



# Sisters of the Precious Blood

Volume 2, Issue 2 January 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

## 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.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Executions Scheduled to Resume	1
“Mushroom Foray”	2
<b>New Guatemalan literacy site</b>	3
Keeping Folks Warm	
Trafficking	4
Interfaith Ladies meet	
Plan ahead	
Standing with the Marginalized	
Vocation Dinner	5
Thanks ....please continue	

## Stories from around our CPPS world

The latest news: Executions in Ohio are scheduled to resume on February 15th after a nearly 3-year hiatus. While there are still legal obstacles for the state to overcome, Governor Kasich has denied clemency for Ronald Phillips. It’s not too late to call 614-466-3555 or write Governor Kasich and ask him not to resume executions.



The campaign to stop executions in Ohio continues. Sister Ceil Taphorn and I attended a recent meeting of the Miami Valley OTSE group in Dayton. Two presenters, Abe Bonowitz, organizer and strategist for OTSE statewide, and Melissa Berry, PhD, from the UD Psychology Department had much to share with us.

The information given to us by Dr. Berry concentrated on the Causes of Wrongful Conviction & Introduction to the Ohio Innocence Project. The Innocence Project is Ohio’s only nonprofit organization dedicated to freeing innocent people in prison and preventing wrongful convictions. Since its founding in 2003, OIP has freed more innocent people than any other state-based innocence organization in the country. 23 Ohio inmates who have served more than 425 years in prison for crimes they did not commit, have been freed on grounds of innocence.

For more information and to connect with OIP, go to [facebook.com/OhioInnocenceProject](https://www.facebook.com/OhioInnocenceProject) or [www.law.uc.edu/oip](http://www.law.uc.edu/oip). If you would like a copy of Dr. Berry’s slide projection about this project, please contact me and I will email you a copy. **125 postcards signed by Sisters and others were sent to Governor Kasich asking him to stop executions.**

—submitted by *Sister Pat Will*

The head of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toledo is calling on Ohio Gov. John Kasich to end the death penalty in the state. The request comes as Ohio takes steps to carry out an execution in January that would be the states first in three years. Bishop Daniel Thomas has sent a letter to the Republican governor saying the Catholic faith opposes the death penalty and affirms the sacredness of all life.

—submitted by 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.

## Marie Kopin, C.P.P.S. Networks with many Environmental Agencies and Offers a Video of what a “Mushroom Foray” is like



Sister Marie Kopin has continued to promote appreciation and best use of our environment in the Mid-Michigan area where she lives. She has continued to teach a steady stream of Educational Mushroom Forays and Classes at various sites this past summer and fall in Isabella, Clare, Midland, and Alcona Counties. Marie has continued working with the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy (CWC), Mount Pleasant County Parks, Michigan Nature Association, Isabella County Commission on Aging, Central Michigan University, Isabella County Conservation District, Chippewa Nature Center in Midland, and the Alcona/Iosco Conservation District. This year the season and number of specimens improved greatly after more rains came in October. For example, there were 66 species found in the preserve near E. Ta-

was.  
To see what an Educational Mushroom Foray is like, go to

[www.chippewawatershedconservancy.org](http://www.chippewawatershedconservancy.org) and click on “read more” by the photo of some of the members of our Foray seated on the huge rock at the top of Bundy Hill in

Isabella County in October. You will see another photo with an arrow to click on.

—Submitted by Marie Kopin

- Directives: Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet’s resources and Networking to be effective.

### STAND WITH THE MARGINALIZED....

At a recent homicide vigil, a chaplain from the Dayton Correctional Institute (DCI) made a plea for toiletries for women prisoners. She alerted us to the fact that the fastest growing prison population in Ohio is women, noticeably white women. Many of these women come from areas that are poor. While in prison the women receive \$13 a month for toiletries or other items that can be purchased within the prison. Those with no family support struggle to purchase soap, deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo and things we take for granted. With this in mind the Sisters at Salem Heights and staff joined a “toiletries drive”. Two boxes of supplies along with \$100 were designated for DCI! It was amazing to see how many needed items could be purchased at the Dollar store! In addition, volunteers from the Brunner Literacy Center joined in the toiletries drive. The very day the first supplies were given to the chaplain she said she had 5 requests that morning for items contributed to the women. From our abundance to their needs!

—submitted by Jeanette Buehler

- Directive: Network with other individuals, agencies. . .

### “INTERFAITH LADIES”

Monthly meetings bring us together to share lunch, information on faith traditions and opportunities to ask questions toward greater understanding of those traditions. The group is spearheaded by a women representative from the Jewish, Muslim and Christian religions. Lunch is respectful of the dietary considerations of each faith so it usually consists of cheese, crackers, fresh fruit, nuts, humus, olives. . . and delicious desserts! Monthly themes have included: significant holiday celebrations, one or two key tenets of each faith, rituals surrounding birth and/or death. These gatherings have garnered an understanding and deep appreciation for the teachings of each tradition. While the expressions of faith in each tradition are different, the rootedness in God/Allah/Yahweh remain central to each faith.

—submitted by Jeanette Buehler

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



## NEW GUATEMALAN LITERACY SITE!

Guatemala has an excellent adult education program (**IGER**) that has been in existence for about 30 years -- a home study program, in which the student has a textbook/workbook and listens to each lesson via a radio. Weekly they meet in a group with a helper to ask questions, etc. Everything is programmed as to what to study each day, and exams are the same all over the country. A central office is located in Guatemala City, but getting to it via bus can take hours. Therefore, most students attend the weekly class in their own neighborhood, coordinated by a person who is registered with the program. Cost per person is about \$50.00 a year.

We, Sisters Joyce Kahle and Terry Walter, are excited to be involved in helping to start a branch of this home-school program for adults in the parish. A member of the parish, who is a psychologist, is interested in helping to coordinate this basic education because many adults have never completed the equivalent of a primary or middle school education.

There are several "teachers" who are willing to volunteer to work with the students, Terry being one of them. Joyce, for now, will assist in other ways. The local parish pastor offered a room at the church for the classes. The director from the main office of **IGER** came to the site and was very pleased with the space we have for the program. **We are officially a new IGER site!!** Fliers announcing the program were distributed, a meeting was held with 24 potential students, who need to register. We hope to start the program when the school year begins in mid-January.

Submitted by Sr. Joyce Kahle

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

## PROVIDING WARMTH FOR WINTER

About two months ago, a lady who lives at St. Charles Senior Living Community in Carthagena, told me she had received 10 different quilt tops that were all sown together by hand. She invited me to come to her apartment and take a look at them. They were beautiful and I was amazed that all the small patches were assembled with tiny stitches. Someone did take many hours and lots of loving care to put these quilts tops together.



She asked me to find someone or a group of people who could finish these quilts; that is, add material to the back side of the quilt, bind the edges and complete the project. I took two quilt tops and told her I would try to involve other people with this endeavor.

Soon a retired woman took one quilt and by now has completed it. We decided to give it to someone who really could use it to stay warm this winter. The next time I went to Salem Heights, I passed it on to Sr. Maryann Bremke. She will give it to one of the poor people who come to the Brunner Literary Center.

Submitted by Marty Bertke

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



**WARM CAPS PROJECT** Since 2011 I have been working with several dozen ladies to produce caps, mittens, scarves, blankets and chemo caps for adults and children to keep folks warm in the cold days of winter. We meet once a month to count and share our successful treasures, decide which groups need them at this point, organize delivery and stock up on yarn and patterns to use until we meet the next time. Besides being fun and developing a sense of community, this project has produced well over 3000 to 4000 items and in the process raised awareness as well as empowered the makers to find creative ways to use their time and energy to benefit those in need.

—submitted by Mary Lou Schmersal

- **Directive:** Network with other individuals, agencies, and groups

## TRAFFICKING

On the internet I found the following resource: **Trafficking Ritual 2017** Please consider using this material for your prayer and increased awareness of the trafficking issue. the article states: *Christmas and its rich mythology call us to look past the serene pictures on cards and enter a story of homelessness, poverty, political repression and slaughter, refugees, and being strangers in a land where ancestors were enslaved for being "different."*

*It is fitting that the week after Christmas begins National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, followed by days calling our attention to this blight: January 11, National Human*

*Trafficking Awareness Day; January 17th, World Day of Migrants and Refugees (so easily prey to traffickers); February 8, International Trafficking Day and feast of Saint Josephine Bakhita (patron saint of victims of trafficking); even February 5, Super Bowl Sunday, when sex trafficking has been known to increase.*

*Those aware of the intrinsic bonds and interconnections among all life feel the pain of the children, men and women forced into bondage with no hope of rescue. Rose Mary Meyer, BVM, provides the following Trafficking Ritual that can be used at any time for human trafficking is happening every day, all year long, locally and globally*

<https://ecospiritualityresources.com/2016/12/26/trafficking-ritual-2017>

—submitted by Mary Lou Schmersal

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

**Plan ahead**—check out this site for great eco-spirituality resources that can be used by individuals or groups. They are free • downloadable • adaptable • ecofriendly. You will find them at: <https://ecospiritualityresources.com/>

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. January 11, 2016 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

### *Prayer*

Loving God, we ask You  
From the depths of our hearts  
To enfold in Your infinite mercy to  
Those who suffer the horrors of trafficking.  
May Your love strengthen their spirits.  
Free them from their suffering.  
And for those disturbed people  
Who traffic in the buying and selling of human beings  
And thus profit from someone else's pain,  
We ask Your blessing, that love and  
Respect for others might take root in their hearts.  
Enlighten us, God, to do what is ours to do,  
And thus put an end to the evils of trafficking.

Check out some additional resources at <http://www.sistersinshelter.com/related-sites.html>

—submitted by Mary Lou Schmersal

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



**VOCATION DINNER:** The Serra Club of St. Mary's/Sidney Deaneries and the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein held an Appreciation Dinner for the Priests, Brothers, Sisters, Seminarians and their parents, as well as, the three novices from our Congregation. This took place Tuesday, December 27, at 6:30 p.m., in the Spiritual Center.

There are 17 men from these two deaneries who are in formation. It was a very joyful celebration, an opportunity to share with one another and to give support and thanks to everyone.

In addition to our novices Bella, Mumbi and LaKeshia, Sisters Ann Clark, Regina Albers, Barbara Ann Hoying, and Martha Bertke attended the event.

—submitted by Marty Bertke

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



The Peace, Justice & Care of Creation committee has been publishing an issue of the Grassroots Newsletter each month for one year. The committee says **thank you** to the Sisters 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 **Jan 25** so that we can meet our goal of having it in your

hands by **02\_03\_2017**.

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

....or to Mary Lou Schmersal [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)