



# Sisters of the Precious Blood

Volume 2, Issue 6 May, 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:

- Inspired to be Generous 1
- Lethal Injection
- Sustainability at Dignity Health 2
- Good Friday Walk
- The Blood of Martyrs 3
- PowerNet of Dayton 4
- Pope Francis

## 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

### Inspired to be Generous

In the January issue of Grassroots, Sr. Jeanette Buehler shared that the Dayton Correctional Institute (DCI) made a plea for toiletries for women prisoners. Sisters and staff at Salem Hts. held a “toiletries drive” and many items and money were donated.

When I read this article, I was inspired to ask the Social Action Committee of my parish to do a similar collection of items. For one month, a note was in the parish bulletin, boxes for items were placed by the church entrances and people gave very generously. The trunk and back seat of my car were filled with numerous boxes of soap, deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. which I took to Dayton. These items were given to women in prison, assisting those in need.



*Submitted by: Marty Bertke*

**Directive:** Stand with the Marginalized

### Some good news from OTSE -- Ohioans To Stop Executions

Thursday, April 6, a Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals panel ruled on Ohio’s lethal injection case. The short of it is, for now, Ohio’s execution protocol is unconstitutional. The long of it is the decision will likely be appealed. It’s anybody’s guess as to whether Ohio can resume executions in May. That’s because it’s unclear how quickly the decision will be appealed and how quickly a ruling or order in response to the appeal might come down. The next execution scheduled in Ohio -- after a delay of more than three years -- is May 10, 2017.



The annual Walk for Justice and Peace will begin at Courthouse Square (Third and Main Sts.) Dayton at Noon on Good Friday, April 14. The Death Penalty will be the topic of Station One.

*Submitted by Marty Bertke.*

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



**Sustainability at Dignity Health** —I thought you might be interested in Dignity Health's very active involvement for environmental care and sustainability. St Bernardine's, my primary hospital, has been ahead of the pack in many regards. Check out the link below.

The website states: "[Hello Humankindness](#) is a powerful idea that reflects our shared heritage and commitment to future generations. We understand our wellness is inextricably linked to the health of our planet. How Dignity Health contributes to our collective quality of life will continue to be a key measure of our organization's success.

*One way we express kindness is by cultivating policies based on principles of environmental sustainability and social responsibility. At a time of sweeping change and challenge for the health care industry as a whole, Dignity Health strives to modernize our health delivery system in ways that promote a healthy environment and make higher quality care more accessible at a lower cost."*

Note Dignity Health's Sustainability Report for FY2016: **Taking a Sustainable Leap Forward**. In this document you will read about the various ways our system has acted upon the mission and values we all share. It notes Dignity Health's accomplishments and our commitment to promote economic, environmental and social sustainability. It's all connected! Read more at <https://dignityhealth.org/about-us/community-health/sustainability-at-dignity-health>

**Submitted by** Margo Young **Direction:** Network with other individuals, agencies, and groups to be effective in our current reality.

## Good Friday Walk for Peace and Justice

"The hammer still falls on the nails in His hands!" This phrase, actually a reflection, was repeated numerous times for several of the Stations of the Cross as we wound our way through downtown Dayton on Good Friday. Ten Sisters of the Precious Blood gathered with several hundred other faithful to Journey along Christ's Path of suffering and death.

Each day as I watch the Morning News, I continue to hear those words! As a mother of four is torn from her children and deported from a country she has called home for 15 years, as the imminent demise of our planet is viewed by some as a hoax, as many of our brothers and sisters have nowhere to call home or food to ease their hunger, as the grips of a drug epidemic creeps its way into every corner of our society, "the hammer still falls on the nails in His hands!"

**Submitted by:** Patty Kremer  
**Assembly 2015 Emergent Future Directives: All**



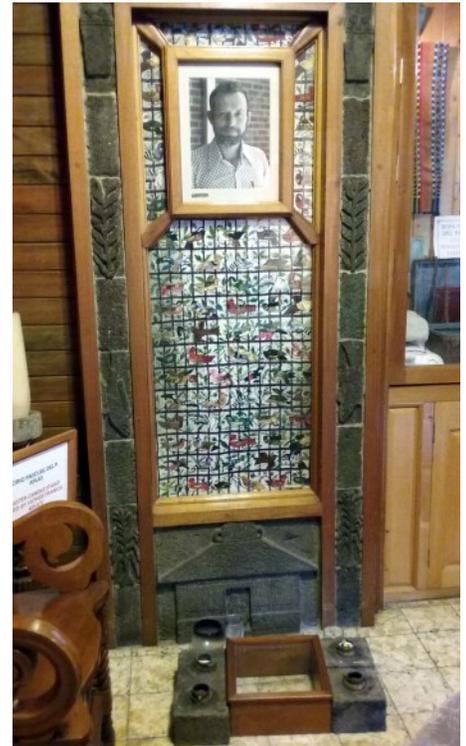
## THE BLOOD OF MARTYRS

The Guadalupe Cluster met in Guatemala from March 21 to 28, 2017 for our regular cluster meeting. This was the first time some of the Cluster members had been in the country. The highlight for us was the visit to Santiago Atitlan, where we prayed at sites where many people were massacred during the war here in the 1970's, 1980's and early 1990's. Fr. Stanley Rother, a priest from Oklahoma, who worked closely with the people there and was very much loved by them, was assassinated in his bedroom the night of July 28, 1981.

This is a special place for several of us. Joyce Kahle, Donna Liette and Terry Walter from Guadalupe cluster participated in the 1991 pilgrimage with Fr. Barry Fischer. Visiting the "shrine" of Stanley Rother, seeing his blood stains on the wall and hearing Barry Fischer's reflection on the Blood shed there moved all



of us deeply and was instrumental in our subsequent life choices. That bedroom is now a private memorial chapel and efforts are in process to have Stanley Rother canonized as a martyr in the Church. The Cluster members prayed there for friends and loved ones' healing through his intercession. We also visited the parish church where Fr. Stanley was pastor and where his heart remains with his people in a special memorial.



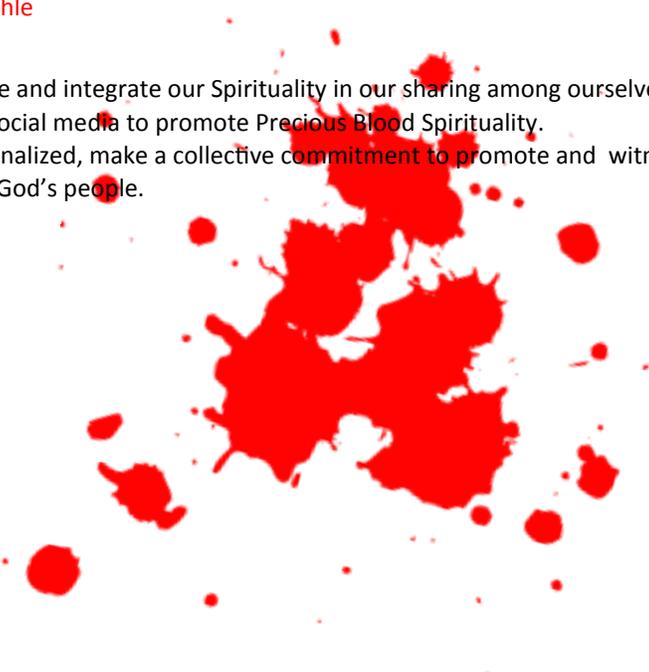
Another sacred place that we visited in Santiago Atitlan is the site where thirteen people, "Martyrs of Peace," including two children, on December 2, 1990 were massacred. They were having a peaceful assembly when the military police arrived. Because they spoke only their native language, they did not understand what the police were saying, nor did the police understand them. As a result, they did not obey the police commands and were killed on the spot. Much innocent blood has been shed here in Guatemala. The Cluster's visit to Santiago Atitlan was a sacred time as we

reflected on our Precious Blood Spirituality in solidarity with the martyrs whose blood continues to be shed here and in our fractured world.

**Submitted by:** Terry Walters & Joyce Kahle

### Directives:

- 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.



## Supporting Leadership Development

On April 17, 2017 I attended the 11<sup>th</sup> annual graduation ceremony for the Leadership Development Program at the Dayton Correctional Institution (DCI). Currently all of the inmates are women.

The purpose of the program is to identify persons who, although convicted of a serious crime want to begin anew.

The program was initiated by Craig Powell, the Executive Coordinator of PowerNet. Its mission is to improve public safety, as well as overall quality of life within disadvantaged communities by facilitating the reintegration of persons currently and formerly incarcerated.

In the 12-month program, faculty lead participants on a journey of self-discovery and individualized strategic planning by getting in touch with where they are in their lives, where they want to go, and how they're going to get there. They must attend 93% of the program to be considered for graduation. This year 11 women graduated. Twenty-five have signed up for the 2018 class.

**Submitted by:** Sister Alice Schoettelkotte **Directive:** Stand with the marginalized



## Pope Francis Calls For 'Revolution Of Tenderness' In Surprise TED Talk

*"Tenderness is not weakness; it is fortitude. It is the path of solidarity, the path of humility. Please, allow me to say it loud and clear: the more powerful you are, the more your actions will have an impact on people, the more responsible you are to act humbly. If you don't, your power will ruin you, and you will ruin the other."* Pope Francis.

Check out the recent TED talk by Francis at this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/mz8rpgb>



Francis spoke of being from a family of migrants, urged more "equality and social inclusion" in science, decried the "culture of waste" and called on people to listen to the "silent cry of our common home, of our sick and polluted earth."

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. 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.

Next issue articles for Grassroots are due **May 25** so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **06\_05\_2017**.

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

.....or to Mary Lou Schmearsal [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)