

CPPS Sisters launch literacy center in Trotwood

BY SISTER MARYANN BREMKE AND
SISTER HELEN WEBER

Imagine not being able to read! The number of functionally illiterate adults living in the greater Dayton area is staggering. An awareness of this situation prompted the two of us, long-time educators now retired, to reach into our sense of continuing mission and service to do something.

Last year the Rex Appliance store located adjacent to Precious Blood parish on Salem Avenue in Trotwood closed its doors. Rather than leave an empty building, the owners decided to give it to the parish. The parish, in turn, offered it to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which was in need of more room for its services.

The space was larger than St. Vincent de Paul needed; at the same time, Precious Blood Parish needed more space for its programs. Thus, the space was remodeled with half

for the parish use and half for St. Vincent de Paul.

At that time, we asked for a space in the parish half to open a literacy center to serve adults in the area. The parish graciously gave it to us. Since then, much has happened:

— We used the last few months to educate ourselves about what a literacy center is and does.

— We sought and received a grant from the Maria Anna Brunner Fund to get the center up and running.

— We became certified literacy tutors, and our center will be a satellite of the Miami Valley Literacy Council.

We are now in the process of setting up the center, which will be the Brunner Literacy Center, named to honor Mother Maria Anna Brunner and to follow her example of giving service to the poor and underserved.

We're also seeking volunteers,

both from among our Precious Blood Sisters and others, to join us in this endeavor. Plans are to dedicate the facility later this summer and to open its doors to welcome our new clients after Labor Day.

The Sisters of the Precious Blood began our teaching ministry in the United States shortly after the arrival of the first sisters. Hundreds of people learned to read English through their guiding hands. Although the needs of that early wave of immigrants have changed, the need to provide literacy has not. This project is both new, and a continuation of the congregation's 175-plus years of service.

Veteran educators, Sisters Maryann Bremke and Helen Weber are the new co-directors of the Brunner Literacy Center. If you're interested in learning more or in becoming a volunteer at the center, e-mail Communications@PreciousBloodSisters-Dayton.org.

Lay administrator named for Maria Stein Shrine

BY PAT MORRISON

DAYTON—The Sisters of the Precious Blood have named Donald C. Rosenbeck as administrator of the congregation's Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics in Maria Stein, Ohio.

He succeeds Precious Blood Sister Barbara Ann Hoying, who has been director of the shrine since 1997.

A native of St. Henry, Ohio, Rosenbeck graduated from Wright State University with a bachelor's degree in business. He holds a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Dayton. Rosenbeck previously served as business manager at the Maria Stein Center from 1983 to 1988. More recently, for 11 years he was director of logistics and corporate planner at Motoman, Inc./Yaskawa in Troy, Ohio. Don brings with him over 25 years of broad-based experience in management, accounting and finance.

For the past two years, a 13-member Maria Stein Futures Committee, convened by the congregation's leadership, gathered information and looked at ways to help lead this historic place of "peace, prayer and hospitality" into a viable and healthy future.



Don Rosenbeck

Maria Stein Center was one of the main convents of the Precious Blood Sisters after their arrival from Switzerland, and from 1846 to 1923 served as the congregation's first U.S. motherhouse. In 1875 the convent was privileged to receive a large number of relics of the saints — the beginning of today's Shrine of the Holy Relics.

Rosenbeck lives in Jackson Center with his wife, Mary. They are members of St. Lawrence Parish in Rhine, where Don serves on the finance committee and is a Eucharistic minister, teaches in the catechetical program and is a member of the choir. Both Don and Mary are active members of the Audubon Society and have served on the local and state levels. Don has organized environmental education programs for over 15 years for the local Audubon chapter.

In addition to his previous years of employment with the Sisters of the Precious Blood, Don has another connection with the Precious Blood family: His uncle, Brother Dennis Rumschlag, and great-uncle, Brother Fritz Heiman, were both Precious Blood brothers stationed at St. Charles Seminary in Carthagen.

For more information on the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics, visit www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org; click on Our Sponsored Ministries/Maria Stein Center, with a direct link to the shrine's own web page.