



# Sharing & Caring

THE SISTERS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD ■ DAYTON, OHIO

Volume 22 Number 2 ■ Summer 2011



## 2011 Jubilarians

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A radiant 60th Jubilarian, Sister Verlina Mescher, receives her corsage from Sister Edna Hess. In the background, 50th Jubilarian Sister Jane Francis Hoffman receives hers from Sister Madonna Ratermann.

## Welcome for new leadership team

The Sisters of the Precious Blood have elected a new president and council for the Dayton-based congregation. The elections took place at the conclusion of the sisters' assembly, June 26 to July 2, at Bergamo retreat and conference center in Beavercreek, Ohio.

Sister Joyce Lehman (above, center) is the congregation's new president. She succeeds Sister Florence Seifert, who concluded a four-year term in the position.

Elected to serve on the congregation's general council are: Sister Nancy Kinross (above, left), vice president; and Sisters Mary Yarger (second from left), Linda Pleiman and Cecilia (Ceil) Taphorn. This is the first term for each of them. *(For more on the new leadership team, see pages 10–11.)*

The new council members are succeeding Sisters Jeanette Buehler, Marita Beumer, Edna Hess and Madonna Ratermann. *(See the back page.)*

Assembly & Installation Highlights  
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# Farewell and God's blessings

With this issue of *Sharing & Caring* we say goodbye to Pat Morrison, editor.

Pat has accepted the position of Editorial Director of ICS Publications (Institute of Carmelite Studies), the publishing house of the Discalced Carmelite Order in the United States. It is a ministry of the Washington Province of Discalced Carmelite Friars. ICS was looking for someone with extensive knowledge of all facets of Catholic publishing and media, as well as lived experience of the Teresian Carmelite life. Pat will definitely bring this knowledge and exper-

tise as well as many other gifts to the position.

We congratulate her and ask God's blessings on her as she undertakes this new adventure.

Pat has been Communications Director for the Sisters of the Precious Blood since May 1, 2006. We take this opportunity to say thanks to Pat for her work in developing a CPPS Communications Office and her service to the congregation in publishing *Sharing & Caring*, in developing our current website, and for her many public relations efforts, especially during our 175th Anniversary year—the list could go on and on.

We ask God's continued blessings on Pat and her work.

**Sister Florence Seifert, CPPS  
immediate past president  
Sisters of the Precious Blood**

## With thanks...

When I first began working for the Sisters of the Precious Blood, I already knew some CPPS women; I knew a little about their history and spirituality. I looked forward to sharing their "Good News" through the new Communications Office being established with my arrival. My biggest worry was that I'd never learn all the names of the then-216 members of the congregation, especially all the sisters here at Salem Heights!

Well, in about a year, I did learn all their names. But more importantly, I have come to know *the women behind those names*: their rich lives of ministry, prayer and community; the graced histories (complete with a good dose of sacrifice) of the now-retired and deceased sisters; what the sisters in active ministry are doing with creativity and energy (and to share Precious Blood spirituality through those ministries.) It has been a privilege to be a small part of that.

As anyone knows who has handed on to others the "parts and pieces" of their job, transition provides a chance for an overview of what's been done (and where it's filed!) During this process, I was surprised to discover some of what we had done over the past five years: Our CPPS communicating was expressed in 20 issues of *Sharing & Caring*, over 4,000 photos of CPPS events, hundreds of news releases to the media, 15 new and changing



web pages, and dozens of posters, brochures and ads.

But more than by projects, this time has been characterized by relationships among what communications theory calls the "senders" and the "receivers": the sisters behind the words and images in our news stories, the media and graphics professionals who enable us to tell them, you our readers, and all those who help us proclaim CPPS' good news.

My last editor's message would be incomplete without a special word of thanks to Michelle Bodine, my colleague in this office since 2008. Her title of "communications technician" doesn't convey who she is or all she does. Michelle is talent "behind the scenes," especially working her magic on our posters and brochures and the website. Blessings, Michelle!

As I say goodbye to *Sharing & Caring* and the Communications Office, the words of Dag Hammarskjöld sum it up so well: *For all that has been, thanks. For all that shall be, yes!*

—Pat Morrison

## NOTE TO READERS

**Because of the transitions in the Communications Office, it is not known at this time if or when there will be a Fall issue of *Sharing & Caring*. —Sisters of the Precious Blood**



# Sharing & Caring

Established in 1989, *Sharing & Caring* is published quarterly by the Sisters of the Precious Blood, Dayton, Ohio, to communicate news of the congregation, Precious Blood Spirituality, and to promote the sisters' mission.

### CPPS Mission Statement

*Urged by the redeeming love of Jesus the Christ and rooted in Eucharistic prayer, we Sisters of the Precious Blood proclaim God's love by being a life-giving, reconciling presence in our fractured world.*

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## Change: God's invitation to courage, creativity, confidence



If, as Blessed John Henry Newman stated, "to live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often," then a quick look at this issue of *Sharing & Caring* would indicate that the Sisters of the Precious Blood are indeed on their way to perfection.

You'll notice a change in our Vocation Coordinator's position as Sister Carolyn Hoying discerns the urgings of the Holy Spirit in her life. The Communications Office is getting a new look as Pat Morrison, the previous Director of Communications (and editor of this newsletter), changes ministries. The congregational Assembly of this last summer set directions that affect how we sisters live into our future in the next four years. And you'll notice a new name connected with "From the President's Desk" as a result of the elections at the Assembly.

As we experience daily, change is inevitable. We've only to look at a newborn depending on those around her for food, daily care and protection in this alien world, and then two years later contemplate the energetic toddler who not only walks but runs, feeds herself, makes her needs known with a growing command of language and generally is attempting to control the huge world around her. Sixteen years later we say farewell to the recent graduate who is leaving the "nest" to go to college or a job across the state or the country. We look at our own faces in the mirror and wonder when we became our mothers or fathers.

Change is inevitable and we can stop it no more effectively than we can stop the sun from rising tomorrow morning.

Some changes we plan for and choose; others are thrust upon us. Either way, we can expect to experi-

of stress; we expect to acquire some things and throw others away. But we also know that the unexpected can happen as well: a child dies before the parent, our home is destroyed by tornado or fire, a lottery number turns out to be the big winner, the gift of friendship accompanies a stranger.

At times we can feel like Peter, called by Jesus out of the boat and onto the turbulent waters of the lake. And like Peter, we can find the storms of change washing over us, pulling us down and threatening to overwhelm us when we take our eyes off

the One who calls us. When we keep our eyes on Jesus who loves us to the shedding of his Precious Blood and our hearts open to the Holy Spirit's gifts of gentle grace and courage, change may surge around us but will not be able to touch that inner place of peace. There we are held by God whose love makes it possible to believe that it will all turn out, not only well, but as was planned all along.

As life changes, we pray for the grace to be brave and bold, to be firm and flexible, to be creative and courageous and above all to be confident that we make changes and walk new paths guided and companioned by God who loves us into being and beyond.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Joyce". The signature is written in black ink.

Sister Joyce Lehman, CPPS

***When we keep our eyes on Jesus who loves us to the shedding of his Precious Blood and our hearts open to the Holy Spirit's gifts of gentle grace and courage, change may surge around us but will not be able to touch that inner place of peace.***

ence a certain amount of disorientation as the old ways are left behind and a new way of doing things isn't yet established. Chosen or unchosen, change will have its way with us and we can either bend like the willow or resist like the oak.

It is evident that changes are interconnected. One change bumps into another which causes another, like books on a shelf without a book-end or the overlapping ripples of raindrops on a placid lake. Even the smallest, most private action precipitates a chain reaction which can either sweep us along with it or, on our better days, we can ride with grace and abandon.

Like the rhythm of night and day or the seasons of the year, some changes are patterned in a way that allows us to anticipate what is coming next. In the big picture, we expect to grow older and wiser and eventually die; we expect to experience times of relaxation and times

# Thank you, Sister Carolyn!

BY SISTER MARITA BEUMER

As Sister Carolyn Hoying completes her term as Coordinator of Vocation Ministry for the Sisters of the Precious Blood, she has a feeling of satisfaction for the positive thrust that this ministry has taken during the past nine years. This was validated in a recent conversation that we had, reflecting on these years of her life.

Sister Carolyn said she's grateful for the many opportunities she had to build relationships through meeting sisters in our congregation, women interested in religious life, the Precious Blood family connections (especially through the Precious Blood Vocation Formation Committee) and other colleagues. First of all, she is grateful for our sisters who have taken responsibility in their areas of ministry, expanding the understanding of a "culture of vocation" and being actively involved with the vocation ministry. They have hosted Come and See week-ends and participated in area activities and events. Sister Carolyn is also grateful for the involvement of her family in vocation efforts.

One of the most exciting adventures and changes in vocation ministry during Sister Carolyn's term has been technological advancement. New words have been added to her vocabulary in communicating with the many publics, especially young women. In just the last few years she has adapted to texting instead of phoning, and has taken advantage of social media such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs. Presently one of her dreams of elaborating the area of communications is in process: the development and design of a new website for the congregation which



Above, one of the annual vocations projects is a ministry week in Appalachia, helping area residents in need. The team built a ramp for Sarah (third from left) so that her physically handicapped daughter could visit. Smiling at "mission accomplished" are Sister Carolyn and Sister Mumbi Kigutha (front), Precious Blood Brother Nick Renner, and Sarah's daughters, Virginia and Elizabeth. At right, Sister Carolyn talks with young women attending a vocation fair. Events like this around the country took her "on the road" for many weeks of her nine years in vocation ministry.



will be more interactive and hopefully appealing to all of our publics. She says, "Just click us at [www.Precious-BloodSistersDayton.org](http://www.Precious-BloodSistersDayton.org)."

As Sister Carolyn and I reminisced about her years in vocation ministry, she recalled some of the challenges as well as dreams that have become realities. She reiterated the history and growth of the annual "Stepping Up the Call" pilgrimage for vocations, which now has completed eight years. How many people have been inspired to live their vocation through walking in prayer and through the witness talks! Taking young people on a summer ministry experience with Sister Margie Zureick in Appalachia has been another highlight for Sister Carolyn as they help others, enjoy one another and pray together.

For many years it was Sister Carolyn's deep desire that the

congregation would have a Discernment House where young women could live while they discerned the call of God in their lives. It is opening this fall and we hope that soon there will be young women living there! Another gigantic step was to form the Vocation Ministry Committee comprised of both sisters and laity. How blessed we have been these two years with new energy, broadened insights and willing workers on the committee.

For being involved in all this and much, much more we dedicate this page in appreciation and gratitude to Sister Carolyn. We thank Sister Carolyn for her endless generosity, friendship, outstanding reaching out and moving forward in vocation ministry, always waiting patiently "with hope in her heart!"

And we all say, "Amen! Thank you, Sister Carolyn!"

# CPPS 'sister Sisters': the Voisards

*Over the years, several groups of siblings have followed one another into religious life as Sisters of the Precious Blood. With this issue we're pleased to profile not just a duo, but a trio of CPPS "sister Sisters."*

BY SISTER BARBARA AGNEW

Together, Sisters Yvonne, Carmen (Carmencita) and Mary Lou (Sr. M. Leo) Voisard have spent a cumulative 224 years as Sisters of the Precious Blood. But even those 2.25 "centuries" don't seem time enough for them to have accomplished all that is described in community accounts of their lives.

All three spent their first 10 to 15 years in classrooms in Ohio, Indiana, Missouri and Colorado. But then each one's special gifts called them to quite different places: Yvonne to 12 years as novitiate assistant and later director of the juniorate; Carmen to the position of the Archdiocese of Denver's supervisor of schools, and then to the role of community councilor; Mary Lou to the congregation's cloistered community for more than two decades.

But with the changing ministries of women religious these paths also changed. Yvonne directed the Maria Stein Retreat house, was pastoral associate in a Dayton parish, and offered many summer workshops on prayer for the sisters at a North Carolina retreat house. Carmen set up an early childhood center in the motherhouse and presented 150 well-received education workshops and lectures in 35 states before returning to her first love, the classroom. When the New Riegel cloister closed, Mary Lou became chaplain in a Cincinnati hospital, spent a decade in pastoral care of elderly and infirm CPPS sisters, and served as spiritual director to many.

One is tempted to name a "specialty" for each of the Voisard sisters: Yvonne, the administrator, of novitiate and later Sister Formation programs; Carmen, the entrepreneur, venturing even to England and Brussels in her educational work; Mary



**Above: The Voisard family — mom, dad and all eight siblings — gathered at the CPPS motherhouse in September 1938 to celebrate Sister Carmen's entrance into the novitiate (front left in white veil). Mary Lou (center, in floral dress and hat) would enter the convent the following year. Sister Yvonne is at right. Mrs. Voisard, Margaret, is between Carmen and Mary Lou, Mr. Voisard, Leo, in the back row. At right, in a recent photo, the trio at Sister Yvonne's 75th jubilee celebration: Carmen, Yvonne and Mary Lou.**



Lou, continuing in her contemplative way in chaplaincies and offering the ministry of spiritual direction.

It is not surprising that the three were never missioned at the same place, but they have spent some very special times together. There is a wonderful photo of the trio in Israel, gazing from the top of Mount Tabor; another of their grasping at Pope John Paul II's cape in St. Peter's square — in the days before the bullet-proof "Popemobile."

They might also have been seen on retreat together at Eastern Point Retreat House in Gloucester, Mass. There, after a tour of the nearby Kennedy compound led by the intrepid Carmen, the three of them had tea with Rose Kennedy in her living room. (Carmen had spotted Mrs. Kennedy on the sidewalk, and had introduced herself and her sisters.) And yes, there is a photo of that event, too.

The hobbies and skills of these three "sister Sisters" complete the picture. Over the years one might have found any one of them reading, crocheting, traveling, gathering gifts for the poor, cooking, baking, mending and remodeling clothes, gardening, printing, doing calligraphy, learning piano and organ, playing pinochle and euchre — and simply enjoying life and jokes. (Of Carmen it's said that she laughs even when the joke is on her!)

Today, for the most part, the Voisard sisters' busy ministry years are behind them. (Mary Lou still offers spiritual direction.) Carmen and Mary Lou live at Salem Heights, Yvonne next door at the Maria-Joseph Living Care Center. But friends, family and their CPPS community continue to rejoice in their rich diversity and the joy they find in — and bring to — life.

# A life of CPPS service, both at home and abroad

By MARY CAFFREY KNAPKE

MARIA STEIN — Two centuries ago many German Catholic immigrants settled in the area that today makes up the northern reaches of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. They cleared dense forests, settled fertile farmland and established the parishes that now lie along the 38-mile Ohio Scenic Byway called the “Land of the Cross-Tipped Churches.”

Among these devout immigrants were the ancestors of Precious Blood Sister Regina Albers, who serves as curator of the national Shrine of the Holy Relics and Maria Stein Heritage Museum in Maria Stein, sponsored by the Sisters of the Precious Blood on the site of their original motherhouse built in 1846.

Sister Regina draws on the stories of the past as she reaches out in ministry. In addition to her work at the shrine and museum, she reaches out to Hispanic immigrant communities in the area.

In the 1830s, around the time Sister Regina’s ancestors arrived in Mercer County, a French priest was serving the area. “But he went to the bishop and said, ‘All these Germans are here now, and I can’t communicate with them. They need German priests,’” Sister Regina explained.

Archbishop John Baptist Purcell enlisted the help of Father Francis de Sales Brunner, who brought the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and the Sisters of the Precious Blood to the area.

Sister Regina continues the tradition of reaching out to immigrants who have fled the poverty of their homeland as she works with Hispanic groups who sometimes find themselves struggling to make sense of a new culture and language.

She spent 12 years in Chile, where she did pastoral work and taught English, music and science in elementary schools. As a child, Sister Regina enjoyed listening to stories from the Precious Blood missionaries in Chile, which her mother read after dinner from the *Precious Blood Messenger*. Shortly after making her final vows at the age of 21, she volunteered to go to Chile, but it was another 12 years before she finally arrived in the country.

The 1973 military coup led by Augusto Pinochet presented particular challenges during Sister Regina’s stay in the South American country. “The day of the coup I went to school not having an idea of what had happened. When I got to school, all the teachers were in the principal’s office hovering around a radio, listening to what was happening in Santiago,” she recalled. During



With her fluency in Spanish and pastoral sensitivity, Sister Regina is an important part of the lives of many Hispanic migrant families in the Ohio-Michigan area. Here, with Carmen and Leopoldo Tinoco of St. Henry, Ohio, she celebrates their son Manuel’s First Communion at a family party.

the military junta, Sister Regina herself was at times stopped by police and searched, and she endured road blocks and the suspension of travel across provincial lines. While she felt more exposed and vulnerable as a foreigner, she said the Chilean people also showed a certain amount of respect for the religious orders.

Now, her fluency in Spanish and an understanding of Hispanic cultures and customs have helped her connect with immigrant groups in parishes in Sandusky, Ohio, and in Adrian, Mich. “I’m totally fluent in Spanish, and I just feel it’s a gift everyone doesn’t have, and there’s a great need for it,” she says.

In the Cincinnati archdiocese she serves on the Northern Region Hispanic Committee, “attempting to find ways to integrate the Hispanics into the community and have the Anglos respect the Hispanics more,” she said, explaining the committee’s purpose.

Sister Regina has also traveled twice to Oaxaca, Mexico, where the Diocese of Puerto Escondido was formed seven years ago. She serves on a team promoting twinning between parishes in the Puerto Escondido diocese and the Cincinnati archdiocese.

Sister Regina’s work with the Maria Stein shrine and museum is also part of the legacy of the Precious Blood congregations in the area. When the Catholic Church in Europe was being persecuted by anti-religious laws in the 1800s, a safe home was sought for a large collection of relics. It was suggested that the best custodians of the collection would be a religious community. In 1875, Father J.M. Gartner donated the relic collection to the Sisters of the Precious Blood, and a special chapel was built to house and venerate them in 1892.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the shrine offers the second-largest relic collection of its type in the country, with more than 1,000 relics on display.

One of the most important aspects of these treasures, Sister Regina emphasizes, is that they serve as tangible reminders of the lives lived in faith by the many saints represented here, from third-century St. Agatha to the martyrs of Uganda, Africa, who were killed for their Catholic faith in the 1800s. More than today’s celebrities, “these are people who have done extraordinary things with their lives,” Sister Regina said. “The life of a saint is something for us to imitate.”

*This article was first published in the May 13, 2011 issue of The Catholic Telegraph, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, in the “Everyday Evangelists” section. Reprinted with permission.*

# SOCIAL MEDIA



## SOCIAL MEDIA: Some tips for newcomers

Most of us will probably experience the need for a lot of patience as we try to 'get a handle' on this new social media reality. New terms from A-Z quickly expand our vocabulary — often with much different meanings than our common usage of the past.

Think you know the common meaning of such terms as feed, thread, tag, tool, group, sharing, bookmark, authenticity, chat or profile? Guess again! In today's electronic media they have a much different meaning.

So, engage the fun and get ready to learn another level of our language — or even what seems like a new language entirely!

We all know that learning to run comes only after one has mastered crawling and walking. So it is in the electronic world. We manage best when we start small and slowly.

- Set a goal for today, this month, this year.
- Work with a "buddy" to learn something new.
- Watch a short video on YouTube.
- Learn how to send those family photos sitting on your computer to friends.

It's amazing how many new skills will enrich your life in a short time.

—MLS

## Exploring the 'digital continent'

BY SISTER MARY LOU SCHMERSAL  
AND PAT MORRISON

"Social media" is the newest topic to emerge on the global scene. But while we hear the term, many of us may still wonder what it's all about. Basically, social media is about everyday people using the Internet to network with people around the world. The new ways social media does this are primarily through cell phone "apps" (applications) and computer programs that allow the user to e-mail, text, instant message, share photos and video (think YouTube), "tweet," create blogs (short for web logs, or online columns) — the list is growing by the hour.

These technologies are changing and advancing quickly, but more importantly, the way they are being used is changing. If properly managed, the opportunities that the new social networks present should outweigh the risks. (*See sidebar below.*)

The Sisters of the Precious Blood are eager to share the word with a wide audience about our lives and ministries by communicating up-

to-date information and data in interesting formats. The benefits of immediate access, as well as the visual and audio elements of social media, offer us the opportunity to do this. In the near future we will be unveiling a new, updated website, making it more dynamic and interactive, with video clips of congregational events and sisters' ministry. Some sisters are already blogging and using Facebook and Twitter. In addition to keeping people "connected," these provide an immediate way to share breaking news and/or upcoming events with a wide audience. We are also trying our hand at Skype — which offers video of the speaker(s) along with phone access right on the computer — to manage committee work across the country and to stay in contact with CPPS Sisters in South America.

Our CPPS website is "open 24/7." With just with a few clicks of the mouse, you can visit us often. We invite you to share your life and efforts as well. We anticipate that networking and digital interaction will amplify the message of the Gospel which we all try to live. You'll find us at [www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org](http://www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org)

## For sharing the Gospel, social media's a must

By Pat Morrison

While the Catholic Church has sometimes been slow to accept and adapt to new technology, it's a new day in regard to social media.

Last November at their Fall meeting, the U.S. bishops got a crash course in the imperative of using new technology to proclaim the Gospel, especially to the world's young people. And earlier, Pope Benedict XVI addressed the importance of using social media in his address for the 44th World Day of Social Communication. The pope even made history by "tweeting," telling the world that he had just launched the Vatican's new website, [www.News.va](http://www.News.va). And the Vatican recently

hosted a conference for bloggers, Facebook and YouTube users.

It's not just a matter of the church discovering the social media craze and jumping on the bandwagon du jour. Social media, even as they will doubtlessly evolve, are here to stay, church leaders have been told. And if the church doesn't come on board, the ship will sail without it — to our peril.

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## CPPS Sister helps to ensure ‘no one dies alone’

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — Precious Blood Sister Terry Maher, a member of the spiritual care team at St. Bernardine Medical Center in San Bernardino, Calif., is a key part of a new program at the medical center that ensures that every dying person is accompanied on this final stage of his or her life’s journey. The program was a cover story in the December/January issue of the hospital’s newsletter, *InFocus*.

The innovative program was launched by the medical center in October 2010. “No One Dies Alone” (NODA), is “dedicated to offering all patients a dignified death with human companionship and compassion at their side.” Sr. Terry is the program coordinator for NODA.

“Today many families live apart and loved ones may not be able to be at the bedside of a sick family mem-

ber,” Sr. Terry explains. “We want to ensure that all dying patients will have the peace and comfort of knowing a caring person will be there for them in their final hours.”

A physician or nurse can activate a NODA vigil by calling Spiritual Care when a patient’s life expectancy is between 48 and 72 hours and the person has no family or friends available to be with them. More than a dozen trained volunteers are available for reading to, talking or praying with and playing music for those patients in their final hours, or just being present, Sr. Terry said.

“No One Dies Alone” helps exemplify how Precious Blood women find new and creative ways to be a “reconciling, healing presence” through their ministry, wherever they serve.

## For sharing the Gospel, social media’s a must

*Continued from page 7*

Social media is more than the latest fad, Bishop Ronald Herzog of Alexandria, La., a member of the USCCB Communications Committee, told his brother bishops. It’s a total paradigm shift in how the world communicates.

“...[Social media] is causing as fundamental a shift in communication patterns and behavior as the printing press did 500 years ago....

And I don’t think I have to remind you of what happened when the Catholic Church was slow to adopt to that new technology,” he said — a reference to the spread of the Protestant Reformation through its widespread use of the printing press, while the Catholic Church trailed in seeing its value.

For today’s young people, “if the church is not on their mobile device, it doesn’t exist,” he said.

If the church is going to preach effectively in “this culture of 140 characters and virtual friendships — Twitter and Facebook respectively — people of faith need to respect the culture and engage those in this ‘brave new world’ on their own terms.”



The church does not have to change its teachings to reach people, Bishop Herzog said, echoing the pope’s thought. “But we must deliver it to them in a new way” — and this is where texts and tweets, Facebook and YouTube and “apps” become an essential part of the church’s vocabulary and outreach.

### Some facts to think about:

- There are more than 500 million active users on Facebook. If it were a nation, only India and China would have more citizens.
- One out of eight married couples in the United States say they met through social media.
- It took 13 years for television to reach 50 million users; after the

iPod was introduced, it took only nine months for 1 billion applications to be downloaded.

With social media, if a question or comment is posted, “the digital natives expect a response and something resembling a conversation,” Bishop Herzog said. “We can choose not to enter into that cultural mindset, but we do so at great peril to the church’s credibility and approachability in the minds of the [digital]

natives, those who are growing up in this new culture.”

Like all missionaries, church ministers need to learn the language and cultures of those to whom they’re proclaiming the Gospel in order effectively to reach them, Bishop Herzog stressed. And this is a challenge for the “older generation” of Catholics, from the people in the pew to the bishops: “Most of us don’t understand the culture.”

The message the bishops heard applies to all of us if we’re going to communicate effectively with younger people: “It’s more than just learning how to create a Facebook account. It’s learning how to think, live and embrace life on the Digital Continent.”

Spurred on by their chosen theme, 'Dare to Live Hope,' Sisters of the Precious Blood gathered in assembly to pray, discern, elect new leaders and set the course for their future...



# ASSEMBLY 2011

BY SISTER MARYANN BREMKE

This summer — specifically the week of June 26 through July 2 and August 7 — marked significant events for the Sisters of the Precious Blood, as the congregation convened for its general assembly and elected new leadership, who were formally installed on Sunday, August 7.

Following the governance structure outlined in their *Way of Life* document, the Sisters of the Precious Blood hold a general assembly once every four years. Its purpose is to evaluate the state of the congregation and its mission within the church, to determine the mission focus and goals for the next four years, and to elect the congregational leaders. Ninety-eight member delegates attended the weeklong assembly, gathered from throughout North and South America, to exercise this highest authority in the congregation. The comfortable venue for this CPPS gathering was the Bergamo Conference and Retreat Center in Beavercreek, Ohio.

The general assembly was officially called into being by the president, Sister Florence Seifert. Opening prayer asking for the Spirit's guidance followed.

The uplifting theme proclaimed and echoed throughout assembly days challenged participants to "Dare to Live Hope." A banner prominently displaying this thematic imperative tied the assembly with the cluster preparations that anticipated it. With resolve to "dare to live hope," the Sisters of the Precious Blood bypassed any major focus on diminishment, opting instead to "choose life."

These words from Deuteronomy were the title of the Leadership Report for 2007-2011. This became the first order of business for the assembly. Sister Florence and the councilors facilitated the presentation of various segments of the report. Since it had been distributed in advance, previously submitted questions and points for clarification were able to be addressed expeditiously. When the additional delegates' questions from the floor were finished, the move for acceptance was made, seconded and carried

*Continued on Page 10*



# Assembly 2011: Dare to Live Hope

*Continued from page 9*

through. This proclaimed that the congregation was solid in its mission, secure in its resources and, generally healthy in membership.

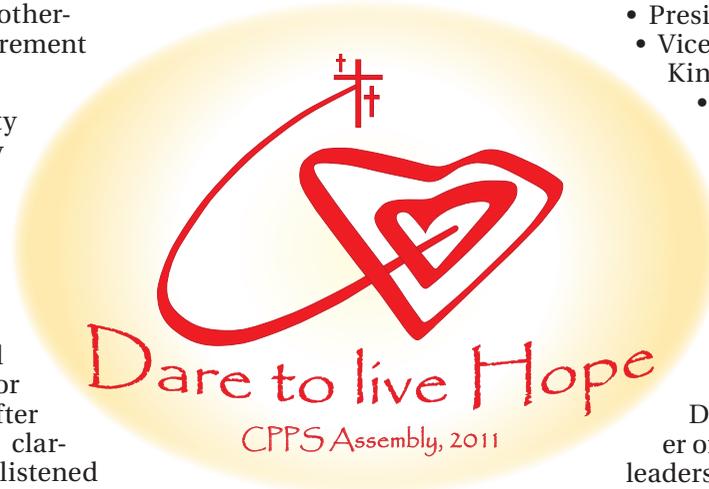
Proceeding from this assured basis, the assembly then moved to study and act upon the first issue identified for decision making: the renovation of Salem Heights, the congregation's current mother-house/central house and retirement community in Dayton.

What to do about this facility has been the focus and study of the congregation over a period of years. Appropriate research, consultation and planning, directed by leadership, with invited input and feedback from the sisters, resulted in a proposed plan of renovation. A vote for approval was entertained after delegates reviewed the plan, clarified any ambiguities and listened to several objections. The delegates overwhelmingly supported the proposed renovation plan and design for Salem Heights and recommended that new leadership make it a priority and move ahead to expedite its finalization.

Basically, the new configuration of Salem Heights will change the residential areas from bedrooms to one- or two- bedroom apartments for independent living while also providing some services. When the renovation is complete the physical changes will accommodate the current population of sisters living there. It also will provide living space for those sisters who may wish to move in during the next few years. In the future, when the congregation no longer needs all the available space, the apartments will be available for rent by individuals who are not CPPS members.

Continuing ministry and mission in light of fewer members, coupled with issues regarding the invitation and integration of new members, was the next focus on the agenda. Animated discussions highlighted

many facets of this topic. A significant number of unsettled questions were evident when table reports were shared with the total body. The group was unable to take action on specific direction(s), but requested that leadership continue to engage sisters in conversations in order to make wise choices in CPPS' ongoing efforts to invite and integrate new



members. At the same time the assembly delegates urged and encouraged both leaders and members to strengthen efforts to find creative ways to extend ministry and mission through collaboration with others—CPPS Friends (an organization of former members) and other colleagues.

A partial day of silence set in contemplative prayer transitioned the assembly from one focused on affairs into one of elections. Electing the president and council who would serve CPPS for the next four years became the next order of the assembly. The process through which the many members were called forth indicated that the Sisters of the Precious Blood have a viable pool of candidates capable of being leaders.

Nominees accepted or refused nomination within the context of a prayer service the following morning. The 14 women who remained in leadership discernment engaged in a question- and- answer session that provided insight into their respective

positions on various issues and/or topics. The schedule provided time for a further informal opportunity to talk to individual nominees. Table conversations interspersed with lots of listening and reverent prayer ensued.

Members then cast their votes.

The CPPS president and council for the term of 2011 to 2015 are:

- President: Sister Joyce Lehman
- Vice President: Sister Nancy Kinross
- Councilors: Sister Linda Pleiman, Sister Cecilia (Ceil) Taphorn and Sister Mary Yarger.

Sister Joyce has been serving as director of initial formation for the congregation for the past year. Prior to that she was director of pastoral planning for the Diocese of Toledo and leader of its secretariat for pastoral leadership.

Sister Nancy created and directed the Tech-Reach Program operated out of Elder High School in Cincinnati. She has been a teacher and administrator, worked with several non-profit programs to provide services to underserved residents in the greater Cincinnati area. She was executive director of Unda-USA, the former national professional organization for Catholic radio and TV communicators.

Sister Linda is a veteran educator, both teacher and principal. For the past 22 years she has been a teacher at Central Catholic High School in Toledo, Ohio, most of that time in the Social Studies dept.

Sister Ceil, also a veteran teacher and pastoral minister, has been volunteering in various ministries in Dayton: tutoring at the Brunner Literacy Center, music therapy at the Maria-Joseph Living Care Center, and Hispanic ministry.

Sister Mary has served all her ministerial life in the Western United States, much of the time with Native

American peoples. A member of the Luiseno tribe located in Pala, Calif., she is an education specialist working at Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, California.

During the assembly, in the context of morning prayer, the new president and councilors were blessed and reminded of their role as servant leaders. The new leadership team was formally installed and took office on Aug. 7.

During seven days the CPPS assembly had run its course. The delegates enjoyed the beautiful setting at Bergamo—the delicious meals, the long walks around the cultivated gardens and woodlands, evenings when sisters gathered to play cards, board games or chat about community happenings. On Saturday evening, July 2, assembly delegates made the trip back to Salem Heights where a thanksgiving tribute and reception was held for the sisters on the outgoing leadership team who served CPPS during the last four years. It was a great week, daring to live hope.

*Sister Maryann Bremke is a past president of the congregation. With Sister Helen Weber she is a co-founder of the new Brunner Literacy Center in Dayton, dedicated to providing literacy training and other basic life skills for adult learners.*

#### PHOTOS

1. A table discussion. 2. Sr. Marla Gipson collects ballots for the election. 3. Oldenburg (Ind.) Franciscan Sister Catherine Schneider with the flowering plant she received as a token of appreciation. She was the facilitator for the assembly and during its yearlong planning. 4. Sr. Joyce Lehman embraces newly elected councilor Sr. Mary Yarger. 5. After accepting her election, each sister stepped forward to be blessed by the gathered sisters. Pictured, Sr. Linda Pleiman. 6. Father Larry Hemmelgarn celebrates Eucharist on the July 1 Feast of the Precious Blood. He is the provincial for the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, Cincinnati Province. 7. During the Aug. 7 installation liturgy in Dayton, past president Sr. Florence Seifert (right) presents the crucifix to new president Sr. Joyce, as a symbol of her service, modeled on that of Jesus.



## Assembly & Installation Highlights



Photos by Sisters Joanne Belloli and Mary Lou Schmersal.

Belloli: Page 9: 1 and 3; Page 11: 1, 2, 5; Schmersal: Page 1: top; Page 9: 2; Page 11: 3, 4, 6, 7.

# 2011 Jubilarians

## 80 Years

**Sister  
M. Canice  
Werner**



## 75 Years

*Left to right:*  
**Sisters  
M. Dolorosa Oen and  
Carolyn Henkenius**

## 60 Years

*Standing:*  
**Sisters Joan DeChristopher,  
Barbara Jean Backs,  
Maureen Mangen,  
Rosemary Goubeaux,  
Regina Albers**

*Seated from left:*  
**Sisters Helen Weber,  
Dorothy Schmitmeyer,  
Verlina Mescher,  
Mary Garke**

*Not pictured:*  
**Sister Angela Therese Ballard**



## 50 Years

*Standing:*  
**Sisters Jane Francis Hoffman,  
Anne Schulz,  
Nadine Kaschalk,  
Martha Bertke**

*Seated from left:*  
**Sisters Ritamary Bulach,  
Marjorie Huelsman,  
Amy Junk**

# International CPPS gathering puts focus on preaching Precious Blood message

SALZBURG, Austria — In November 2010, the Sisters of the Precious Blood, Dayton, were invited to participate in an international CPPS Preachers' Workshop in Salzburg, Austria, in May. The purpose of the workshop, "Preaching/Communicating the Message of the Blood of Christ," was to treat the theme of how CPPS members and Companions/lay associates preach on the Precious Blood in their ministries.

CPPS Dayton's community council was delighted with the collaborative opportunity this represented, and invited Sister Donna Liette to be the participant. Sister Donna works as a restorative justice practitioner with the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation in Chicago and has been a long-time member of the Precious Blood preaching and retreat team in the United States.

The North American region was allotted eight participants — three from the Missionaries' provinces and one Companion, and one each from the four congregations of Precious Blood women who participate in the Precious Blood Leadership Conference.

The 25 participants in the May 22-28 workshop came from around the globe: Europe, North and South America and Africa. They included 18 CPPS priests and two CPPS Companions, four Precious Blood sisters, and a translator. The site for the program was the International Center of Precious Blood Spirituality in Salzburg, under the leadership of Precious Blood Father Barry Fischer, former moderator general of the Missionaries.

The weeklong program brought participants together for sharing, preparing daily prayer and liturgy, brief presentations and panel discussions. Each participant was invited to reflect with the larger group how she or he communicates the spirituality of the Blood of Christ in one's ministry.

"I live in amazement of the stories of my sisters and brothers

and all their efforts to bring Jesus' redeeming love through preaching by word or presence," Sister Donna said. "We came from diverse backgrounds, experiences, languages and age. Yet we were one in our desire to be" an effective Precious Blood witness.

Sister Donna said she was struck by how all the participants shared a common questioning: how to proclaim this Precious Blood mystery, to whom do we tell the story, and how to tell this story to the young, the addicted, the incarcerated, peoples in our parishes, and to a violent world that does not respect the preciousness of blood.

She said the experience filled her with gratitude for the experience of sharing with Precious Blood people from around the world, and left her with "new energy, a deeper desire" to share this spirituality with all she encounters.



## Wapakoneta honors its teachers

WAPAKONETA, Ohio — St. Joseph School in this rural Ohio community closed its doors at the end of the school year in 2010. But the parish and alumni have not forgotten the hundreds of teachers who served them since the school's founding. This past April 10, the parish hosted an appreciation gathering for all the former teachers, with a Mass and brunch.

A large contingent of CPPS Sisters was on hand for the celebration. After all, Wapakoneta holds a special place in the lives and ministry of many.

Sisters of the Precious Blood taught in both the grade and later high school for 115 years, from 1871 to 1986. In the course of that period, 229 CPPS Sisters provided a total of 853 cumulative years of ministry

in Wapakoneta, according to CPPS archivist Sister Noreen Jutte.

Fourteen Sisters of the Precious Blood are daughters of St. Joseph Parish, and of the 229 CPPS sister-teachers, 21 are still living. Many of these attended the April celebration. Sister Edna Hess described it as a "wonderful opportunity for us as former teachers not only to reconnect with some of our former students, but also with our fellow teachers."

Sister Brendan Jordan, now living in Denver, Colo., was the invited "toastmistress" at the brunch. One of her classes flew her in to be able to attend the event.

For teachers and former students alike, the school days at St. Joseph in Wapakoneta may be history, but the memories and gratitude live on.

# Do you know

■ **Sister Marla Gipson** graduated this Spring from the University of Dayton with a master of arts degree in theological studies. As part of her master's work, she wrote a research paper titled "Rethinking Sacrifice as Mutual Self-Gift." Her paper urges an understanding of Christian sacrifice not as atonement but as "self-sacrifice based on a conceptual understanding of the inner life of the Trinity as kenotic; that is, as persons who mutually empty themselves... and offer themselves to one another as an eternal process of loving the other."



This Summer Sr. Marla moved from serving as pastoral associate at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Cincinnati to being a founding member of a CPPS intentional prayer community in Minster, Ohio. Her ministry is instructing and facilitating courses and workshops for catechists and church ministers in the archdiocese's northern area.

■ **Sisters Jeanette Buehler and Pat Dieringer** were among parishioners honored by **Precious Blood Parish, Dayton**, with the Blessing Cup award. The awards were given during the parish's annual Volunteer Appreciation celebration Jan. 28. In addition to honoring dozens of volunteers, the event singled out eight persons to receive the Blessing Cup award for their dedicated service to the parish community.

■ **Sisters of the Precious Blood at Salem Heights** were the recipients of a special dose of "TLC" thanks to a group of **students at Elder High School in Cincinnati**. The group of 20 students sent hand-written notes to thank the sisters for their lives of dedication, inspiration, leadership and love for God and others.

Among their comments:

- People like you help us all get to heaven! (Bethany)
- Thank you for all your years of service to the church and the community. You have made a great impact on many people. (Jason)
- You are truly amazing. Thank you for dedicating your life to Our Lord and doing things that other people are afraid to do. (Abby)
- You had to have given up a lot to become a nun and that would have been so hard! It's so good to hear that you chose something you loved and stuck with it! (Emily)
- Thank you!... By choosing this vocation you have led us all to a better world. You are beautiful and God has immense love for you. (Marissa)
- Your dedication to God and his mission has made a difference in this world. Thank you!! (Benjamin)

■ **Sister Ruth Ann Meyer**, former chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, was recently honored with a donation made in her honor to the Nebbi Standard Academy (NEBSTA) in northern

## Maria Stein Shrine honored with tourism award

By **PAT MORRISON**

WAPAKONETA, Ohio — Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics is the recipient of a prestigious award for its contributions to tourism in the Mercer and Auglaize counties area.

Shrine administrator Don Rosenbeck accepted the Stahr Award on behalf of the shrine during the annual Auglaize and Mercer Counties Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) luncheon and awards ceremony on April 15 in Wapakoneta. The award was presented by CVB president Pam Buschur.

In presenting the Stahr Award for 2010, Ms. Busch-

ur noted the Maria Stein Shrine has been welcoming and assisting visitors to northwest Ohio for more than 100 years. The shrine not only boosts area tourism, but also offers a lovely, prayerful environment for pilgrims who visit, and encourages an appreciation for the region's rich history as well, she said.

"This year's Stahr Award winner offers visitors not only respite from the hustle and bustle of the world as a place of prayer, but also an appreciation of the past," Buschur noted.

The Maria Stein Shrine is the site of the original motherhouse of the Sis-

ters of the Precious Blood and a key convent for the congregation since 1846. Its relic chapel displays a collection of more than 1,000 documented relics of saints, the second-largest collection in the United States. The shrine also has a Eucharistic chapel, a museum and gift shop and outdoor shrine areas.

In the past year alone, Maria Stein Shrine welcomed more than 25,000 visitors, Rosenbeck said. The shrine is also an important bus stop on most tours sponsored by CVB, Bushur said.

The Stahr Award is named in honor of former



**Shrine administrator Don Rosenbeck with the Stahr Award**

*Photo by Sister Noreen Jutte, CPPS*

CVB Trustee Bill Stahr, a local videographer (Stahr Video) who was passionate about promoting the two-county area. After his death, the board chose to honor him with the creation of the award.



Uganda. The donation was to acknowledge Dr. Meyer's life-long commitment to furthering education.

NEBSTA is a secondary school founded with the dream of offering "second-chance" education to students in an area that has been severely affected by HIV/AIDS and years of civil war. NEBSTA was founded by Dr. Betty Udongo, a native Ugandan who recently received her PhD at Western Michigan University.

Dr. Meyer recently retired from WMU and moved to Dayton. During her tenure at WMU she was responsible for raising more than \$20 million to benefit education and training for Michigan's mathematics teachers.

■ **Sister Rosemary Goubeaux**, a chaplain at Good Samaritan Hospital, Dayton, was featured in a photo and article in the Summer 2010 issue of the hospital's magazine, *HealthTalk*. Titled "labor of love," the article profiled the hospital's team of six chaplains. To read it online, go to [www.GoodSamDayton.org](http://www.GoodSamDayton.org) and click on HealthTalk.



■ **Sister Margo Young**, a medical doctor, was featured recently in two publications, a professional quarterly and a community newspaper.



The Fall 2010 issue of *Vital Signs*, the quarterly of Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University (Ohio), featured her in "The Third Life of Margo Young." The story showcases Sr. Margo's work as a physician, noting how



**Class of '65 members at reunion included (front): Martie Hartz Molitor, Rosemary Strub, Frances Larger Rebutlet, Anita Ruppert, Rebecca Partlow Wilson, Margie Rinke Ziolkowski, Claire Murtz Shoemaker; (back) Connie Meter Steinke, Sylvia Golinski Graham, Joan Borchers Glaser, Mary Jane Recker Lambert, Mary Janice Kee Joseph, Mary Louise Peacock Scott, Anita (Judy) Goss, Rosemary Monnin, Linda Panyard Cherry and Sue Hoying Zielinski.**

## Fatima Class of '65 hosts reunion

Fatima Hall was the high school aspirancy for the Sisters of the Precious Blood from 1950 to 1965. Some went on to become CPPS Sisters, others to dedicated lives as single or married women. One thing many have in common is their fond connection with their class at Fatima and the Sisters of the Precious Blood. Among these is the Class of 1965.

The Class of '65 hosted its 8th reunion last fall in Highland Heights, Ky., near Cincinnati Sept. 17-19. The 17 living members of the class came from Ohio and Kentucky, but also from Arizona, South Carolina, Michigan,

Missouri and Tennessee. Seven members of the class are deceased. Because five of them died of cancer, their classmates hosted an auction of knitted and quilted items and donated the proceeds to the American Cancer Society.

The class — which includes doctors, nurses, teachers, mothers and career professionals — agreed that the Sisters of the Precious Blood "inspired us to be women we turned out to be." They also said their high school education was better than any they could have received in their respective home towns.

she entered medicine as a third career after serving as a teacher and hospital/hospice chaplain. The story highlights Sr. Margo's service among the rural poor of Guatemala and her current ministry as an outreach physician in California. To read the article online, go to [www.med.wright.edu/vitalsigns](http://www.med.wright.edu/vitalsigns) and scroll to the archives.

This Spring, Sr. Margo was inducted into the 2011 Manteca [Calif.] Hall of Fame for her work in health care. A native of Manteca, she was featured in a story on the hall of fame inductees published in the May 15 issue of *The Manteca Bulletin*. Along with eight others, she was honored for the common thread of service, community and diversity. In addition to Sr. Margo's category of health care, the honor was given to individuals who have excelled in art, athletics, government, business, education, agriculture, community service, and contributions at large.

■ **Sister Judy Kroeger** was honored in June with the Cardinal Joseph Louis Bernardin Community Service Award, presented by St. Benedict the Moor Parish in Dayton.

Sister Judy was honored for her work in the Dayton community, especially her former service at Hoover Place, an apartment complex sponsored by St. Mary Development Corporation for low-income residents. Sister Judy is currently administrator at Salem Heights.



She was one of 22 honorees, who included leaders in education, business, health care, community relations and philanthropy.

## IN MEMORIAM



### **Sister M. Ignatius (Helen Rose) Lichtle**

June 19, 1928 — April 10, 2011

The Resurrection liturgy for Sister Mary Ignatius was held at Salem Heights, Dayton, Ohio on Wednesday, April 13, 2011. Sister Ignatius died on April 10 at the Maria- Joseph Living Care Center in Dayton. She had been a Sister of the Precious Blood for 66 years.

Helen Rose was one of 13 children born to Isadore and Eulalia (Imber) Lichtle on June 19, 1928, in Fostoria, Ohio. She entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood on July 1, 1945, and received her religious name, Sister Mary Ignatius.

Sister Ignatius began her years in ministry as an elementary teacher at St. Mary's in Phoenix, Arizona, and Assumption School in Dayton. She then accepted the invitation to be one of the first Sisters of the Precious Blood to be missioned to Chile, South America. There she spent 14 years in education and

supervisory work at the congregation's rural novitiate house. Here her skills at carpentry, general maintenance and gardening blossomed.

Upon her return to the United States she continued to apply these skills at the Early Childhood Center being established in the Fatima Hall building of the CPPS Central House. Yet another gift of Sister Ignatius emerged when she became "store activities representative" at the North Main Street McDonald's restaurant in Englewood, Ohio, for 13 years. In 2000 Sister Ignatius retired to Salem Heights, the motherhouse of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. Finally declining health necessitated her to move to Emma Hall at the Maria- Joseph Living Care Center in 2006.

Sister Ignatius is survived by two brothers, Harold and Charles, as well as three sisters, Lucille, Lavonne (Bonnie), and Luella.

—Sister Madonna Ratermann



### **Sister M. Carolyn (Dorothy Ann) Link**

August 11, 1927— April 17, 2011

Sister Carolyn Link was born Dorothy Ann (her name means "gift of God"), one of six children born to Aloysius and Carrie (Antony) Link in Coldwater, Ohio. She entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood on August 13, 1944, and received the name Sister Mary Carolyn.

Carolyn taught in elementary schools in Missouri, Arizona and Ohio, where she enjoyed teaching history, English and creative writing. She also taught at St. Mary's High School in Phoenix, Arizona, and Regina High School in Norwood, Ohio. In 1967 she became principal of San Luis Rey, a boarding high school in Oceanside, California. As a teacher, Carolyn was one of the best and most loved.

From there, Carolyn went to San Diego, where she was secretary to the Sisters' Senate, secretary to the Diocesan Pastoral Council, and associate vicar for religious of the diocese.

In 1984, Carolyn was secretary of the congregation and then elected to the community's general

council. The president of the community wrote: "What a gift she was! Her prayerfulness, commitment to religious life and her love for the congregation were very evident. She was level-headed and insightful, straightforward and honest, loyal and hardworking."

Next came the spiritual years among the majestic beauty of Navajo land in northern Arizona. For eight years, Carolyn lived at the Desert House of Prayer at St. Michael's. In 2000 Carolyn left that beautiful land and returned to Salem Heights.

On the occasion of her 60th jubilee, Carolyn shared that her favorite job had been serving as administrator and coordinator for the sisters at Salem Heights. "The sisters were always so kind, thoughtful and good," she wrote.

Carolyn loved science fiction. On Sunday, April 17, at 7:45 a.m., Carolyn leaped into space and traveled "farther than any[one] has gone" and landed in the arms of the God she loved so intensely. We feel her loss but rejoice in her heavenly reward.

—Sister Eleanor McNally



**Sister Rose Ann (Mary Robert) Winkeljohn**

May 13, 1926 — May 16, 2011

Rose Ann Winkeljohn was born in Celina, Ohio, the third of eight children born to Harry and Edna (Hartings) Winkeljohn. She attended Immaculate Conception School in Celina, which was staffed by the Sisters of the Precious Blood. On August 8, 1942, she entered the convent and made first profession in 1945.

Sister Rose Ann began her 24 years of teaching at St. Mary School in Phoenix, Arizona. Her teaching career also took her to Missouri, California, Indiana and Ohio. After earning a master’s degree in library science, she served as librarian at St. Mary High School in Phoenix and at Moeller High School in Cincinnati. In 1988 she began her third career as curator of the museum and chapels at the Maria Stein Center.

Sister Rose Ann retired first to Arizona in 1994 and in 2001 to Salem Heights. She loved to sew, and this led her to making dolls, which she delighted in dressing with a special personality and each with its own

name. She also loved to knit, and along with Sister Frances Kleman made hats for poor people in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood in Cincinnati. In 2008 they were making 300 hats each year. Another talent Rose Ann had was *scherenschnitte*, the craft of intricate paper cutting. For years she made Christmas cards with this unique art form.

Rose Ann was very straightforward and direct, which could intimidate some people. At the same time she had a sense of humor. She was a woman of faith and prayer and these sustained her throughout numerous illnesses.

Rose Ann left us in a relatively brief time, in a period of just three weeks. She was here at Salem Heights busy about many things when she developed pneumonia and had to be hospitalized. Then other problems arose, which required one surgery followed by another. Both together were too much for her 85- year-old body. Sixty-eight of those years were spent as a Sister of the Precious Blood.

—Sister Edna Hess



**Sister Madonna (M. Irenaea) Winkeljohn**

March 31, 1916 — May 28, 2011

Madonna was the eighth of nine children born to August and Philomena Winkeljohn in Celina, Ohio. She later attended Immaculate Conception High School; she was valedictorian of the Class of 1934.

On September 7, 1934, Madonna entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Dayton. When she became a novice she was given the religious name of Sister Mary Irenaea. After professing her first vows in 1937, she attended the University of Dayton where she majored in chemistry—one of very few women in the chemistry lab at that time.

Later, Madonna received a master’s degree in chemistry and biology from The Catholic University in Washington, D.C.; and continued post-graduate studies. She was a notable science teacher, receiving many awards and recognition on the local and national scene. She was an innovative teacher and principal at Regina High School, Cincinnati, and St.

Joseph School, Wapakoneta, Ohio.

In 1966 the Precious Blood sisters recognized Madonna’s leadership skills, electing her vice-president of the congregation, and in that capacity also director of the Central Service Complex (formerly the motherhouse). She later held various administrative positions, including serving in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati’s Office of Clergy Personnel where she was well loved and respected by the priests. Fifteen years later Sister Madonna retired and took up residence at Salem Heights. There she continued to serve the community in various capacities.

I remember Sister Madonna as a team player, supportive, professional, and personable, ... a compassionate listener who offered wisdom and encouragement. Many others, too, were recipients of Madonna’s ministries as educator, leader, and administrator and experienced a wonderful religious woman who touched their lives.

— Sister Nancy Kinross

For the full texts of the eulogies given at the sisters’ funerals, go to: [www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org](http://www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org); click on In Memoriam.

## IN MEMORIAM



### Sister M. Ermelinda Burgei

July 25, 1926 — June 23, 2011

Mary Jane Burgei was raised in Cloverdale, Ohio. She was one of nine children born to Charles and Veronica (Stretker) Burgei. Mary Jane entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood on August 13, 1943, and received the name Sister Mary Ermelinda when she became a novice.

Sister Ermelinda — “Erm” to us — was known as a wonderful primary teacher throughout her 39 years in education. She taught in Phoenix, Arizona; at San Luis Rey Academy in California; and in the following Ohio schools: Our Lady of Good Counsel, Cleveland; Incarnation, Centerville; Holy Rosary, St. Marys; Resurrection, Dayton; and St. Joseph, Wapakoneta. She served as principal both at Resurrection and at St. Joseph.

In 1985 Sister Ermelinda took on a totally different ministry, that of gift shop manager at the Maria Stein Shrine. As in teaching, she brought competency and a calm, gentle presence to the task itself as well as to

the people she encountered. She held the manager’s position for 11 years and then became assistant manager until 2002, at which time she chose to be a very active volunteer.

In 2007, Erm came to Salem Heights and adjusted well to full retirement, having time for prayer and socializing as well as volunteer activities. Her health declined gradually over the last two years. Death came rather suddenly while she was recuperating at Emma Hall.

Sister Ermelinda is remembered as a gentle woman who had a quiet sense of humor and enjoyed teasing as well as having fun. She was a “do-er” as well as a “pray-er” who did what needed to be done without drawing attention to herself. She will be remembered as a gentle presence to her family and to her CPPS community.

Sister Ermelinda is survived by her sister, Rita Wannemacher of Cloverdale; her brother, Oscar, of Ottawa, Ohio; and by loving nieces and nephews.

—Sister Jeanette Buehler



### Sister Madonna (M. Celsa) Kempf

February 16, 1915 — July 31, 2011

Madonna Marcella Kempf was born in Shelby Settlement (Bethlehem), Ohio, the 15th and last child of Christian and Elizabeth (Dangler) Kemp. Along with her older sister Mary, the Foos sisters, and Stella Armbruster — all from the same village — she entered the postulancy at Salem Heights on December 31, 1930. Her sister Mary

left after a few short weeks, but Madonna continued the journey to be a Sister of the Precious Blood. At the time of her novitiate she received the name Sister M. Celsa.

For nearly 20 years, Madonna ministered to seminarians and priests in sewing and other domestic duties at several Ohio seminaries: Brunnerdale in Canton, St. Charles in Carthagen, and St. Gregory in Cincinnati; she also served at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver, Colorado. In addition to seminary work, Madonna sewed and/or assisted with housekeeping duties for Precious Blood Sisters in Phoenix, Arizona; and Ottawa and Minster, Ohio. For nine years, she

was the dining room hostess at Kneipp Springs in Rome City, Indiana.

After 30 years in sewing, housekeeping and dining room service, Madonna was assigned to Marian Hall, Flint, Michigan. There she served as receptionist, sacristan and manager of the gift shop. She retired to Salem Heights in 1994 and, a year later, to Emma Hall. Her death came after 15 days in critical hospice care.

Sister Madonna was a woman who brought sunshine into the lives of so many by her beautiful smile, cheerful presence and genuine care for those with whom she lived and served. Showing gratitude and offering words of gratitude were a part of Madonna’s years at Emma Hall and throughout her life. A sister with her at the time of her death remarked on the beautiful smile she had as she took her final breath. How fitting and how typical of Madonna, who left us with the example of a life lived in joyous service as a Sister of the Precious Blood for 80 years.

—Sister Jeanette Buehler

For the full texts of the eulogies given at the sisters’ funerals, go to: [www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org](http://www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org); click on In Memoriam.

## IN SYMPATHY

*Our sympathy and prayer to the following sisters and to the Missionaries of the Precious Blood who have recently lost loved ones in death:*

**Sister Amy Junk** on the death of her brother, Larry Junk, on April 23.

**Sister Barbara Jean Backs** on the death of her cousin Mary Kay Donders on April 25. Ms. Donders was also the sister of the late Sister Laurene Hemmelgarn, CPPS.

**Sister Dorothy Koenig** on the death of her brother, Adrian Koenig, on April 29. Mr. Koenig was also the brother of the late Sister Gemma Koenig, CPPS.

**The Missionaries of the Precious Blood** on the death of Father Cornelius Fenton (Cincinnati Province) on May 8.

**Sister Angela Therese Ballard** on the death of her brother, James Ballard, on May 14.

**Sister Cecilia Taphorn** on the death of her sister, Jane Dahle, on May 20.

**Sister Anne Schulz** on the death of her brother, Ralph Schulz, on May 20.

**Sister Marifé Hellman** on the death of her mother, Cecilia Hellman, on May 23.

## REMEMBERING...

**LaDonna Mumaw Fullenkamp**, sister of the late Sister Patricia Mumaw, CPPS, on April 8.

**Margie Esser**, formerly Sister Phyllis Esser, CPPS, on April 16.

**Thomas Glaser**, brother of the late Sister Lea Glaser, CPPS, on July 4.

**Lois Baxter Hunt**, formerly Sister Angelo, CPPS, on July 9.

**Renee Muklenkamp**, former CPPS novice, on July 23.

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.**

## LETTERS...

I appreciate being on your mailing list. I attended school in San Luis Rey, Calif., from second grade (1956-57) to December of my 11th grade year (1966). In high school I was part of the aspirancy. When I and several others were sent home, we were so sure there had been an error on the part of our directress. Of course now, 42 years and six children later, I know that her goal was to make sure that none of us was choosing a religious vocation as a way of hiding from the world.

I knew most of the nuns by their professed names, and with the old habit, so have been unable to identify many of those from my past. However, I did see on your website that my very first CPPS teacher in second grade, Sister Ermelinda [Burgei, see page 18 of this issue], had passed away

God bless those who have served and continue to serve, for their work.

**Pam Rudolph Bukowski**  
Annapolis, Maryland

...Your publication, *Sharing & Caring*, is wonderful. Compliments to Pat Morrison and all her helpers. Sister Florence (Seifert) always writes a nice message.

In the Winter issue, I was glad to read some of the history of Emma Hall. The chapel there is magnificent with the stained glass windows. Next time, I'm going to bring my camera!

I pray each day for vocations to your order. I remember the faces of those who have died recently. Sister Consuella [Salmon] was at our breakfast table during my last visit. I remember being struck by her age. Well, the most powerful prayers for vocations come from the intercession of the deceased of the order.

**Br. Chaminade [Crabtree], OCSO**  
Monastery of the Holy Spirit  
Conyers, Georgia

*Editor's note: Brother Chaminade, a Trappist monk, has family in Dayton and visits Salem Heights when he is in the area.*



I would like to comment on the death of Sister Rose Ann (Sister Robert) Winkeljohn. [See page 17.] I was blessed to have Sister as my teacher in the fourth grade at SS. Peter and Paul School in Norwood [Ohio].

When my son was at [Archbishop] Moeller [High School in Cincinnati], I happened to hear that Sister Rose Ann was working in the library there. I walked in one day and after years she remembered my maiden name. A relationship grew again and for years I helped her in the Moeller's library each week until I went to my part-time job right up the street.

Sister Rose Ann even came to one of our grade school reunions at Fenwick Park.

I had been able to remain friends with her all these years. When the order had its 175th anniversary here in Cincinnati, I attended the Mass and was able to sit with her and talk with her.

I really miss her so much, after 61 years of friendship. I remember her birthday was May 13. I have saved her Christmas card from last year because it was one of her own creations, her lovely and intricate *scherenschnitte* cut-paper art.

It will be so strange not to hear from her, but I know Sister Rose Ann will be praying for me, as I will for her.

**Madeleine Duccilli Dressing**  
Regina High School Class of 1959  
Cincinnati

## Acknowledgement

The photo of the jubilarians on the bottom of page 1 and the jubilarian portrait photos on page 12 were taken by Michelle Bodine of the Communications Office.



## **'Thank You' to outgoing leadership**

*As CPPS Sisters welcome their new leadership team with gratitude for their commitment to congregational service, and express thanks to the members of the outgoing team, these words from the late superior general of the Society of Jesus, Father Pedro Arrupe (1907-1991), are a fitting way to both sum up gratitude and to issue the invitation to lifelong loving — for each of us...*

The Sisters of the Precious Blood express their thanks to the members of the former leadership team. Pictured are: Sister Florence Seifert, president; Sisters Madonna Ratermann and Edna Hess, councilors; Sister Jeanette Buehler, vice president; and Sister Marita Beumer, councilor. Sister Florence and Sister Marita both served one term (2007-2011). Three of the councilors completed two terms.

*Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning,*

*what you will do with your evenings, how you will spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.*

