



Sisters of the Precious Blood

Volume 2, Issue 3 February 2017



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

SEEING REAL JOY!

Some weeks ago I was asked to prepare two young Hispanic girls, ages ten and fourteen, for Baptism and Eucharist. Their family had moved into North Star, OH and they currently attend school in Versailles. One of the teacher-aides there learned that these girls had not been baptized and, since I am bi-lingual, I was contacted to assist them.

My weekly lessons with these girls are a joy because they are eager to learn plus their excitement and determination is so evident. In one week they almost knew the Our Father in English. A catechist from the parish and I anticipate these girls will be baptized at the Easter Vigil.

Their mother, who is present for the classes, works on a farm. The farm owner and the members of St. Louis Parish help this family in many ways with loving care. Pope Francis’ message of mercy is demonstrated here in person and is greatly appreciated.

Submitted by S. Regina Albers.

Directive: Working with the marginalized.

VISITING THE ELDERLY IN HERITAGE MANOR

Weekly, I visit the residents of Heritage Manor in Minster, Ohio-- a long-term, skilled-care and rehab facility for those of lesser means. Residents of Heritage Manor are both positive and negative about their circumstances. Most of them are grieving their losses of one kind or another. Often newer residents are biding their time until they can “go home” while others realize they no longer have a home to go to. Some are not happy with their family members who arranged for them to be there while others do not know where they are. Naturally their physical diminishment is a source of great frustration and angst as well as a source of physical pain.



Though well-cared for, these residents are in need of someone just to affirm their dignity and to hear their lament. Often I bring Eucharist and lead the residents in prayer in the large common space and then I also visit them in their rooms. I know I don’t have all the answers to their struggles but just being there hopefully brings them the reassurance of the love of Jesus in their fractured lives.

submitted by S Marla Gipson

- Stand with the marginalized, make a collective commitment to promote and witness nonviolence, and strive to effect reconciliation among God’s people.

RECYCLING MULTIPLIES BLESSINGS

Recycling is part and parcel of life for the Sisters at the Glen. We are fortunate to have recycle bins on the property and dutifully take our food scraps to the compost bin near the children's garden.

While bags and boxes find their way out to the bins, my recycle project brings in, bags and boxes bearing "recycled yarn" --not recycled from an already-made project, but from the knitting baskets and storage rooms of crafters who had extra yarn for a project, or just didn't get around using it. These bountiful surprise offerings provide more than 98 percent of the yearly use for over 300 caps and over 60 scarfs.

My interest in providing winter wear began over 30 years ago. While I was working at Salem Heights some women of the neighboring parish started a collection for **Sr Margie's Kids** (Sr. Margie Zureick's Ministry in Kentucky) The project continued even after I moved when Sr. Frances Kleman and Sr. Rose Ann Winklejohn took up the challenge at Salem Heights and were able to enlarge the outreach. After the death of Sr. Frances, Sr. Rose Ann, felt overwhelmed to carry on the project. She shared her concern with a student pastor attending UTS, who took the challenge to the women of his church. Sr Margie' Kids were then in good hands, and the sisters were able to supply many needy outlets in Dayton and Cincinnati. I too took up the needles and continue to help the production.

A small tag is attached to each cap: **"Hand Made with Love & Prayers- the Sisters of the Precious Blood."** A prayer also is said for the ones who shared the recycled yarn.

submitted by S. Beverly Bodnar

- **Directive:** Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet's resources

5 K Run

THIRD ANNUAL **5K RUN for VOCATIONS**, Sponsored by Knights of Columbus, of Coldwater, OH was held Saturday, November 12, 2016 10:00 a.m., at **St. Charles Center** Carthagen, OH. Participating in the event were 200 people of all ages and from all walks of life.

The weather on that day was ideal for the runners/walkers and for all who were a part of organizing and hosting this special event. After the run, people gathered in the auditorium where awards were presented to the top three male and female participants, in their age group.

Sr. Carolyn Hoying, an avid promoter for Vocations, received a medal for third place in her age group. Way to go, Carolyn! We're proud of you!

Submitted by Srs. Carolyn Hoying & Marty Bertke

- **Directive:** Integrating our Spirituality in our sharing among ourselves and with others.



Being More Than Being Useful



HERE'S A REMINDER TO ALL OF US...

In our busy lives, a reminder that what matters most is not our ability to produce but our ability to love, and to just be. And, Parker ends with a gorgeous poem by Lynn Ungar, including these lines:

"And you—what of your rushed / and useful life? Imagine setting it all down— / papers, plans, appointments, everything— / leaving only a note: "Gone / to the fields to be lovely. Be back / when I'm through blooming." Parker Palmer

Why Literacy Matters

The Brunner Literacy Center now has three satellite offices, two at Miami Valley Catholic Social Services on **Riverview Avenue** (program coordinator: Paula Gero) and **Brown Street** (program coordinator: Kateri Dillon - Marianist Volunteer). The third satellite office is at the **Day Reporting Center** of the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (Program Coordinator: Barbara Maloney).

The Open House at Catholic Social Services' Riverview Site took place on January 10 and the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Day Reporting Center was held on January 13. At all of the three BLC satellite centers, volunteers provide free one-on-one tutoring to assist clients in obtaining their appropriate literacy goal. The Riverview Avenue site concentrates on elementary education for clients of the Food Pantry; the Brown Street Office focuses on helping refugees learn English, and the Day Reporting Center helps people in the prison system to transfer successfully into society.

For more: <http://www.brunnerliteracy.org/>

Submitted by S. Cecelia Taphorn

- **Directive:** Network with other individuals, agencies. . .

WHEN THE ER AND PSYCH ER BECOME A SANCTUARY FOR THE LOST, LONELY AND BROKEN

Multiple examples occur daily. In this blog, Doctors and caregivers share a bit of their endeavors: a gentleman who



frequents the Emergency Department at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center is homeless and his clothes smell of smoke from the fire he keeps burning where he lives near the railroad tracks. He has a seizure disorder and comes frequently for his medication. "He gets hassled at the shelter so we take care of him here."

To learn of other amazing ways this hospital lives their mission to care for the lonely and broken of their area, click on this link

<http://www.svcradiant.com/blog/when-the-er-and-psych-er-become-a-sanctuary-for-the-lost-lonely-and-broken>

"Our Caregivers could work anywhere, but they choose to be here at St. Vincent Charity," said Dr. O'Day. "There's such a nice spirit here. We're honored to be able to help people have a better holiday."

Suggestion to submit this story based on the hospital blog
S. Mary Ann Moszer

Mary Ann volunteers at St Vincent Charity Hospital

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

"... I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME!" Matthew 25:35

This was written on just one of the signs held high this past Sunday as hundreds of men, women and children gathered in downtown Dayton to protest President Donald Trump's latest Executive Action banning refugees and migrants from 7 Islamic nations.

The crowd exceeded the expectations of the organizers who planned the gathering in front of US Representative Mike Turner's office. As I stood in this crowd with two other CPPS Sisters, I was moved to tears as I was reminded that the United States is a nation of immigrants, founded by immigrants. This Executive Action undermines the core values of our Nation and is a far cry from Jesus' call to us; "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I loved you." John 15:12.



By S. Patty Kremer

Directive: "Stand with the marginalized, make a collective commitment to promote and witness nonviolence, and strive to effect reconciliation among God's people "

S.O.A.P – “SAVE OUR ADOLESCENTS FROM PROSTITUTION”

The S.O.A.P. (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution) project was founded by Theresa Flores who was trafficked at a young age. As an effort to participate in stopping Human Trafficking our Sisters at Salem Heights are putting labels on bars of soap which will then be delivered to hotels in the area. The labels on the soap say the following: **“Are you being forced to anything you don’t want to do? Have you been threatened if you tried to leave? Have you witnessed young girls being prostituted? If so, please call 1-888-373-7888 National Human Trafficking Hotline.** Sister Ceil will be ordering 3,000 more bars of soap for the Sisters to label. Sister Joan DeChristopher is the contact person at Salem Heights.



Sisters label bars of soap that will be distributed

Submitted by S. Cecila Taphorn

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

THE LIBERATOR AWARDS PRESENTED BY S.O.A.P. (Stop Our Adolescence Prostitution)

The 2017 Liberator Awards was held on January 15 at the Villa Milano Banquet and Conference Center in Columbus. This event was initiated to unite people who are working to fight human trafficking. The awards were created with the hopes of highlighting the work of amazing individuals and groups. Everyone will tell you: this is hard stuff to do, so we should diligently celebrate those who do it not because it is easy, but because it is right.

The Awards were presented in six categories: individual, organization, student, volunteer, elected official and survivor who are bringing about awareness to end human trafficking. The Sisters of the Precious Blood were one of the sponsors for this event, and Sisters Judy Niday, Marita Beumer, Pat Dieringer, and Ceil Taphorn were pleased to represent the Sisters of the Precious Blood. There is hope that a S.O.A.P chapter will be established in Dayton.

The inspiration and namesake for this event is William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879), a journalist and social reformer who was the editor of the abolitionist newspaper, The Liberator.

Submitted by S. Judy Niday

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

"WATER PROTECTORS" OF THE DAKOTAS AT STANDING ROCK AND OTHER PIPELINE SITES

I have been networking with a number of young women in Mount Pleasant, MI, and Gathering Society Members in Lansing to support the prayers and works of the "Water Protectors" in the Dakotas. We have sent several carloads of people and many goods to them along with much prayer support. While the USA government temporarily stopped the construction of an oil pipeline over tribal lands this fall, it is now reported that some violence from the police in the area has resumed after the Inauguration. Tribal leaders and elders continue their prayerful work and are dedicated to a stance of non-violence. For a photographic journey of many happenings at the "Water Protester" tribal camps go to The Native Peoples publication and check out images from Standing Rock, <http://www.nativepeoples.com/Native-Peoples/September-October-2016/Images-from-Standing-Rock/>. Many groups in neighboring states are following their example, and tribes in the great lakes area are diligently working to keep the waters of the Straits of Mackinac clean in spite of a very old oil pipeline, Enbridge #5 is beneath the waters there. This complex issue pertains to clean water, air, and soil for all of us and needs our prayers and support. Both Michigan and Ohio are already riddled with many pipelines in aging conditions, and fracking and deliveries of tar sands oils promote accidents debilitating our earth as recently evidenced at the Kalamazoo River in Michigan, the biggest land oil spill in the USA. The latest news is that President Trump has signed a "Green Light" document for the Keystone Dakota Access Pipelines. To read this order go to <http://www.npr.org/2017/01/24/511402501/trump-to-give-green-light-to-keystone-dakota-access-pipelines?> Note the map showing the extent of this pipeline which would contain crude oil from Canadian tar sands. For more go to the Washington Post at [https://mail.winntel.net/webmail/?sid=wm-5887cad96eaff017235752](https://mail.winntel.net/webmail/?sid=wm-5887cad96eaff017235752&PHPSESSID_BASIC=wm-5887cad96eaff017235752) There are many questions about what this means for indigenous people over miles of tribal lands from Canada to the Gulf and to those with private lands. Please keep this situation in your prayers.

submitted by S. Marie

Kopin

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

WESTERN HOPE CLUSTER

At our Fall meeting we reviewed our Cluster goals based on the Assembly Directives. We each shared how we are living out these directives.

Benny Volk volunteers in Colorado with "Earth Links" a work program for homeless or low income people, teaching them skills to create earth friendly products. Dorothy Koenig helps at the food pantry in Phoenix. She also recycles and volunteers at her parish. Genny Volk sings in the multicultural parish choir, leads a weekly centering prayer group, and tutors at Sacred Heart Academy. Margo Young works with multicultural populations as a Community Outreach Physician with St. Bernadine's Medical Center and a local clinic. Mary Garascia chairs a social concerns committee, is a volunteer at a homeless shelter, and tutors in an adult literacy program. She writes for the diocesan newspaper incorporating social concerns and justice issues. Mary Yarger is principal of Sherman--a Bureau of Indian Education school serving students from 73 Native Nations and 23 states in CA. Marie Kopin helps MI groups support the Dakota "Water Protectors", volunteers at a soup kitchen, networks on national, state, and local levels teaching respect and preservation of the earth, writes for mycology publications and contacts congressional representatives concerning justice/ environmental issues. Terry Maher works with a multicultural population as a chaplain at St. Bernadine's Medical Center and provides training programs, retreats, and support groups for interested people and "Families of Murder" in connection with the Christian Counseling Center in Redlands.

Submitted by S Marie Kopin

Directive: Together we strive to appreciate the Mercy of God in giving us His Saving Blood to share with the marginalized, needy, poor and victims of violence

GUATEMALA LITERACY SITE UPDATE

The new adult education program (IGER) at the parish in Santa Rosita, Guatemala City, began with orientation of the new students on January 15. At the first class on January 22, we had nine students: 4 in 1st grade, 1 in 9th, 3 in 10th and 1 in 11th. We also gained several more tutors for different levels. The students came excited and prepared with their questions after having listened to the radio programs throughout the week, read the material in their textbooks and completed the weekly assignments in their workbooks. When students here complete the eleventh grade, they are prepared to enter a college program at a university if they pass the specific entrance exams.

There are five more potential students trying to get all their paperwork together to enter the IGER program, one for first grade and four for middle school. Sometimes it is difficult to obtain all that they need to enter the program: their birth certificate, a copy of their DPI, which is like a picture ID for people age 18 and older, and copies of all their "report cards" showing that they passed those grades. Many people have to travel to different Departments, like States in the US, to get all of this information, and the travel itself can take days back and forth on buses. Then they have to pay the entrance fee at a certain bank and hope that the bank teller is familiar with the program and knows what to do! So it takes a real commitment on the part of the student to get enrolled. Following that, the director or co-director of the local IGER program, in our case, Wendy or Sr. Terry Walter, has to deliver all of this personally to the central office in order to actually enroll each student and get the needed books for them for the year.

Sr. Terry, co-director of the program, also tutors math, physics and statistics on the junior high and high school levels. Sr. Joyce Kahle will start to tutor a student in English at the next weekly class. We are all hopeful that this program will enable the students to receive the education they need to improve their lives and that of their families.

Submitted by S. Joyce Kahle

- **Directive:** Stand with the marginalized and the needy



Sister Terry and students

<https://twitter.com/CatholicClimate/status/826141747843624964>

A really interesting video on what works and doesn't work when trying to persuade others on climate change



HEAVY METAL REMIX

Doug Benedict of Vandalia, Ohio is a sculptor who began sculpting about ten years ago and his media of choice is salvaged steel. “Reclamation is all about breathing new life into discarded industrial, automotive, farm or cut out metal objects,” Benedict said. “My sculptures have a touch of realism and a touch of abstract---bordering on the whimsical.”

A large farm cultivator, bicycles, small tables, fireplace tool set, wagon parts, tools, rakes and small propane tanks were donated for him to assemble and create a sculpture for permanent placement in the Vandalia Art Park 256 E Alkaline Springs Rd. He spent ten days in the park for visitors to watch him in action as well as talk with him about his work with reclaiming metal.

Volunteers assisted with prep each day working alongside of Doug and the public could watch as the sculpture took shape. I was a volunteer sanding the edges of 4 inch girders which he then soldered to the segments of the caterpillar or centipede. I also was a docent on a different day. It is great to see people use their creativity in finding ways to reuse what is disposed.

submitted by S. Judy Niday

- **Directive:** Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet's resources.

ALL OF CREATION SPEAKS OF GOD'S LOVE... *“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. ...There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature — the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.”*—Rachel Carson, Silent Spring

WOMEN'S MARCH

On a beautiful January day in the Nation's capital, I attended the Women's March along with 600,000 from all over the country. This hopeful and inclusive event was comprised of folks of every age and all walks of life. The diverse crowd marched for different reasons, including Women's rights, worker's rights, immigrant and refugee's rights, religious rights, reproductive rights, environmental rights and ending homelessness.

Most impressive were 83 year old Gloria Steinman and 6 year old Sofie Cruz. Accompanied by her family, Sofie gave an inspiring bilingual speech which brought tears to my eyes. She is wise beyond her years in her understanding of today's immigration situation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPa464CEbuE> Gloria Steinman talked of passing the torch from her, Dolores Huerta (Farmworkers movement) and others to a new generation. This was so welcoming to the ears of the organizers and the youth. And last but not least Michael Moore challenged each participant **to call your Congressperson and state legislators** (each on a different day) after you drink your coffee and brush your teeth.

submitted by S Mary Wendeln

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



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 **Feb 25** so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **03_03_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