



# Sisters of the Precious Blood

Volume 2, Issue 4 March 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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Brigid's Path; Sanctuary revisited;	1
Beyond the Fishbowl Face the Darkness	2
California Adult Literacy Bringing Delight at 94	3
Why I Visit Emma	4

## 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

### BRIGID'S PATH....



It is impossible not to be aware of the heroin epidemic in our country. The addiction rate among both the young people and older adults is overwhelming. But there are other victims also – tiny victims. These are the babies who had been drug exposed in their mothers' wombs. It is these innocent victims and their mothers that Brigid's Path seeks to help. Brigid's Path is a new non-profit agency in Dayton, Ohio. It will provide inpatient medical care for these infants and nonjudgmental support for their mothers with services to improve family outcomes. Our congregation has been providing prayer and financial support for the last two years. In addition, Jean Rene Hoying and Arlene Hirsch have already given hands-on support. Other sisters hope to become involved in some ways as the agency opens soon. Certainly the heart of Maria Anna Brunner, who understood so well her role as a mother, would go out to these little ones.

-Check out more details at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-xznJUzSZc>

Submitted by Arlene Hirsch

**Directive:** Working with the marginalized.

### Sanctuary Revisited

Throughout history, the people of God have provided safe space in their places of worship for those fleeing unjust laws and customs of the time. The Hebrew people had cities of refuge for persons wrongfully accused of crimes. In the years before the American Civil War, church related congregations provided safety for slaves fleeing the South in the Underground Railroad.

In the 1980s, more than 500 U.S. congregations provided safe houses to Central Americans fleeing civil war but whom our government refused to acknowledge as refugees.

Today churches in the U.S. are providing sanctuary to people with final orders of deportation. Law-abiding parents and workers caught in the clutches of a broken immigration system are entering houses of worship to fight their orders of deportation from a safe space. Congregations, colleges and cities are standing with families at risk of separation.

In Cincinnati the Sanctuary Congregation Coalition formed in December of 2016 and currently has 1 safe space while 17 or 18 are discerning their form of participation. Today's challenge demands a faith based response in the midst of the current reality. What is our individual and corporate response? Currently I am on the leadership team of the Sanctuary movement. Click on following link for more details and information. <https://www.afsc.org/sanctuaryeverywhere>

-submitted by Mary Wendeln

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



## BEYOND THE FISHBOWL

Culture, it is said, is like a fishbowl in which I swim. It's my environment, even more mental than physical. The boundaries of the fishbowl are fixed and I am so used to them that I don't notice them. If I look out of the fishbowl and see someone else, I see them distorted, as though through the curved glass of the fishbowl. I don't see them as they are but through the biases of my fishbowl lens. So I may tend to judge them unfavorably. It's what we humans do.

I think of this in our post election time. Politics as we experience it invites us to fortify our fishbowls. It invites us to demonize those who don't swim in our bowl. If you are a Democrat, there is nothing good coming out of the mouths of Republicans. If you are economically challenged, it is all the fault of the people in the "rich" fishbowl. If you are a true American, those immigrants are dangerous and not to be trusted. If you are religious, there is nothing moral about that one candidate. Political party, class, nationality, and even religiousness are biases that may prevent me from hearing and discerning truth, and the voice of God in that truth.

Our journey to holiness calls us to bring to consciousness everything that is in us so that Gospel light can fall upon it. Biases are not sins, but they can lead us away from that universal love that God wants to see in us and in the world. During the frenzy of the first 100 days of President Trump, God is calling us to stop, look, and listen—not only to what is being told to us but to what is being awakened in our souls.

This edited article by Mary Garascia cpps appeared in the BYTE, the Diocesan newspaper of the Diocese of San Bernardino in October 2016.

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

## A CRY TO STAND UP AND FACE DARKNESS

In our world, we experience darkness of one kind or another. As a way to respond to this, Benny used her creativity and shares a poem in the form of a villanelle, which is a very structured form. She says, "The reason I chose this poem is because it's a cry to stand up and face darkness – something we have plenty of right now." May it speak to your heart, mind, and inner being.



## Villanelle in a Time of Darkness

Stand up and learn to love this lack of light,  
the pewter sky that stains all daytime grey;  
take hold and turn the wheel that spins delight

from gloom that seems to rob the eyes of sight.  
Now seize the blunted key and find a way  
to stand and learn to love this lack of light.

Such dullness has no healing depth like night,  
but do not turn your starving eyes away.  
Take hold and turn the wheel that spins delight.

Your eyes that ache for color will invite  
a revelation from the bleakest day,  
to stand and learn to love this lack of light.

The senses stunned by starkness cannot fight  
a lethargy that binds the blood like clay.  
Take hold and turn the wheel that spins delight.

do not expect that bleakness will go bright.  
The muffled hours revolve in shades of grey.  
so stand and learn to love this lack of light;  
take hold and turn the wheel that spins delight.



Redlands historical Smiley Library has an adult literacy program, and I am one of the tutors. So far I worked with a male nurse from Indonesia, a woman math teacher from Rumania, and now a man from Mexico. He also was trained as a nurse, but although he has lived in the US for 9 years, he works as a custodian because his language skills are too limited to pass tests for other kinds of

jobs. We meet at a public school where there are 6 learners and 6 tutors. It is a 90 minute learning period, but during the last 30 minutes, a program director reads aloud to the group, incorporating vocabulary from the reading. What we have been hearing are the semi autobiographical books by Francisco Jiménez--first *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child*, and now the sequel, *Breaking Through*. These are short paperbacks, and since all the learners in this group are Mexican immigrants, they have really identified with these books. If anyone would like to see the immigrant experience through the life of a middle school aged boy and his family, this is easy, quick reading that is at the same time moving!

Submitted by Mary Garascia

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

## Hobbies bring Delight

### Even at 94 I make a Difference

One of my hobbies is recycling used greeting cards. I make them for different “special days”, especially birthdays. At Christmas time, I convert old Christmas cards into tree or door ornaments with strings attached. These I make, not only for the Sisters here at Salem Heights and Emma Hall, but I send them to various nursing homes; such as, Sienna Home, St. Leonard’s, # 10 Wilming-



Rosalie’s lovely recycled greeting cards

ton Nursing Home and Maria Joseph Center – Rehab unit.

One year I made 1400 ornaments. The more cards people give me the more I can make. Currently I am up to 600 completed items for the coming Christmas.

Another hobby that I enjoy is putting puzzles together. I really like those with 1,000 pieces. That’s a lot of fun. Also, once a week for one hour I am at the Brunner Literacy Center teaching a man who wants to learn to read. I am in my nineties and he is in his seventies.

I do all these things because I like to bring joy and happiness to other people.



a puzzle Rosalie put together

Submitted by: Sr. Rosalie Kastner

- **Directives:** Stand with the marginalized; Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet’s resources.

## Why I Visit Emma

Upon retiring I was looking forward to some peace and quiet. Once settled into Salem Heights, I found myself preparing to respond to an invitation to become a Family Visitor at Emma.

In preparation I found myself reflecting on these vital statements which jumped off the pages of community documents. CONSTITUTION #22, Lines 14-20, . . . *when we are unable to think or care for ourselves . . . we accept and receive the ministrations of others*; WAY OF LIFE #31, . . . *we express love for our sick and aging Sisters by visiting and conversing with them*; ASSEMBLY 2015/EMERGENT FUTURE . . . *as women formed by Precious Blood Spirituality, we stand with the marginalized . . . among God's People*.

Visiting Emma is now part of my life. On weekday afternoons you will find me visiting or simply being with Sisters, residents and Staff in Emma Three. After checking in I inquire if anyone has special needs. Is anyone agitated, angry, scared, confused or distressed? As I approach the resident, I pray for listening ears, a smile, a warm greeting or a loving gentle hug.

God is good. We are our Creator's smile or lover's hug. Serving in Emma is a privilege and trust. Expressing love to God's marginalized is truly a sojourners gift.

Submitted by: Dolores Keller, C.PP.S.

**Directive:** Continue to articulate and integrate our Spirituality in our sharing among ourselves and with other



Srs Theresa Rizzo, Margie Huelsman, Dee Keller & Adeline Mertz enjoy visiting with each



The Peace, Justice & Care of Creation committee has been publishing an issue of the Grassroots Newsletter each month for one year. The committee thanks all 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 **March 27** so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **04\_03\_2017**.

Please submit to Marty Bertke [m.bertke@hometowncable.net](mailto:m.bertke@hometowncable.net)

.....or to Mary Lou Schmursal [cppsnews@bright.net](mailto:cppsnews@bright.net)

**Your contributions make all the difference!**

We're on the Web!

[www.preciousbloodsistersdayton.org](http://www.preciousbloodsistersdayton.org)