



Sisters of the Precious Blood

Volume 2, Issue 1 December, 2016



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

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.

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Stories from around our CPPS world

WOW, Trafficking in Mount Pleasant, Michigan and How Marie Kopin Learned About It!

The Women of *Delta Kappa Gamma*, Tau Chapter, and International organization, of Mount Pleasant met some time ago with Trooper Michael White, a Community Service Trooper of the Michigan State Police Field Services Bureau in our area, (whitem27@michigan.gov). He is well known in our town for giving educational talks and programs. Our topic was Trafficking. He brought along Theresa L. Flores, LSW, MS, Founder and Survivor of S.O.A.P., “Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution”, as being a “Survivor” of trafficking. Her website is www.traffickfree.com and email is tflores@traffickfree.com. Her book is [The Slave Across the Street](#).

She told us her story of being initiated into trafficking while only 15 years old. Go to her website to read the horrifying details of how they intimidated her and kept her as a slave. It started with a young man making friends with her until she finally went to his place and drank a beverage which knocked her out so they could rape and photograph her. There were many more details, and I can tell you there was not a dry eye in our gathering. Officer White showed us photos of other high school girls, before and after similar ordeals. He said customers were clergy and police. Officer White said there are specially trained police officers in most states who would be very happy to talk about this problem to various groups. I believe education is the key to stopping these crimes. I was shocked to hear trafficking goes on in our small rural college town, even during our Central Michigan University sports events.

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—submitted by Marie Kopin

MODERN DAY SLAVERY

Yes, modern day slavery, known to most of us as human trafficking of human labor or sex, is a serious social evil in our society. Recently Sisters Ceil Taphorn, Joan De Christopher and I had a luncheon with Theresa Flores who is a survivor of trafficking. Founder and survivor of S.O.A.P, Theresa advocates to abolish human trafficking which is prevalent in the Dayton and other areas of Ohio and the country. Several ways in which we can become involved in this project include through donations, being a volunteer or being prayer partners which Theresa says needs to be strong.

(continued p.2).

I hope to give you updates on the organizing going on in Dayton and how we hope to be a part of the awareness activities. To be more informed on human trafficking, you can read the books that Theresa Flores herself has written. While you are informing yourself, begin to be a strong Prayer Partner and soon you will be contacted about how we can help with this project. The national hotline is: 888 3737 888 in case you see something suspicious.

- cpps directive: **Stand with the marginalized. Network with other individuals, agencies, and groups to be effective in our current reality.** —submitted by Marita Beumer



CATHOLIC CLIMATE COVENANT PUBLISHES WEBINARS!

In the Footsteps on the Holy Family: Refugees in an Era of Climate Change

Wednesday, December 07 at 3:00pm ET [Register Here!](#)

Keep an eye on this site to get the most recent offerings and resources.

<http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/webinars>

TROTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSFORMATION (TNT)

Members of the Trotwood Neighborhood Transformation effort had the third neighborhood gathering in the basement of the United Church of Christ on Sunday, Nov. 13 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. We started with a potluck meal followed by an interesting sharing on the history of Trotwood and in particular the Northeast neighborhood of Olde Town (downtown Trotwood). At the end of the gathering the participants were asked to fill out 3x5 index cards answering the following questions: 1) What would you like to keep the same in your neighborhood? 2) What would you like to see changed for the better? 3) What would you like to reduce or remove? The responses will be consolidated and brought to the next TNT meeting.

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DAYTON CHANGEMAKERS

Jeanette and I attended the Changemakers seminar at Bergamo on October 28-30. There were 95 participants from throughout the United States. We were invited by a lay Marianist that we both knew, but we didn't know that this gathering was primarily for the Marianist family, priests, brothers, sisters and lay communities. Even though we felt a little out of place, we discovered that all of us are concerned about the same issues in our world, such as environmental sustainability, interfaith dialogue, racial justice, immigration, non-violence, LGBT, and justice issues for women. Jeanette and I left affirmed that we CPPS share some of the same justice concerns —theirs from the charism of Mary's "yes"; ours from the charism of Jesus' redeeming love.

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Here's a factual account of the Brunner Literacy Center's expansion: BRUNNER LITERACY CENTER UPDATES

2017 is poised to be an exciting year for the Brunner Literacy Center! The BLC is opening two new sites in January, bringing the total number of BLC locations up to four. Kathy Reed has taken over the direction of programs at the original BLC Salem Avenue site, and she works closely with the Program Coordinators who are in charge of the new branches.



One new branch is at the Day Reporting Center (DRC); this program is for parolees who want to further their education. Many of them are working toward their GED. A small test program for DRC residents began there in August 2016, and the program will expand to accommodate more parolees in January with the opening of a new building at the Reentry Center complex. Barbara (Neumeier) Maloney is running the DRC program.

Another new BLC location is at the Catholic Social Services building on Brown Street. This program serves refugees who are learning English as their second language. This site has been open since the beginning of November 2016; the present students are from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and speak a form of Swahili, which poses an interesting challenge for BLC tutors.

The third BLC site will open at the Catholic Social Services building on Riverview Avenue in January 2017. This location will provide Adult Basic Education (ABE). Sr. Paula Gero is Program Coordinator for both of the Catholic Social Services sites. Barb and Sr. Paula are aided by Kateri Dillon, a Marianist PULSE intern who is serving the Brunner Literacy Center as Program Assistant.

The Sisters of the Precious Blood can be proud of their sponsorship of these valuable programs.

- cpps directive: **Stand with the marginalized, make a collective commitment to promote and witness nonviolence, and strive to effect reconciliation among God's people.** — submitted by Paula Gero 11/17/2016

A SECOND CHANCE...

After retiring from teaching six years ago, I was given the opportunity to use my teaching skills once more. I was asked to tutor a woman and a gentleman who came to the Brunner Literacy Center to learn to read. This was one way I could follow in Mother Brunner's footsteps of reaching out to others in need. Doing so would give fuller life to those two individuals who are struggling to make their lives more full. Both clients desire so much to be able to sit down and read a book. Since our Congregation's mission is to proclaim God's love by being a life-giving presence in today's fractured world, I feel I am giving a form of life to these two individuals.

- cpps directive: **Stand with the marginalized, make a collective commitment to promote and witness nonviolence, and strive to effect reconciliation among God's people.** —submitted by Rosie Lindeman

DEATH/CAPITOL PUNISHMENT PENALTY ISSUE

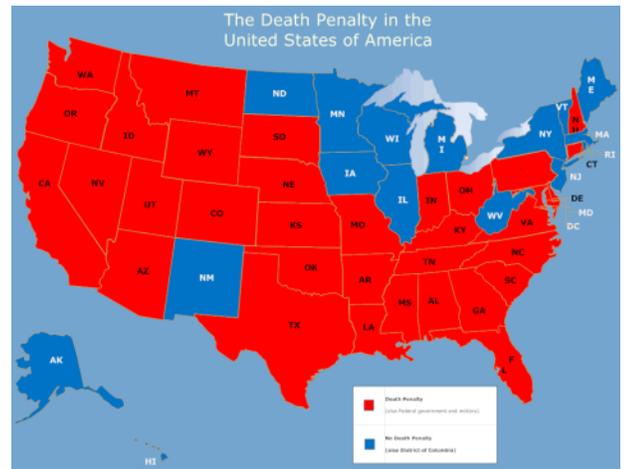
Recent state votes and our national election have continued to fuel the debate about capitol punishment. We encourage you to stay informed and to keep an eye on local conversations around this topic. Your opinions are important and might enrich the awareness of others. Check out this link for recent information: <http://cnn.it/2eSAZCp>

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DEATH PENALTY

According to *The Washington Post*

“While the death penalty never emerged as a major issue during the 2016 campaign, Election Day saw key victories for supporters of capital punishment, which has seen its popularity and use decline nationwide.



JOY IN SHARING FAITH!

This past summer I had the privilege of preparing a couple for getting their marriage blessed. They were migrants from Texas who work in St. Henry, OH from April to October. I had noticed they came to Mass in Spanish each Sunday, but did not receive Holy Communion.

During the instructions, I found they were married for thirty-three years, with no impediments. I was stunned when they told me that neither had made their First Communion, Their deep faith and reverence made the statement almost unreal. When asked how often they went to Mass as a child, they answered “Once a year.”

An understanding came to me when I was talking to Fr. Ramon, from Oaxaca, Mexico where he works in the mountains. (He was visiting in Versailles with the PARISH TWINNING group.) I asked him how many parishes he had. His response was. “I have eight municipalities (towns), and 40 villages.”. What a growth in understanding the Hispanic people’s faith journey!

- Assembly Directive: **Continue to articulate and integrate our Spirituality in our sharing among ourselves and with others.** —submitted by Regina Albers



Thank You

The Peace, Justice & Care of Creation committee has been publishing an issue of the Grassroots Newsletter each month for one year. The committee says **thank you** to the Sisters who have contributed articles and shared how they are living the Assembly Directives. We surely hope this endeavor will continue throughout the coming year. You are always welcome to submit articles either individually or as a group.



Send us your articles (approximately 125 words or less) for our next issue. Grassroots is due **DEC 28** so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **01_02_2017**.

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