



Sisters of the Precious Blood

Volume 2, Issue 5 April, 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

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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 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

HOMICIDE VIGIL MEMORIAL



The names of 50 homicide victims were solemnly read at the annual homicide vigil memorial held at Salem Heights on March 4th. The youngest victim was a 2 year old boy; the oldest a mother and grandmother age 78. Joining the Sisters at this prayer service were many of the regular participants who stand witness at each homicide vigil. Reflecting on 2 Corinthians 1:3-5, Rev. Liz Ball from Omega Baptist Church reminded those present of the call to walk compassionately with each other, to bring comfort to "members of the community we know as strangers, yet God knows by name." The service concluded with the hymn *Litany of Peace* and its haunting refrain, "Make me an instrument of your peace." Refreshments and an opportunity to socialize with one another followed in the dining room.

Submitted by Jeanette Buehler

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



"Coffee, Cake and True Islam" was the focus of an evening in the dining room of Salem Heights. Approximately 30 people took advantage of the opportunity to learn more about Islam, its origins and various beliefs. Members of the local El-Fazur Mosque in Dayton responded to questions raised by those in attendance. A second meeting is being planned so that further questions can be explored. What a blessing it is to gain new understandings of a faith so often maligned in our world today!

Submitted by: Jeanette Buehler

- **Directive:** Stand with the marginalized... and strive to effect reconciliation among God's people.

Lenten Soup Supper

Each year on Ash Wednesday the Social Action Committee of Holy Trinity Parish

in Coldwater, provides a simple meal which includes four meatless soups. The soups are: potato, vegetable, creamy broccoli, and meatless chili. Crackers, peanut butter bread and butter bread are also available. Everyone is welcome and donations are appreciated. All donations benefit **CRS** – Catholic Relief Services, who for more than 70 years has been providing expertise and compassion to the very poorest of our brothers and sisters in more than 100 countries. Each year, for 12 years, I have helped serve this meal.

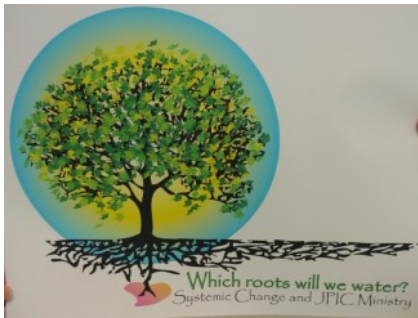


Submitted by Marty Bertke.

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

WHICH ROOTS WILL WE WATER? -- A Great Conference

March 5, 6 & 7, Sisters Ceil Taphorn and Marty Bertke attended a national convocation at Techny



Towers Retreat Center, located north of Chicago. Approximately 150 Justice Promoters from various Congregations of Religious Women attended this event which focused on “**Systemic Change and JPIC Ministry**”. (JPIC - Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation). Keynote speaker,



Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, who teaches in Seattle, gave inspirational and

thought provoking lectures on 1) root causes of injustices, 2) the call to dismantle injustices, and 3) practical tools. Sessions on various topics and table conversations were also included in these days, making for an enriching experience.

Submitted by Marty Bertke

- DIRECTIVE:** Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet’s resources.



- **Earth Day** celebrated annually on **April 22**, holds events worldwide. First celebrated in 1970, it is now coordinated globally by the **Earth Day Network** whose mission is to build a healthy, sustainable environment, address climate change, and protect the earth for the future. The first Earth Day activated 20 million Americans. Twenty years later, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries. Now, more than 1 billion people participate in activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world.

National Arbor Day is always celebrated on the last Friday in April, hence **April 28, 2017**.

Arbor Day is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees. It began in 1872, in the state of Nebraska. Today many states observe Arbor Day on different dates throughout the year based on best tree planting times in their area. Let’s thank God for the many and various types of trees.



How To Save The Earth with Wind and Solar Power

Humanity is standing at an intersection. The signpost pointing in one direction reads "How to save the Earth." Lining the road leading in that direction are the houses where people live who have chosen to install home solar panel systems or build home wind generators as part of their efforts to reduce the amount of fossil fuels they use. At the end of this road is a healthy planet which can sustain billions of healthy and happy people.

The signpost pointing in the other direction reads "How to exhaust the Earth's fossil fuel supplies." At the end of this road are vanished glaciers, air to journey to breathe, a planet too warm to produce the food we need, and endless suffering from countless millions of people."

We can tap into wind and solar power today by building home wind generators or installing home solar power systems, or doing well! We can choose to help save the environment no matter where you live, because no matter where you are the sun shines and the wind blows. They are simply waiting for you to capture them and put them to work!

To read more check out http://greeneearth4energy.com/save_the_earth.html



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

**SYSTEM
CHANGE**

Actions for Systemic Change

At the conference for Justice Promoters (mentioned on p.2) Cynthia Moe-Lobeda gave suggestions of practical actions for systemic change. Realize that change on one level opens doors to other levels. By using our 10 fingers, she gave us 10 options people can do. Perhaps you are doing one or more of these.

1. **Lifestyle** - compost, recycle, not eat meat, buy second hand clothes, etc.
2. **Economic advocacy** - buy fair trade, boycott, etc.
3. **Legislation** - write, email, phone your representatives, etc.
4. **Community organizing** - often this is faith based or in neighborhoods
5. **Education/Consciousness raising**
6. **Public witness** - participate in demonstrations, write to editors of newspapers
7. **Economic alternative** - buy food locally; share more, etc.
8. **Direct Service** - to those in need
9. **Worship & Prayer** - transform us
10. **Theological and Biblical reflections** - reflections can change the heart

Submitted by Marty Bertke

- **DIRECTIVE:** Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet's resources.

SO MUCH JOY

March 19 was a joyous long awaited day! Two Mexican girls made their First Communion at St. Louis Parish, North Star Ohio. I found it such a pleasure to prepare Mariela (9years old) for Baptism and with her sister Jaquelin (14) for both Penance and Eucharist. The Sunday afternoon "hour of instruction" passed into an hour and a half or longer without notice to me, their mother or the girls.



Jacquelin, Susana (Mother), Mariela

This journey began when the teachers at Versailles School that noticed when the girls did not understand the Mass. Their support, the example and love of the Otte family where the girls' mother works on the dairy farm, the care and interest of the Pastor —all were integral to making this a day of grace and difference in three lives and in the parish so supportive of a struggling family.

Attempts were made to keep some of the Mexican customs in the ceremony. Godparents are included for first Communion so these girls chose a teacher and a member of the Otte family to fill that role by being part of the entrance procession and taking part in photos. The homily joyfully welcomed the children into St Louis' faith family and a special blessing emphasized the family's place in the parish. Following Mass a celebration with lunch and a beautiful cake was held at the Mescher home for some thirty parishioners.

Submitted by: Sr. Regina Albers
Directive: Stand with the marginalized

THE CRADLE TO JAIL PIPELINE

On the evening of March 7 Sisters Joan DeChristopher and Mary Garke attended a lecture at The Point Church in Trotwood. The lecturer was Rev Sylvia Mosely, chaplain of Dayton Correctional Institute. She presented several criteria that are predictors of persons who are likely to see jail time.

Four predictors were given namely: being born into poverty, being born of a single mother, inadequate nutrition and inability to read beyond a fourth grade comprehension level. These predictors lead to children dropping out of school, unable to get a job, participating in petty misdemeanors leading to eventual crimes, being jailed, unable to pay bail, sitting in jail until scheduled for a hearing and then, often being sent to prison.

Rev. Mosely indicated that there is much effort and money being put into rehabilitation, but little is being done to address the causative factors that feed the pipeline. A challenge for us all!



Submitted by: Sr Mary Garke....
Directive: Stand with the marginalized....

Thank you

The Peace, Justice & Care of Creation committee has been publishing an issue of the Grassroots Newsletter each month for one year. The committee thanks all 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.

Your articles for Grassroots are due **April 25** so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **05_05_2017**. Please submit to Marty Bertke m.bertke@hometowncable.net

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

Your contributions make all the difference!

We're on the Web!
www.preciousbloodsistersdayton.org