors about 25. I shared some of the seed with another neighbor and he also had a great crop.

Our school year goes from Jan.15 to the first week of October. We planted our corn on May 1st, the feast of St. Joseph the worker. We began to harvest in September. I remember we had corn on the cob on the feast of Mary's birth celebration Sept.8th .

Your sister, Marife



- Assembly directive: **Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet's resources.** We also work to **Network with other individuals, agencies, and groups to be effective in our current reality.**

Guadalupe Cluster explores *Vocation Culture: Reflection to Action*

On the weekend of Sept. 30-Oct. 1, the members of the Guadalupe Cluster met to discuss Sections I and II of the NRVC's publication titled *Vocation Culture: Reflection to Action*. Using the Contemplative Dialogue Process, we experienced a very rich and in-depth sharing on the topics of "Establishing Boundaries and Clear Identities as Women Religious" and "Increasing the Cultural Knowledge and Sensitivity of our Members." One image that emerged was that **Interculturalism** in our current reality as a Congregation can be seen as an Interstate Highway—each member approaches different entrance ramps at different times at different speeds. We are all hopefully moving in the same direction with the same ultimate goal, that of living our Precious Blood Spirituality as a group of diverse women religious intent on progressing forward to the "One Table." We are in this journey together.



All of our discussions were viewed through the lens of Precious Blood Spirituality. We see Precious Blood Spirituality evident in the ordinariness of daily life. Welcoming, prayerfulness, joy, compassion, and reconciliation were a few of the examples of various values reflecting day-to-day events of members' experiences. Rain and blood flowing in the cracks of a sidewalk after a drive-by murder provided a graphic example of today's society in need of reconciliation.

We concluded that we each need an attitude of openness to imagine our future together, to see needs and to extend our hearts and hands in solidarity to one another and to those whose lives we touch and touch us.

(Guadalupe Cluster: Marita Beumer, Ann Clark, Marife Hellman, Joyce Kahle, Patty Kremer, Joyce Langhals, Donna Liette, Bela Mis, Terry Walter)

- Assembly Directive: **Continue to articulate and integrate our Spirituality in our sharing among ourselves and with others.**

The Kansas City Province – incorporated members, covenanted companions, and candidates – of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, at their Assembly in June adopted a Corporate Stance on "Just and Compassionate Comprehensive Reform of our Immigration System". According to an excellent article in the October issue of **The New Wine Press**, it states "Corporate stances give us direction to put our Precious Blood spirituality into action in our daily lives."

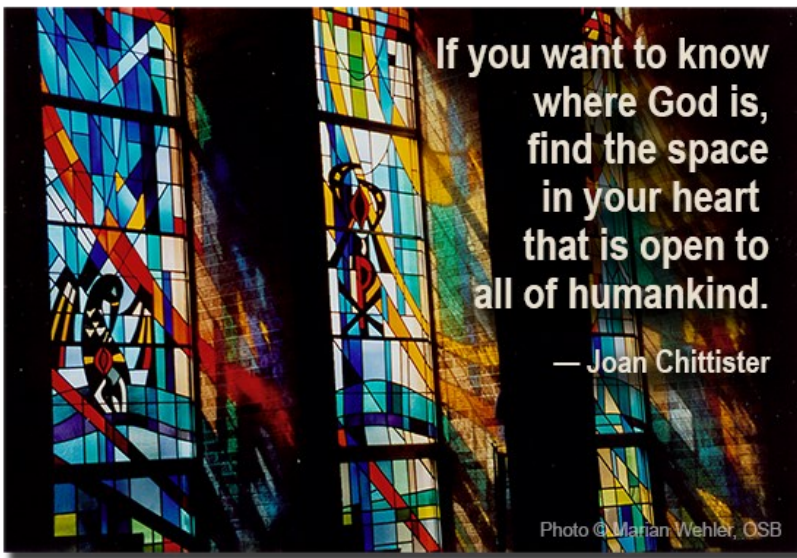
Also, this corporate stance calls on legislators to work together to establish immigration reform legislation and gave several specific points to be included. Their Justice and Peace Committee will continue to develop an action plan as directed by their members and companions.

As they promote the sacredness of all life, this is the third corporate stance the Kansas City Province has taken. You can read the article at: <http://preciousbloodkc.org/>

Assembly Directive: **Network with other individuals, agencies, and groups to be effective in our current reality.**



The 2016 election presents an important opportunity to reflect on our deepest values. When the Visitation Cluster met October 14, Sr. Mary Wendeln gave each Sister a reflection guide for voters. This reflection guide is endorsed by diverse religious organizations and faith leaders and it provides a framework to think about key moral issues heading into the election. You can access this very valuable guide by going to: www.faithinpubliclife.org



An Election Season Prayer

God, I know that I don't have to get angry.
I don't have to get worked up.
I don't have to get depressed.
And I don't have to throw anything at the TV.

I just have to use
my conscience
and vote.

So help me remember
what Jesus taught in the Gospels,
and what our church teaches,
especially about the poor, the refugee, the migrant,
the sick, the homeless, the unborn, the disabled,
the hungry, the elderly and the lonely.

Help me remember the "least" among us,
and help me ponder in my heart
how to cast my vote for the good of all.

God, I know that no candidate is perfect,
because I'm not perfect either,
the last time I checked.
So free me of the burden of having to
vote for someone who satisfies

all my desires for a candidate.
My candidate will be imperfect,
like me.

Help me to be grateful for the ability to vote,
because not everyone has that privilege.

And when I meet people voting for someone else,
Help me to take a deep breath and
give them the benefit of the doubt,
because they are following their consciences, too.

Help me remember
that even though they sometimes drive me nuts,
I don't have to argue with them,
I don't have to convince them,
I don't have to hate them,
And I don't have to demonize them.

Then, after the election, help me work for unity.
Because I know that's what you want.

Amen.

Written by James Martin, S.J., Reprinted with permission.



send us your articles (approximately 125 words or less) for our next issue Grassroots is due **NOV 29** so we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **12/4/2016**.

Please submit to Marty Bertke m.bertke@hometowncable.net

.....or to Mary Lou Schmersal cppsnews@bright.net

Your contributions make all the difference!

We're on the Web!

www.preciousbloodsistersdayton.org