



Sisters of the Precious Blood

Volume 1, Issue 5
APRIL, 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

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Stories from around our CPPS world



On March 12th, over 45 persons joined the Salem Heights Sisters in marking the **10th Anniversary** of the re-initiation of the homicide prayer vigils. Those in attendance included vigil participants and prayer leaders from various churches/ organizations as well as representatives of the Sheriff's department. The names of all **353 victims** from the past 10 years were listed on display boards designed by Sister Noreen Jutte. Candles burned in remembrance of the past year's victims whose names were read month by month followed by bell chimes. Scriptural reflections were given by Jan Reed, pastoral associate from Holy Trinity Parish

and Rev. Sylvia Moseley-Robinson, chaplain with the Ohio Department of Corrections. One participant spoke movingly about the pain experienced by family members and another spoke of the value of the vigils. The prayer service was followed by a social which provided an opportunity for bonding among participants.

What a powerful witness by both the Sisters and the many others who participate in these vigils. What a blessing that people of various backgrounds unite in prayer, spirit and reverence for the preciousness of life.

ASSEMBLY DIRECTIVES

we will ...

- 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.

Catholic Mobilizing Network is helping the Community of Sant'Egidio to identify sisters living not-too-far from a Death Row who are willing to collaborate with the Community in accompanying inmates on Death Row.

Sant'Egidio has many people writing from foreign countries to detainees on Death Row in the US, and it is looking for religious sisters and laypersons willing to visit them on behalf of their pen pal. For the Community, it would be very helpful to have someone who could make a personal contact for them.

Feel free to forward this message to all who you think can be interested in be part of this project. Here, you can find the location of Death Rows by State:

<http://1drv.ms/1RdKzMK> Please, do not hesitate to email me if you are available for this project or you know someone who can be: sr.ilaria@catholicmobilizing.org

ps: if you want to know more about the Community of Sant'Egidio:

www.santegidio.org

**forwarded to us by Terry Maher

One HOME

Since Oct. 2015, the **Prophetic Voices Cluster** has diligently and enthusiastically read, reflected on and shared the Encyclical *Laudato Si'*. In this marvelous encyclical Pope Francis paints a picture of the earth “gravely harmed by humans;” however, it is not too late to repair the damage. A bold and courageous cultural change is needed to prevent further environmental damage evident in the soil, air, our waters and in all forms of life. This destruction has its greatest effect on our poor and most vulnerable.

Addressing “every person living on this planet” and especially exhorting the more powerful and wealth-

ier nations Francis calls all of nations to collaborate in making radical changes and taking responsible action.

Through prayer and discussion, we ourselves become more aware of the urgency and challenges facing our planet. We can't afford to remain indifferent, deny the problem or hope others will be responsible for finding the right solutions to our global crisis. Our goal is to personally discover ways and means to protect our earth, our common home. Many suggestions surfaced during our discussions.

Here are our practical suggestions:

- Pay attention to use of water
- Drink tap instead of bottled water
- Combine errands, keep car in garage
- Launder only full loads
- Use one less paper napkin a day
- turn water off while

brushing teeth

- Take a shorter shower (every two minutes = 10 gal of water)
- Use cruise control
- Adjust thermostat: 1° higher in summer; 1° lower in winter
- Turn off incandescent bulbs
- Cut down on junk mail
- Use cardboard matches vs lighters filled with butane fuel
- Start heating food in pre-heated oven
- Give away instead of throwing away.
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Plant a tree (wonderful gift idea)
- Keep updated about local and national practices regarding care of the earth

—Jean Rene Hoying



ORGANIC HABITS... find out how some sisters are now “green sisters” and are seeing this endeavor an integral aspect of their vocation. Click here: <http://www.uscatholic.org/articles/201603/organic-habits-why-nuns-are-pioneering-green-movement-30589> or go to:

<http://www.sisterfarm.org/eco-spirituality-centers.html> --This (partial) listing of the various ecology centers and initiatives founded or directed by Catholic Sisters in the United States is reflective of similar efforts are being undertaken by Catholic Sisters on every continent in the world. You will also find here some resources you may find helpful, whether you are looking for GMO-free seeds, low-flush or composting toilets, the latest on global warming, or where to buy fairly traded products.



This Earth Day, let's get really big stuff done for our planet.

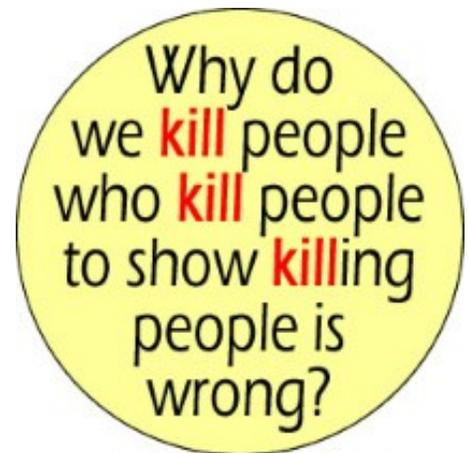
What are we waiting for? The time is now. - See more at: <http://www.earthday.org/take-action/>

Do something special on (even a small thing) April 22 to make a difference for our environment.

Check out this article about Karen Elliott presenting to women religious of the Corpus Christi, TX diocese as they closed the year of Consecrated life <http://southtexascatholic.com/news/closing> . Sister Karen Elliott of the Sisters of the Precious Blood from Dayton, Ohio led the sisters in reflection. Below, Sister Karen engages sisters on Day of Reflection at St. Pius X.



Sisters Pat Will, Ceil Taphorn and Jeanette Buehler went to the Miami Valley Chapter of Ohioans to Stop Executions (MVOTSE) on March 10. We received updates on progress that is being done to abolish the Death Penalty in the state of Ohio. In the last month, 4 pieces of legislation were introduced in Ohio's General Assembly that would reform or entirely do away with capital punishment in the State of Ohio. Of all the bills, MVOSE feels that Senate Bill 162 has the greatest chance of passing. This bill states that persons with mental illness should be exempt from the death penalty. The Lobby Day at the statehouse in Columbus is on April 12 at 9:30 a.m. Sisters Jeanette and Pat Will are representing the Sisters of the Precious Blood. To make your voice heard sign today at <http://action.otse.org/page/s/open-letter-from-ohio-faith-leaders>. Use control-click to open link. —Ceil Taphorn



RACISM A recent book by Jim Wallis, editor of SOJOURNERS, is entitled AMERICA'S ORIGINAL SIN. The "sin" itself named in the subtitle: "Racism . . ."

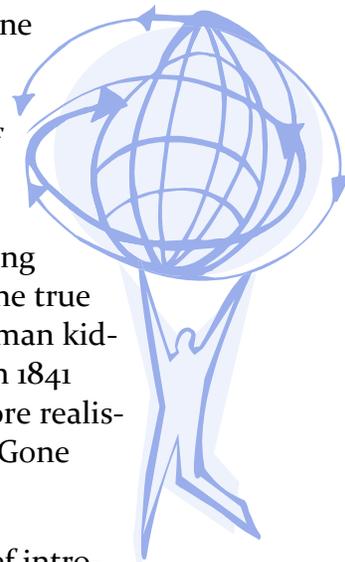
Less dramatic is a Pastoral Letter on the racial divide in the United States issued in January, 2015, by African-American Bishop of Belleville, Ill., Edward Braxton. After recounting his own experiences of racism, as a young priest and also a bishop, he lays out his own observations.

Bishop Braxton's diocese is just across the Mississippi from Ferguson, Missouri; understandably, his pastoral letter offers more than a dozen practical suggestions inviting Catholics to engage in serious thought about the racial divide in the U.S.

Most practical is his suggestion to "take note of the way the racial divide has been portrayed in films..." He mentions "The Help," "The Butler," "Selma," and Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln," suggesting they could "prompt fruitful discussions," especially with people of diverse backgrounds. Even without having racially

different members in a group, viewing these films for what they imply about racism or white privilege might offer some interesting reflections.

The Bishop even suggests "Gone with the Wind" for Hattie McDaniel's completely "romanticized presentation of what the evil of slavery was actually like." In contrast, he suggests the 2013 Oscar-winning film, "Twelve Years a Slave," the true story of an African American man kidnapped in Washington D.C. in 1841 and sold into slavery, for a more realistic account than the story of "Gone with the Wind."



View a YouTube clip for a brief introduction to this challenging issue — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGBB792Zei8>

—Barbara Agnew

Have you heard? For your information **Death Penalty Lobby Day** is April 12, 2016, at the Ohio Statehouse.

This is a chance to get involved in important life-saving advocacy by helping to demonstrate to legislators that their constituents want to make Ohio's broken legal system more fair and accurate. It is shaping up to be the largest and most diverse anti-death penalty gathering ever at the Statehouse. Participants will hear from legislators sponsoring death penalty related legislation. Also they will hear from *Voices of Experience* on the issue, including murder victim family members, death row survivors, and former corrections officials. Sisters Pat Will and Jeanette Buehler plan to attend this day. Let's support them with our care and prayers.

Check out the website IJPC (Interfaith Justice & Peace Center) for details and find out how you can get involved. <http://ijpcincinnati.org/event/death-penalty-lobby-day/> or <http://lobbyday.otse.org/>

The evidence is glaring: 2015 was the hottest year on record; the oceans are rising at the fastest rate in centuries; and 56 acres of forest are destroyed every minute. So with Earth Day 2016 right around the corner, it's more important than ever that we commit to combating the devastating effects of climate change.

Add your name to take action and join the [fight against climate change](#). Fighting climate change takes more than one organization, more than a single government – it takes you standing up for our planet immediately. Here's how you can do that right now: Join our global movement and pledge to take action against climate change. This year, for Earth Day 2016, we're committing to slowing the rapid destruction and degradation of trees and forests around the world – one of the greatest threats to the health of our planet.

I presented for the second time at the annual Stewardship Network Conference at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, Michigan. My topic this year was "The Fungus Amongst Us; The Big Picture of the Fungi Kingdom" and fit with the theme of this year's conference was "Science, Practice & Art of Restoring Native Ecosystems".

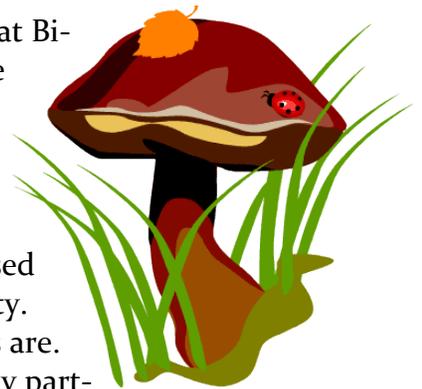
The Stewardship Network encompasses the Great Lakes Region and many tribal members participate sharing their wealth of knowledge about our Great Lakes ecosystems. Go to <https://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/sites/default/files/2016program-spa.pdf> to take a look at our program held in mid-January of 2016, this year. Last year, I presented a poster session of how my work with a number of teens in the Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club which resulted in a mycology lab experience for a high school student at Michigan State University. It also gave mycology education experiences to a number of Mount Pleasant High School Graphic Arts Students who learned many skills making specially designed educational T-Shirts for the Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club.

—Marie Kopin, C.P.P.S.,



"Fungi's partnership with plants and other forms of life" will be presented at Bi-Annual Sisters of the Earth Conference as part of the International Sisters of the Earth Conference this coming July. <https://sistersofearth.wikispaces.com/> tells about this group and gives more information about the coming international conference.

Most of us think of Mushrooms/Fungi as something we buy at grocery stores used in cooking. In many states, hunting morels in wild in the spring is a huge activity. This session aims to expand your knowledge about what Fungi and Mushrooms are. They have a huge, but lesser known role on our planet as they live forming many partnering hidden relationships with plants, animals, and even insects. For example, Fungi can work with us to clean up oil spills and reclaim toxic land. Mushrooms have been used for food, cures, and spiritual ceremonies for centuries. Come and learn more about Fungi and how to learn more about taking advantage of partnering with this form of life.



—Marie Kopin



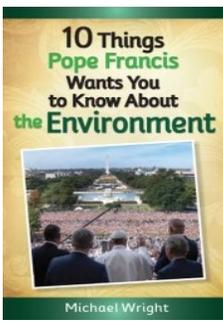
send us your articles (125 words or less) for our next issue Grassroots is due **May 1** so we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **5/8/2016**. Please submit to Marty Bertke m.bertke@hometowncable.net

.....or to Mary Lou Schmersal cppsnews@bright.net

Your contributions make all the difference!

We're on the Web!

www.preciousbloodsistersdayton.org



In "[Ten Things Pope Francis Wants You To Know About the Environment](#)", Michael Wright identifies ten key themes from *Laudato Si'*, explaining what they mean for everyday Catholics. Catholic Climate Covenant's Executive Director, Dan Misleh, wrote in the book's introduction: "The book could easily serve as a study guide for small groups wanting to explore Pope Francis' teaching on the environment." Check it out!

Pope Francis in his encyclical **Laudato Si'** reminds us that, "*large-scale natural disasters... cannot be analyzed or explained in isolation.*" The current tragedy in Fiji reminds us of the human impacts of the climate crisis and our role in seeking reconciliation with all of creation — in particular the need and obligation to transition off of fossil fuels without delay! - See more at: <http://catholicclimatemovement.global/in-solidarity-with-the-people-of-fiji>



It's gardening time in our part of the world. What is your garden dream for 2016? Share with us your plan or hope for this year... Will it be flowers, tomatoes, herbs, beans, squash or simply supporting the local farmer's garden? Something simple or a new challenge?

How about taking some photos to share with the rest of us? Or even share your frustrations and disappointments. My first task is to rebuild the frame around my garden space. The old railroad ties that held it in place are finally falling apart. Gardening is a creative and de-stressing outlet for me. I am looking forward to the new plants I'll be able to

sow, grow, and till. I especially love the rhubarb that is already looking great. Hope you find it a delightful respite no matter how much of it you cultivate.

Earth Day is coming shortly and spring will probably be in full swing for us to celebrate it. For those of you who are just getting out into your gardens (even if it's just a pot of flowers) to dig and plant, here is a garden blessing prayer from my ebook [To Garden With God](#) you may like to use to dedicate your garden.

God bless this garden through which your glory shines
May we see in its beauty the wonder of your love
God bless the soil rich and teeming with life
May we see in its fertility the promise of new creation
God bless our toil as we dig deep to turn the soil
May we see in our labour your call to be good stewards
God bless each seed that takes root and grows

May we see in their flourishing the hope of transformation

God bless the rains that water our efforts to bring forth life

May we see in their constancy God's faithful care

God bless the harvest abundant and bountiful in season

May we see in God's generosity our need to share

God bless this garden as you bless all creation with your love

May we see in its glory your awesome majesty

Amen

source: internet: [Godspace: Garden Blessing for EarthDay](#)