



Sisters of the Precious Blood

Volume 1, Issue 3
February, 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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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.

Stories from around our CPPS world

Lent is here— take a look.

Lenten Resources

Lent is a time to clear our minds, open our hearts, and celebrate the great gift of God's mercy. Lent provides a great opportunity to reflect on how we can more meaningfully honor our place in God's Creation.

A lenten carbon fast calendar, like the one offered by Michigan Inter-faith Power and Light, can move you along this spiritual journey. The calendar is a daily guide to reflection, study, and action, and it can be used by individuals, families, or community groups.

Lent begins in just a week or so. However you celebrate it, we hope you will keep Creation and our vulnerable sisters and brothers in your prayers. **Click on or copy this link into your internet browser to download the carbon fast calendar:** <http://www.miipl.org/carbon-fast/>

Building Community through Peace Circles IN NICARAGUA

It was 5 degrees in Chicago when Brother Juan Acuna, CPPS and I left for 97 degree Nicaragua! The Sisters of St. Agnes had asked us to introduce the Peace Circle Process to their Sisters ministering in Nicaragua after Peace Circle Training with their leadership team in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

We spent 4 days in January with the Sisters and were inspired with their openness to this process, their generous, self-giving spirit and their ministry to the poor of this country.

It was another opportunity for us at Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation to bring a process for building community and breaking down walls in another culture so devastated by suffering from earthquakes, war, violence and poverty.

Juan and I were honored to be among these 20 women, mostly in their 70's and 80's so eager to learn, grow and be reconciled.

-Donna Liette, CPPS



HOMICIDE PRAYER VIGILS

Since re-initiating the homicide prayer vigils in March, 2006 we Sisters of the Precious Blood have coordinated 337 vigils in Dayton, Trotwood, Harrison and Jefferson Townships. Thirteen of the vigils were for children under the age of 5. The youngest victim was a 7 month-old fetus kicked to death in its mother's womb; the oldest was 95, a gentleman known and beloved by his neighbors.

"When will it end?" "Who will be next?" "In what 'safe' place will it occur?" These questions occupy the thoughts of all of us as we attend one vigil after another. We are reminded that talk alone, even prayer vigils alone, are not the an-

swer without action – without people coming together to say, "Enough is enough; no more shedding of the blood of our sisters and brothers!" We members of the "Community Homicide Prayer Vigils" give **public** witness to the preciousness of all life. We stand together, even week after week if necessary, trusting that **prayer and witness do make a difference**. Please join us when you can, when you are in the area at the time of one of these vigils, to affirm the preciousness of all life and the power of the Precious Blood to make a difference in our fractured world.

-Jeanette Buehler



HUMAN TRAFFICKING 2016

Probably many of us were shocked a couple of weeks ago when the news broke the story of how widespread human trafficking is in some areas of Ohio, even in the farming industry.

It is unbelievable that this "modern day slavery" exists and is so rampant in our area. It was about 5 years ago when I heard about this situation in Ohio and it was at that time that Senator Teresa Fedor from Toledo co-sponsored a bill (Senate bill 235) which was passed by the Ohio legislative body making human trafficking in Ohio a felony. Statistics show that much of the sex trafficking is with United States citizens and the labor trafficking is many times with non-documented immigrants.

I am disgusted that much of the

food I consume and the clothes that I wear are possible because of "slave labor." Since I have been aware of this situation, I try to educate others about the situation and bring to prayer the people suffering under the system as well as those who are causing it.

Recently I went to a Human Trafficking symposium in Cincinnati during which I became more aware of the local situation and how these underground systems operate. There I learned a very practical way to be involved. If we hear of or see something that may be human trafficking (labor or sex) there is a number we can call **1-888-373-7888**.

Let's be united to rid our world of the obnoxious "modern day slavery."

— Sister Marita Beumer



Jubilee Year of Mercy

The Maria Stein Shrine has been designated by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati as one of the seven pilgrimage sites for the Year of Mercy.

Monday, January 19 at 1:00 p.m. Bishop Joseph Binzer, presided at both a Ritual for opening the Holy Door of Mercy and a Mass at the Maria Stein Shrine. The entrance door to the Relic chapel was designated as the Holy Door at that site. Sr. Barbara Hoying read one of the Scripture readings of the Mass and Sr. Regina Albers was a member of the choir. Sisters Mary Ellen Andrisin and Martha Bertke participated along with many other people who filled the adoration chapel on that day.

We Respect All Life

The Mercer County Right to Life organization each year has a Send-Off Rally. Everyone is welcome to gather and pray for those traveling to our nation's capital to participate in the National March for Life. This year it took place at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Montezuma, Thursday, January 21, at 6:00 p.m.

Fr. Alfons Minga, C.P.P.S. lead the prayer service; present and past presidents of the organization spoke; and Ohio Senator, Keith Faber was the featured guest speaker. Along with many others, Sr. Martha Bertke participated in this prayerful gathering. However, the bus trip was cancelled due to the expected major snow storm in Washington, D.C.

Also, the Mercer County
(cont. p.4)

the Gathering Society

The Gathering Society is composed of women in the Great Lakes region representing a diversity of cultural backgrounds including many from native "First Nation" groups, who share our traditional knowledge. We work to heal our communities and to preserve respect of the earth. We focus on sharing Traditional Knowledge including wild foods and medicines, songs, crafting, food preservation, teachings, and traditional living skills. We gather and use native species of plants, fungi, animals, and insects.

With both Tribal and non-Tribal members, we strive to build bridges between us to heal our communities. I am in the photo and have been a member for 3 years and have presented mycology educa-

tional programs at a number of our gatherings. This year, 2016, we celebrate our 4th year.

Our tribal friends have been marginalized for many years, especially the women; this group works to uplift them and native traditions.

The Gathering Society is ever growing. We fulfill a desire for sharing Traditional Knowledge from our rich and varied cultures. Most of us live in the Great Lakes Region and we have members of various Tribes or First Nations or have Tribal ancestry. Our cultural connections are diverse and beautiful.

The web site is
www.thegatheringsociety.com

- Marie Kopin



We celebrated Christmas at the Bengal Nature Center in Bath, Michigan, just north of Lansing, in December, 2016.

Watch Pope Francis' new video on Care for Creation: Click on or copy this link into your internet browser to download the video
<http://catholicclimatemovement.global/pope-video/>

"That we may take good care of creation –a gift freely given– cultivating and protecting it for future generations." —his February prayer intention

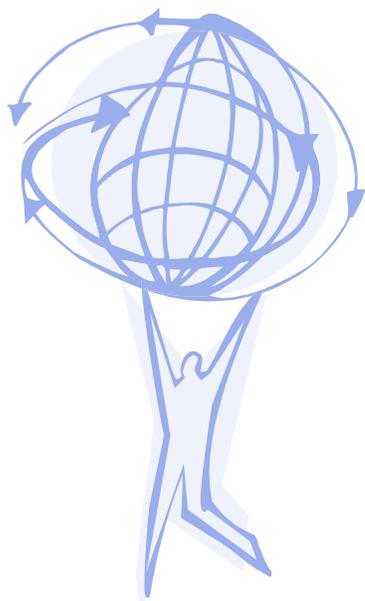
Right to life ...cont.

Right to Life purchased a full page ad in “The Daily Standard”. For a \$5.00 donation, your name, along with several hundred others were included in this Pro-life Ad. Srs. Barbara Hoying and Martha Bertke added their names to this “Ad Campaign” as a way of demonstrating their respect for life.

Death Penalty

Have you heard? The U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 12 said the state of Florida’s death penalty system is unconstitutional because it allows judges, rather than juries, to determine whether a convicted criminal should be given a death sentence. Justice Sonia Sotomayor said the Sixth Amendment, which guarantees the rights of criminal defendants, “requires a jury, not a judge, to find each fact necessary to impose a sentence of death.”

—Marty Bertke



Lilies of the Valley sprouting Feb. 1, 2016 in Marty's back yard—is this a sign of early Ohio spring? or perhaps an effect of global warming?



Who gets to eat? Is this an issue we should be concerned about? Scientists think so. In fact, so does Pope Francis. World hunger and food consumption are major issues. Please take time to look at this website to research what some of the sustainable development goals the United Nations published the day of Pope Francis’ visit to the US (Sept. 2015). <http://usi.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5dd06f3cbb86536df56de4a9d&id=23f9d2a891>

Their newsletter, Carbon Rangers, is a great and informative read.

—Jeanette Buehler

It’s almost gardening time — at least in the dreaming stages. What is your garden dream for 2016? Send us your response to any/all of the following:

- * I would love to.....
- * The thing that holds me back is....
- * I’d like to learn how to.....
- * I’m going to work with _____ to make a garden this year because.....

We’re on the Web!

www.preciousbloodsistersdayton.org

Articles (125 words or less) for our next issue Grassroots is due **March. 1** so we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **3/8/2016**. Please submit to Marty Bertke m.bertke@hometowncable.netor to Mary Lou Schmersal cppsnews@bright.net

Your contributions make all the difference!