

Sisters of the Precious Blood

July 2019 Volume 4, Issue 7

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 non-violence, 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.

****see p. 4 for the Directives we set at the 2019 Assembly**

Stories from around our CPPS world

Sister Marie Kopin helped initiate and plan a "Growing Mushrooms at Home" workshop at the 7th Generation Center of the Chippewa Indian Nation which is located in her home town area of Mount Pleasant, Michigan. She worked with Sally Van Cise, tribal nutritionist for an event on Saturday, May 25th. Dr. Chris Wright did the demonstration which included boiling and sterilizing a bale of straw and cotton seed husks and then letting participants mix it with a "starter" containing mycelium of oyster mushrooms on a clean tarp on the ground. They then stuffed the growing media into plastic bags to take home. Marie gave a talk and prepared a handout about the basics of fungi and how they grow to produce mushrooms and Chris followed with a talk on details of the growth process after lunch was served. The day was well received and some went home anticipating crops of mushrooms to sell at their farmer's market.

Marie was also invited to give a talk several weeks later on "The Mushrooms of Spring, Edible and not Edible" in a smaller Saginaw Chippewa Nation tribal setting near Saginaw Bay and the town of Standish, called the Saganing Tribal Center. She covered mainly the "Beefsteak" mushrooms well known in Michigan and which contain dangerous "Rocket Fuel", Monomethylhydrazine. She elaborated on what it can do to destroy the liver and kidneys. She also gave some basics about mushrooms/fungi and covered identification techniques for the "Safe Four" kinds of wild Michigan Mushrooms.

Submitted by: Sister Marie Kopin

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



Some great news from OTSE - Ohioans To Stop Executions

The state of New Hampshire ended its death penalty! May 30th of this year, the New Hampshire legislature overrode a veto by its governor, making New Hampshire the most recent state to abolish the death penalty. Now **21 states**, plus DC and Puerto Rico have abolished the death penalty for all crimes.



The big news out of Ohio is that the House Criminal Justice Committee passed **H.B. 136** by a vote of 11-1.

On June 5, 2019, the Ohio House passed the bill and this ends the death penalty for individuals with serious mental illness. Defendants could escape the death penalty if they suffer from schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder and delusional disorder during the time of the crime. Representatives passed House Bill 136, 76 to 17.

Kevin Werner, after twelve years of serving as OTSE's Executive Director, is transitioning to the Ohio Justice & Policy Center to work as the policy director. Kevin will continue to serve as an OTSE board member. Hannah Kubbins will be the new Director and will lead the organization and work in collaboration with the Board of Directors.

Submitted by: *Sr. Martha Bertke*

Directive: *Stand with the marginalized...commit to nonviolence...*

Collaborative partnership is sponsored by Catholic Theological Union and the Religious Formation Conference. **Together** is a cohort-based, residential theology program for religious sisters and brothers in temporary vows and for newly professed religious who are willing to commit to full participation in all three program components: theological education, formation, and community.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION: **Together** participants will have the opportunity to enroll in a graduate theology program at CTU – Catholic Theological Union, based in Chicago, share community in a designated space in the residence hall, and participate in ongoing formation together as an inter-congregational, intercultural, and intergenerational cohort. It consists of at least one full year of study that would lead to a certificate in an area of theology/spirituality, or two to three years of study that would allow participants to earn a master's degree in theology, pastoral studies or divinity.

FORMATION: Participants will engage formative elements such as theological reflection, spiritual direction, and experiences that foster interpersonal skills for community living, intercultural capacities, effective [communication](#), and other integrative learning.

COMMUNITY: Participants will share community in a designated living/ space in the residence hall and participate in ongoing formation together inter-congregational, intercultural, and intergenerational cohort.

Sr. Mumbi Kigutha, C.P.P.S. graduated from CTU - Catholic Theological University in Chicago, with a Certificate in Pastoral Studies and a Masters Arts in Justice Ministry. She was also a member of the visioning team that designed **Together**.

For more details see <https://www.ncronline.org/news/people/together-program-builds-bonds-among-new-religious>



Grassroots welcomes Book Reviews

Reading books improves your brain, imagination, and memory. You can gain knowledge, reduce stress, and improve your vocabulary. Books can take you to another different world, where you can relax, be enriched and challenged.

Through book reviews you can become familiar with books, authors, publishers and your thinking skills become sharper. We welcome **book reviews** that relate to the "Emergent Future Directives". Good books you have read should be shared with others. Please consider submitting a Book Review any time; don't wait to be asked.



THE TIME IS NOW: A Call To Uncommon Courage

by: Joan Chittister, OSB

Joan Chittister has been a passionate voice for women's rights for over 50 years. Called "one of the most well-known and trusted contemporary spiritual authors" by Publishers Weekly, this rabble-rousing force of nature for social justice and fervent proponent of personal faith and spiritual fulfillment draws on the wisdom of prophets—both ancient and modern—to help us confront the societal forces that oppress and silence the sacred voices among us.

Pairing scriptural insights with stirring narratives of the truth-tellers that came before us, Sister Joan offers a compelling vision for readers to combat complacency and to propel ourselves toward creating a world of justice, freedom, peace, and empowerment.

For the weary, the cranky, and the fearful, Sister Joan's energizing message invites us to participate in a vision for a world greater than the one we find ourselves in today. This is spirituality in action; this is practical and powerful activism for our times.

(From the description at Amazon)

Submitted by: Sister Marty Bertke

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

Open Wide our Hearts A Pastoral Letter Against Racism

Last fall, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops released a pastoral letter against **racism** – their first in nearly 40 years.

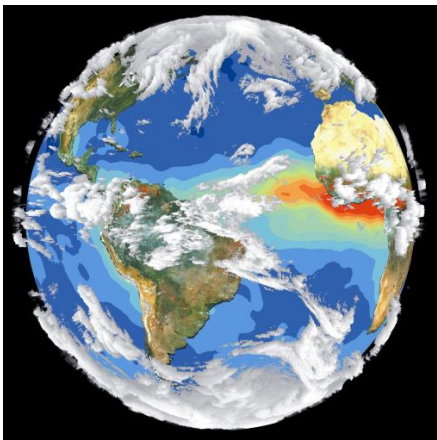
"But racism still profoundly affects our culture, and it has no place in the Christian heart. This evil causes great harm to its victims, and it corrupts the souls of those who harbor racist or prejudicial thoughts. The persistence of the evil of racism is why we (the Bishops) are writing this letter now." (more about this Pastoral Letter in the next issue)

Submitted by: Sister Marty Bertke

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

Other helpful resources:

- ◆ Check out this link for really challenging insights: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=318&v=IZC2-qphqFw Radical Incarnation and the Newness of Christ - Conversation with Ilia Delio - December 18, 2018
- ◆ <https://www.cnn.com/shows/united-shades-of-america> United Shades of America' follows comedian and political provocateur W. Kamau Bell as he explores communities across America to understand the unique challenges they face. Watch on CNN on Sundays @ 10:00 p.m. Previous segments can be found on the internet at the link above.
- ◆ Through the DeChristopher Family Trust the following videos are available for Community use. These videos were authored by Henry Louis, Gates Jr. for PBS. Each set contains 2 DVDs with a total viewing time of four to six hours. Please contact Sister Jeanette if you are interested in any of these sets.
 - * AFRICA'S GREAT CIVILIZATIONS
 - * THE AFRICAN AMERICANS: MANY RIVERS TO CROSS
 - * BLACK AMERICA SINCE MLK: AND STILL I RISE



"Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise." Pope Francis

Four years ago [Pope Francis](#) published "[Laudato Si'](#)". It was a call to more than eliminating plastic water bottles, using public transportation or advocating for the Paris climate agreement. "The ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion," Pope Francis writes. Rather than "ridiculing expressions of concern for the environment," he says, Christians need "an [ecological conversion](#)."

For more resources, check out <http://www.ecologicalexamen.org/> and also <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2015/06/18/top-ten-takeaways-laudato-si>

At our recent 2019 Assembly we identified the evolving stance we plan to focus on for the next 4 years. Our next Grassroots issue articles will reflect these elements.

We, Sisters of the Precious Blood, strive for faithful Gospel living in prayer and mission.

We endeavor to reconcile injustices in our world.

We explore new ways to share our spirituality.

We want our charism to continue beyond our physical presence.

We live active non-violence by addressing issues such as migration, racism, and care of creation.

We strive to reconcile tendencies of violence within ourselves and among other community members and in our world.

We commit ourselves to embrace our intercultural reality.

Blessed with abundant resources, we share with others to alleviate poverty and to effect systemic change.

Send us your articles (approximately **125 to 150 words or less**) for our next issue. Next issue articles for *Grassroots* are due **July 25** so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **08_01_2019**.

Please submit to Marty Bertke m.bertke@hometowncable.net
— or to Mary Lou Schmersal cppsnews@bright.net

Your contributions make all the difference!

Thank you