



# Sharing Caring

THE SISTERS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD ■ DAYTON, OHIO

Volume 22 Number 1 ■ Spring 2011



## good counsel

As a social worker and therapist, Sister Joanne Belloli helps many who are facing major challenges in life reach a place of inner freedom, healing... and hope.

*Read about it on page 7*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

# Holy dancing dinosaurs!

Some of my best moments of inspiration (I suppose to be honest I should call them distractions) come to me while observing families at Sunday Mass. Fellow parishioners of all ages and sizes, races and cultures are models for me of Christian love lived out in the church called family.

I usually sit in more or less the same place. Often a few rows ahead of me in the first pew is a family of five: parents, two grade-school age children, and the youngest, a little girl about 4 with an ever-present pink purse.

The purse is her tote for an assortment of Toy Story action figures which faithfully attend church with her. These are removed, very quietly, and lined up facing the altar on the edge of the pew: Woody, Buzz Lightyear, and two figures of Rex, the film's insecure *Tyrannosaurus rex*

dinosaur. By about the end of the penitential rite, Woody and Buzz are returned to the tote bag, leaving the dinosaur "twins" on the pew.

The young worshipper carefully positions them for the respective parts of the Mass: angled attentively toward the homilist, extending their stubby dinosaur arms when the priest extends his. They dance a happy little T-rex dance to the liturgy's music. And at the Sign of Peace, the little girl makes sure the dinosaurs first hug, and then give each other a kiss on the cheek.

Sometimes we people of faith have rather narrow views of what holiness is, or how we should "behave" around God. Something tells me this little girl with her devout dinosaurs is

delighting the Holy One. The great Jewish theologian and philosopher Abraham Heschel may have said it best: "Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy." It seems that in her own youthful way, this child "gets it."

In this issue of *Sharing & Caring*, you'll find multiple examples of holiness in the lives and ministry of CPPS women. No haloes-and-harp-music sanctity, but the Holy at work: in persons struggling with addictions and those who counsel them (cover story), working for peace and justice, caring for the elderly, and for the Earth and the environment.

Simple, hidden holiness in action. It's enough to make a dinosaur dance!

—Pat Morrison



# 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.*

### Editor

Patricia Lynn Morrison  
Director of Communications

### Address communications to:

Office of Communications  
Sisters of the Precious Blood  
4960 Salem Avenue  
Dayton, OH 45416-1797

Phone: (937) 274-2707  
E-mail: Communications@  
PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org

### Printing

Thomas Graphics, Dayton, Ohio



PRINTED WITH SOY INK  
ON RECYCLED PAPER

*All editorial content and photographs in Sharing & Caring are copyrighted. For reprint permission, please contact the editor at address above.*

## In Loving Memory



Sister M. Ignatius Lichtle

As *Sharing & Caring* was in the final stages of production, the Sisters of the Precious Blood were saddened at the deaths of two beloved sisters:

■ **Sister M. Ignatius Lichtle** died on April 10 at Emma Hall in Dayton. She was 82. The funeral liturgy was celebrated for Sister Ignatius on April 13 at Salem Heights.

■ **Sister M. Carolyn Link** died on April 17 at Emma Hall in Dayton. She was 83. Her funeral liturgy was celebrated on April 20 at Salem Heights.



Sister M. Carolyn Link

The full texts of the eulogies are available online at [www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org](http://www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org) > **In Memoriam**. Memorial tributes will be published in the Summer issue of *Sharing & Caring*.

# CPPS 'sister Sisters': Introducing Anne and Barbara Agnew

*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 this first duo of "sister Sisters." Others will be featured in forthcoming issues.*

When Sister Barbara Agnew heard the TODAY show's Willard Scott say, "Greetings to Sister Barbara Agnew, who is watching us in Adelaide, Australia," she knew the message could have come only from one source. So she quickly dialed her sister, Anne, and demanded, "How did you do that?" Sure enough, Anne had carried the message, printed on a large piece of paper, to the Cincinnati waterfront from which TODAY was broadcasting, and quickly got it into the hands of a staffer. Needless to say, the seminarians watching the program with Sister Barbara could only shake their heads and exclaim, "These Americans!"

This incident dramatizes the fact that although the two sisters have never been together in a ministry, they have never been far apart in spirit, or in the interests and adventures they share. Anne, who is the younger, entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood in September 1947, and Barbara followed just two years later. Each has had the experience of being one of the first women in a previously all-male setting: Anne as a pastoral associate, and Barbara in university and seminary settings.

Anne's first years in elementary education found her exclaiming, "I don't see how anyone can *not* be an eighth-grade teacher!" Barbara's path seemed for a time to be leading her to the congregation's New Riegel cloister, established in 1954. Anne continued as principal and teacher for many years, while Barbara began studies in theology at the University of Notre Dame and The Catholic University of America.

With many others, Anne moved from the world of education to the world of parish ministry, while Barbara settled in for many decades at Villanova University. In retirement, Anne while living in Denver, was active on the Diocesan Social Work Committee, in Contemplative Out-



**Sisters Anne and Barbara Agnew on the occasion of Barbara's 60th jubilee in 2008. At right: the young daring duo exploring the deck of the Island Queen riverboat.**

reach, the lay prayer movement, and in assistance to victims of AIDS. She also served as editor of several volumes of the congregation's historical *Legacy* series. Barbara's retirement took her into Villanova's college program for inmates of a state prison, and into a counseling program at a nearby county prison.

Lately, Barbara was astonished to remember that she had actually directed a Wapakoneta senior class in a production of "Pride and Prejudice." That prompted Anne to recall that she had written and produced a play about priests and nuns for an eighth-grade group to perform for parishioners.

Especially happy memories of home and family are the summer trips to Washington, D.C., the mountains and TVA dams of Tennessee, the Shenandoah Valley, and two trips to the 1939 New York World's Fair, with Niagara Falls, baseball's then-new Hall of Fame and their first sight of the ocean along the way. At the fair, their 7-year-old sister, Edy, was interviewed on WLW radio—not as daring as the Cincinnati-Adelaide link, but spectacular enough for



those days.

Not surprising, then, is Anne's comment when she discovered a childhood picture of both of them, ages 7 and 4, hand in hand, on Cincinnati's old riverboat, the Island Queen: "We are a pair!" Now that both sisters live in Dayton, spending many hours together, they are discovering that they are a pair indeed!



# Busy Student Retreat builds quality 'God time' into collegians' lives

By SISTER CAROLYN HOYING

All of us have busy lives, but college students seem to be overwhelmed with all they are required to do, plus have social time. It could be a challenge for college students to find time to reflect on God in their lives. Busy Student Retreat (BSR) was designed with college students in mind. A BSR is a four-day guided-prayer retreat similar to a directed retreat, but made within the ordinary daily routine on campus. The retreat, which opens and closes with the celebration of Eucharist, is designed to fit the student's schedule. And there is no fee.

During the retreat, each student commits to a half hour of private prayer each day and also meets with a spiritual companion a half hour each day to share about his or her prayer life and relationship with God.

The Busy Student Retreat deals with practical everyday living. It gives students a chance to reflect on

the way God speaks to them through prayer and discernment in the midst of their "busy-ness" of academics and social life. It helps them develop habits of prayer that can be integrated into their daily routines.

The day's Scripture readings, plus reflections from "Take Five For Faith," produced by True Quest Communications, were used for two recent BSRs. The questions that followed gave students pause during their half hour to listen, to let God speak to their heart, and to give the needed time to pay attention to what God was saying. Students were encouraged to find a quiet place where they would be alone for a half hour and free in God's presence to feel the impact of the readings or the reflection questions in their lives.

Precious Blood Father Vince Wirtner and I have had the privilege of being spiritual companions for the BSR at Saint Joseph College in Rensselaer, Ind., in October 2010 and February 2011. Students attended an opening orientation after the Sun-

day evening Mass. During this time participating students were introduced to the "Seven 'P's for Listening to God" (Prepare, Place, Posture, Presence of God, Passage, Pause, and Pray) and given an article on praying with Scripture. Each retreatant then scheduled a time that would work best for him or her to meet with one of us for approximately a half hour in between their other daily routines.

During the students' faith sharing time, amazing insight was given to discern choices needing to be made in their lives or to deepen their experiences of prayer in the midst of all the "busy-ness" of their lives.

What I found to be a most powerful experience of the BSR was to hear the hunger and the passion these students have for God. We had students who were very busy yet because of this hunger felt the need to take time to be still and to remember that God is always present, even when they might feel discouraged.

Several student BSR retreatants

## Prayer for CPPS Assembly 2011

*Ever-faithful Creator God,  
to You we lift our whole being.*

*We come before You  
grateful for all that has been  
and seek to be emptied  
of all that is not You.*

*As we prepare for Assembly 2011,  
create in us a depth of openness  
which invites Your Spirit to permeate us  
into silence and a discerning way.*



*May our sisters who have gone before us  
intercede for us  
as we seek to be Your loving presence  
in our world today.*

*Unite us as one in Your Precious Blood  
so that Your deepest desires for Your people  
may be realized through us  
who dare beyond the known and comfortable.*

*Make us silent now  
to receive the gift we need  
to be poured out as gift for the world.*

This Summer, from June 26 through July 2, the Sisters of the Precious Blood are celebrating their congregational Assembly, held every four years. During assembly the sisters discuss topics of major importance for the life and future of the congregation, and also hold elections for leadership. We invite *Sharing & Caring* readers to join the sisters in offering this prayer for the Spirit's guidance on the assembly.

shared their reflections on the retreat experience:

**Zach Conrad:** “The Busy Student Retreat was a time for me to focus in on my relationship with God and where he is leading me. It was this time that helped me to see how often I really do praise God and offer myself to him. The retreat offered me a chance to encounter God in a way that I want to commit myself to for the rest of my career at Saint Joseph’s, and ultimately for the rest of my life.”

**Michael Goetz:** “For me, the BSR has allowed me to open up to God by taking the time to go over the readings and reflect. I en-

joy just being able to take that hour a day and get away from all the stress of college life and concentrate on my relationship with God. We get so caught up in school that we put time with God aside, and that is unfortunate because he is such a huge part of our lives.”

**Caleb Thomas:** “I enjoyed the guided reflections on the daily readings, each of which seemed miraculously relevant to my own situation. In my discussions with Sister Carolyn I was able not only to discuss my faith, the passages, and their importance, but also

my own life and struggles. The Busy Student Retreat helps to apply faith in areas where many people may not think to apply it. It is an excellent coupling of our Catholic faith and our ordinary, stress-filled lives. I am already looking forward to next semester’s retreat.”

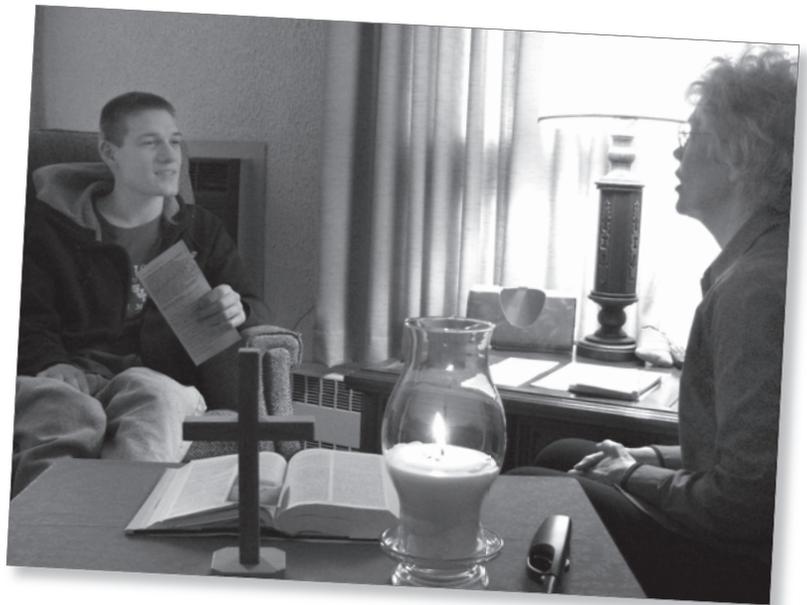


Photo by Father Vincent Wirtner, CPPS

**James Bertucci, a sophomore at Saint Joseph College in Rensselaer, Ind., shares a reflection with Sister Carolyn Hoying during the college’s Busy Student Retreat in February. The retreat, specifically designed for collegians’ hectic lifestyles, helps them build “God time” into their schedule during the four-day retreat.**

## Getting to know... Mary Lynn Delfino and Alex Loehrer

As announced in previous issues, the Sisters of the Precious Blood have welcomed four lay men and women to serve with CPPS sisters on the congregation’s Vocations Ministry Team. In the Winter issue we introduced Nathan Hess and Cindy Schmersal. In this issue you’ll meet **Mary Lynn Delfino** and **Alex Loehrer**.

A native of Scranton, Pa., Mary Lynn had been working for three years in a small Catholic high school in northeastern Pennsylvania. In 2007 she moved to Dayton to work as a graduate assistant in campus ministry at the University of Dayton. She first met Sisters of the Precious Blood when she moved to Toledo to work in campus ministry at Corpus Christi University Parish. There, she recounts, “I had the pleasure of meeting [Precious Blood Sisters] Joyce Lehman, Karen Elliott and Amy Junk.”

Mary Lynn says her family has supported her in her vocation to ministry. She is the oldest of three girls in



Mary Lynn Delfino



Alex Loehrer

a cradle-Catholic, blue-collar family. “My youngest sister, who is now 18, has autism,” Mary Lynn recounts. “Our family’s experience with a special-needs child has inspired me to study how our church might be more welcoming to persons with disabilities” who desire to be more active participants in the faith community.

*Continued on page 15*

**Alex Loehrer** was born in Davenport, Iowa, where he attended John F. Kennedy Catholic Grade School and Our Lady of Victory Parish. In 1989,

his family moved to Columbus, Ohio. Alex graduated from St. Charles Preparatory School in 1994 and from John Carroll University in Cleveland in 1998, with a bachelor’s degree in French.

In 1998, Alex worked at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington D.C., in the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America. From 1998 to 2002, he worked for Rittal Corporation of Springfield, Ohio, in varying capacities related to international sales and marketing. From 2002 to 2004, he served as public relations director for Concordia Language Villages, a Minnesota-based world language education program for young people.

Alex joined Hafenbrack Marketing in 2004. The agency provides comprehensive, integrated marketing services to regional, national and international clientele from offices in Dayton, Springfield and Columbus. In 2007, he became a partner in the

*Continued on page 15*

# Sister Judy's ACE program a plus for patients and care providers alike

*Involving staff in patient care in a more meaningful way, especially nursing assistants, was one of the goals*

By PAT MORRISON

DAYTON — Precious Blood Sister Judy Niday is a familiar and welcome presence in the halls and residents' rooms at Mercy Siena Retirement Community in Dayton. For the past 11 years, she has served as spiritual care coordinator for the residents at this multi-faceted center.

The retirement, health care and assisted living facility, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, is one of the most respected in the area for the high levels of care and professionalism it offers to the almost 500 residents who call it home. Residents can enjoy independent living in apartments and cottages on the campus. Additionally Mercy Siena offers assisted living and skilled care, including pre-Alzheimer's and Alzheimer's "neighborhoods," as they are called.

For every resident needing care, "there is a whole team — six different staff members — who work with the individual," Sister Judy said. This includes STNAs (State Trained Nursing Assistants), both registered and licensed practical nurses (RNs and LPNs), a social worker, activity personnel, a chaplain, and the care planning coordinator, who can be either an RN or an LPN.

Palliative care is an important part of the nursing program at Mercy Siena, and of special interest to Sister Judy in her pastoral role — as is the ongoing education, training and well-being of the staff who work with the residents.

"In palliative care, we look at three things in relationship to our resident



Precious Blood Sister Judy Niday and some of the nursing assistants (STNAs) at Mercy Siena Retirement Community. Pictured are Atiya, Melanie, Sister Judy and Melissa.

care: pain control, symptom management, and unnecessary treatment and medication," says Sister Judy. "These are also the concerns of family members, staff and the residents themselves."

"We may not be able to totally eliminate [a person's] pain, but working together we can, and do, find ways to control pain, manage symptoms and decrease unnecessary treatments and medications," she said.

Sister Judy was recently instrumental in launching a program to enhance palliative care at Mercy Siena by involving STNAs' more directly in the care conferences with the resident and family members.

It started two years ago, when she received an e-mail looking for people to participate in a two-year enhanced palliative care program. With approval of Mercy Siena's administrator and her supervisor, Sister Judy applied. She was one of the 80 accepted out of 800 who applied, and she completed the program with honors last fall.

Called ACE — Advocate for Clinical Excellence — the California-

based program was fully funded for the first year, with the facility paying for the second year. As part of the program, Sister Judy developed eight learning modules designed for RNs, LPNs and STNAs. One goal of these modules was to provide cross-disciplinary and cross-team learning and conversation, to benefit staff, family and residents.

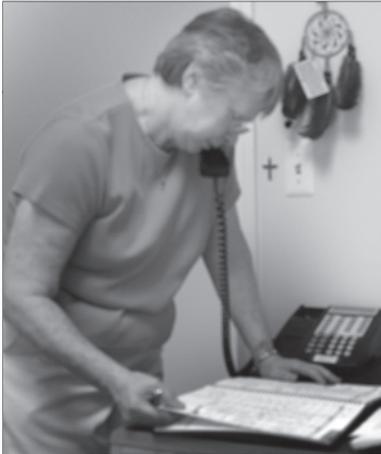
As she reflected on how palliative care at Mercy Siena might be enhanced, Sister Judy said she first considered the important role the nursing assistants play in the life of the patient. "My goal was to increase STNAs participation on the [care] team."

"The nursing assistants work with the patient most directly," she explained. "The other members of the team also figure significantly, of course. But it's the STNA who has the most ongoing and consistent contact with a patient."

Before this program was launched, the nursing assistants were not asked for their input and didn't sit in on patient care conferences. And, as at most nursing facilities, there was a

*Continued on page 11*

# HUNDREDS BENEFIT FROM THIS CPPS THERAPIST'S SKILLS AND **good counsel**



BY PAT MORRISON

HOWELL, Mich. —It's 6 p.m. on a Wednesday evening and Precious Blood Sister Joanne Belloli is watching a DVD. But she's not home relaxing with the latest movie. And she's not watching it alone.

She's in a conference room at the Livingston County Catholic Charities (LCCC) building in Howell, Mich. With her are three young men, her clients in a court-referred outpatient substance abuse treatment group.

The film they are watching graphically portrays the destructive effects of various addictive substances—alcohol, marijuana, heroin, cocaine, methamphetamines — on the human brain. A colored scan of an ac-

tive brain in real-time shows different portions impaired or even destroyed as the subject ingests substances over time. A time-release image indicates the short and long-term effects: impairment to judgment and memory, visual acuity, motor skills; plus decreased sexual function, permanent liver and kidney damage...

It's a long — and frightening — litany. And it clearly has the men's attention. They are riveted to the TV screen.

"Wow, I didn't know that," murmurs Jordan, the youngest at 22.

When the film ends, Sister Joanne pops the DVD out. Now the real work of the session begins. The men are

*Continued on page 8*

---

PHOTOS: (Top left): Sr. Joanne schedules an appointment with a client. (Right) In a counseling session with Chris, a young ex-offender in the center's substance abuse treatment program.

ON THE COVER: (Top) With Melissa, who is explaining the artwork she has created as part of her therapy. (Bottom) Working with a young substance abuse client.



# good counsel

*Continued from page 7*

invited to share their reactions; two volunteer their own history of substance abuse — often plural, since most persons with substance abuse habits have multiple and overlapping addictions.

Sister Joanne lightens the mood as she tosses what looks like a small white rubber ball in the direction of one of the clients. It's actually a small-scale model of the brain. In a few minutes, in what could be a baseball warm up, the mini-brain is making the rounds, caught by one and lobbed to another. The clients open up and talk about personal histories, mistakes made, how to get on and stay on the road to recovery.

The men in this group tonight defy society's stereotypes. They are white, and from various walks of life. They're at least high school educated — although some in the larger group of clients dropped out of high school when their addictions took over. That means that in addition to coping with addiction and working on recovery, they're dealing with the added challenge of few marketable skills to bring to the employment world. Also, in many cases, because of multiple arrests and DUIs, they can't drive. That means it's tough getting to a job if they find one, and also a challenge getting to their sessions.

Participants in the substance abuse counseling programs include parolees and probationers referred by court systems. Each man in tonight's group — the average age is 30 — has served jail time. But even though the counseling is mandatory, tonight's group seems earnest in learning more about addiction, beating theirs and staying sober/clean.

Despite her no-nonsense counseling-teaching style, it's evident that Sister Joanne is proud of these men for their commitment to the 12-week program, their growing self-

awareness, their intent to break the cycle of addiction and, this time, "make it work."

A big part of it, she says, "is telling them to learn to be kind to yourself. Beating yourself up won't accomplish anything."

"Treatment attempts to get them to really look at their lives, to look at the patterns and poor choices that have got them where they are, sometimes repeatedly... And from there, to heal the areas that need healing. To really start over."

Sometimes it's successful; sometimes it isn't. Some clients have been in and out of recovery programs several times. But when it works, there's a real sense of rejoicing, of high-fives all around. In addition to reclaiming his or her own self-esteem, a client who succeeds is a great role model to his or her peers.

No "God talk" goes on in these sessions. But for Sister Joanne, her work as a substance abuse and mental health therapist is an extension of her mission as a Sister of the Precious Blood. A section in the congregation's rule, or *Way of Life*, speaks powerfully to her, she says: "Following the example of Jesus... we endeavor to bring life, to nourish, to free, to heal, to reconcile."

"I try to make that — especially the 'freeing' — the centerpiece, the driving force behind my ministry," she says.

"These guys are really amazing. They teach me... a lot," she says of tonight's group "They're trying to reconcile and heal their lives, and I'm privileged to have a part in that process."

As a licensed master social worker and a certified advanced alcohol and drug counselor with LCCC, addiction counseling is just one of several roles Sister Joanne



Photos by Pat Morrison

**PHOTOS:** (Page 8 left) Sr. Joanne and Jim Schepper, her clinical supervisor, go over client files and progress reports; (center) A group session with Chris, Jordan and David. (Page 9 top left) Linda Bauby, a resource advocate with Senior Services, explains a new program; (top right) Taking a break to enjoy family photos and children's art with office manager Michelle Petri; (bottom) with a smiling LCCC secretary Jaynee Shanks, after the two have resolved a computer problem.



fills in a day. This Wednesday her workday closed with “group” as she and the men call it. But throughout the day she met with a variety of clients, each with a different case history. The mental health and counseling issues range from victims of domestic and sexual abuse to persons suffering from mild to severe mental illness which impacts their ability to function in the family and workplace.

A major challenge for both the agency and its clients, LCCC executive director Mark Robinson said, is that more and more people are falling through society's cracks. “Our society is more and more complex, materialistic and technologically driven. And for people who don't have a good basic skill-set or can't keep up, it's harder for them to succeed.”

Fully 80 percent of LCCC's clients are 150 percent below the poverty level; and over 58 percent have mental health issues, he noted. The substance abuse program represents 50 percent of the agency's cases — up 10 percent from just two years ago.

LCCC is a ministry of the Diocese of Lansing, which covers 10 counties in southeastern Michigan. Sister Joanne has been on staff since 2003, first as a consultant

and now as a therapist.

Begun in 1985, LCCC is an umbrella for a variety of programs. In addition to the substance abuse and treatment programs, these include counseling for individuals, couples, families and children; senior resources advocacy; a volunteer caregiver program that enables older or disabled adults to remain independent and in their own homes; family life education, and much more. A staff of 25, full and part-time, keeps the agency's clients served and programs running smoothly.

In keeping with Catholic Charities' mission to serve the poor and economically challenged, services are offered based on clients' ability to pay, by insurance or funding sources when these are available or on a sliding fee scale. The agency relies heavily on donations, grants and annual appeals.

Her current ministry as a therapist may seem to be very different from Sister Joanne's decade as a grade-school teacher at Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Cleveland and St. Francis Xavier in St. Joseph, Mo., and another 17 years in pastoral ministry at St. Michael Parish in Findlay, Ohio, and St. Patrick Parish in Brighton, Mich. But

*Continued on page 10*

# good counsel

Continued from page 9



Executive Director Mark Robinson (top right) and some LCCC staff members share a light moment over lunch.

this earlier experience in teaching and pastoral service clearly laid an important groundwork for today's ministry, which includes elements of both.

The Detroit native holds a master's degree in education from the University of Detroit-Mercy, and a master's degree in pastoral studies with emphasis in spiritual direction from Loyola University Chicago. In 1995 she earned a master's in social work from the University of Michigan. Before joining the staff of LCCC, Sister Joanne worked at two area hospitals and Health Access in Ann Arbor.

The staff and supervisors this Precious Blood Sister works with on a day-to-day basis have high praise for her professional skills, and also for her personal style.

"Joanne's talents and skills make her a great mentor to the other therapists," says Jim Schepper, her clinical supervisor.

"She's an exceptionally skilled therapist, top notch," says Robinson (out of her hearing). "The group out there all know it. She's a good model of balancing the job and life."

Additionally, he says, several staff members have been

dealing with serious illness or bereavement in their personal lives, "and she's our internal expert on grief and loss. It's been word of mouth: Got a problem, talk to Joanne."

In addition to her work at LCCC, Sister Joanne teaches classes to persons with disabilities for Special Ministries of Livingston County. She also facilitates faith-sharing sessions with seniors, offers spiritual direction and is frequently in demand as a guest speaker on topics of faith and grief/loss.

As demanding as her work as a counselor and therapist is, Sister Joanne says it's often a resurrection experience. One of her hobbies is cultivating houseplants, and that imagery carries over into her ministry: "We're planting seeds. It's so rewarding to see someone grow," she says. "It may be three steps forward and two back, but they keep trying and growing..."

"Sometimes [former clients] come back a few months or a year later just to say hi, and they're almost new people. Clean or sober. Better at relationships. Healed, confident, happy. That's the great satisfaction of it all."

## *Sister Karen Elliott honored by Mercy College, Toledo*

TOLEDO — Precious Blood Sister Karen Elliott was the recent recipient of the 2011 Mercy College "Mind, Heart, Hand Award."

The award, presented annually by Mercy College of Northwest Ohio, is given "to a member of the Mercy College family whose thoughts, attitudes and behaviors exemplify the college's mission and values and whose presence serves as a positive influence on others."

Sister Karen is associate professor of religious studies and chairperson of the religious studies department. She has been a faculty member at the Toledo Catholic college since 2004.



Sr. Karen Elliott

The "Mind, Heart, Hand Award" was presented on Monday, April 11, by Mercy College President John Hayward during the college assembly, which includes administration, faculty and staff.

Sister Karen has a master's degree in theology from St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vt., and a doctorate in ministry with a concentration in Sacred Scripture from Barry University in Miami, Fla. A member of the Catholic Theological Society of America and the Catholic Biblical Association of America, she is the author of *Women in Ministry and the Writings of Paul*, published by Anselm Academic.

# ACE program

Continued from page 6

**“In addition to making a big difference in the life of the patients, their increased involvement has boosted STNAs’ self-esteem as professionals.”**

high turnover rate for STNAs.

Sister Judy knew the importance of changing these two components. “I wanted to raise the bar on their involvement,” she says. “We knew that it would hopefully raise our employee satisfaction as well as customer satisfaction.”

As a result of the ACE program, several significant procedural changes have been implemented at Mercy Siena. They’ve been viewed positively by staff at all levels. The changes make staff feel more informed and empowered — and that in turn benefits the resident/patient.

Among the changes resulting from the program:

— STNAs now are informed when care conferences are scheduled;

— They’re asked to be present to give input regarding the status and care of the residents they care for.

This increased sense that they really matter in the patient’s life and care has meant a big difference for the nursing assistants, Sister Judy says. “It’s boosted their involvement, their self-esteem as professionals. And it’s also increased their ‘stayability,’ which benefits the residents and the facility as well.”

Perhaps most important for Sister Judy is that through the ACE program and its effects, “we took leadership in the area of palliative care. It’s not just about dying. It’s about enhancing the quality of life for the persons we care for, and working together to do that in the best way we can.”

For this Precious Blood Sister and the people she works with and ministers to, that’s definitely... an ACE!



Photo by Pat Morrison

Sister Judy Kroeger (left) is the new administrator of Salem Heights. She succeeds Barbara De Los Santos, (second from left) outgoing administrator and director of human resources. Sister Nadine Kaschalk (right) is the new coordinator of sisters’ services, succeeding Sister Beverly Bodnar (back row, who was assistant administrator and director of resident life).

## Farewells and welcomes at Salem Heights

DAYTON — The sisters and staff at Salem Heights recently said a fond farewell to two familiar faces on staff and welcomed two others who are taking on new roles.

Barbara De Los Santos and Sister Beverly Bodnar both left their positions April 1. Barbara recently completed 7 years of service as Salem Heights administrator and human resources director; Sister Beverly was assistant administrator and director of resident life for almost 10 years. A farewell and thank you celebration for them took place March 31.

In a restructuring of these positions, Sister Judy Kroeger is the new Salem Heights administrator. Sister Nadine Kaschalk takes a new position as coordinator of sisters’ services. The assistant administrator position has been eliminated. Human resources responsibilities are now shared by the

administrator and director of finance.

Currently 46 Sisters of the Precious Blood make their home at Salem Heights. Approximately 30 employees serve in administrative, housekeeping, dietary, grounds-keeping and maintenance, and other departments.

In announcing the personnel changes and restructuring, Sister Florence Seifert, CPPS president, wrote: “The Council and I can never adequately express our gratitude to Barbara and Sister Beverly for their service to Salem Heights and the Sisters of the Precious Blood. We are also most grateful for their openness in the transition process. We thank Sister Judy and Sister Nadine for accepting these positions.”

Thank you and Godspeed, Barbara and Sister Beverly! And welcome wishes to Sister Judy and Sister Nadine.

**Thank you and Godspeed,  
Barbara and Sister Beverly!  
And welcome wishes to  
Sister Judy  
and Sister Nadine.**

■ **The effects of the well-known environmental mantra “Reduce – Reuse – Recycle” and are in evidence in several ways among the Sisters of the Precious Blood.** Seeing respect for and good stewardship of the Earth as part of their Precious Blood charism, the congregation has adopted several strategies to foster environmental concern.

**The Precious Blood Sisters in the Salem Heights community** began a major recycling campaign in April 2008, placing an Abitibi Paper Retriever on the property to collect recyclables. From April 2008 through December 2010 (the most recent month for which statistics are available), Salem Heights has recycled 29 tons of paper (58,940 lbs.) and thereby saved 88 cubic yards of landfill space and 120,886 kilowatt hours (KWH) of energy. The Salem Heights community also recycles plastic and batteries.

According to the Recycling “scorecard” for this time-frame and amounts recycled:

- Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 4,102 KWH of electricity and 60 lbs of air pollution.

For the total 58,940 lbs. of paper collected:

- Over 500 trees would be needed to make this amount of paper;
- 88 cubic yards of landfill space have been saved;
- Overall emission of air pollution has been reduced by 1,768;
- 206,290 gallons of water have been spared from the manufacturing process, and
- 88 galls of oil have been saved by recycling this amount of paper.

This is enough electricity to power 60 homes for a month and the equivalent of taking 65 cars off the road for a day.

In **other “environmentally friendly” efforts:** Beginning with



the last issue, **Sharing & Caring is now printed with soy ink.** This is not only an economic boon to U.S. soybean farmers but also represents a major decrease in the use of oil, since older printing inks were primarily petroleum based. Additionally, the paper used for *Sharing & Caring* is now 10 percent recycled stock (the highest percentage available for this type of paper) and is 100 percent recyclable. The logos for soy ink and recycled paper will now be featured regularly in the masthead on page 2 of each issue.

**Individual CPPS sisters and communities** have long expressed a commitment to the environment by recycling newspapers, plastics, glass and aluminum cans.

**Last June 18-19 a yearlong collaborative effort between the Sisters and the Missionaries of the Precious Blood resulted in a Pilgrimage for the Earth.** (Details will be published in the Summer 2011 issue of *Sharing & Caring*.)

■ **The Sisters of the Precious Blood were among seven individuals and groups honored as “The Magnificent 7”** by the Trotwood Ministerium on Jan. 16 with the association’s “Keeping the Dream Alive” award. The event marked the kick-off for for celebrations honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Dayton.

**Sister Florence Seifert**, president of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, received the award in the name of the con-

## CPPS employees represent 348 years



Sister Florence Seifert, CPPS president (right), with Belinda White at the Service Awards ceremony. Belinda was honored for 10 years of service with the Salem Heights maintenance and groundskeeping staff.

The Sisters of the Precious Blood honored 50 employees in a Service Awards Ceremony and luncheon at Salem Heights on Feb. 7. Together these employees — who work at Salem Heights and the Generalate, Maria Stein Shrine and Emma Hall at the Maria-Joseph Living Care Center — represent more than 300 years of service.

Specially recognized were staff members with five to 10 years of service:

**Belinda White**, maintenance and grounds, Salem Heights, 10 years.

Five-year honorees were: **Sister Mary Ellen Andrisin**, coordinator of programs and ministries, Maria Stein Shrine; **Donna DeCamp**, secretary, Generalate; **Filomena (“Lumen”) Johnson**, cook, Salem Heights; **Sister Mary Ellen Lampe**, computer resource person, Generalate; **Sister Mary Lou Schmursal**, coordinator of public relations and communications, Maria Stein Shrine; **Denise Sheperd**, receptionist, Salem Heights.

These seven employees received certificates and either a pin or keychain presented by Sister Florence Seifert, CPPS

ow that...

gregation. The CPPS award was in the category of Community Leadership.

The other recipients honored with the sisters included: Spiritual Leadership:

**Bishop Truman Martin**, pastor of Maranatha Christian Fellowship Church; Business Community: **Marie Battle**, executive director of the Trotwood Chamber of Commerce; Education: **Diana Whitt**, treasurer and CFO, and **John R. Smith**, director of operations; both for Trotwood-Madison School District; and Civic Leaders: Trotwood **Mayor Joyce Sutton Cameron** and Trotwood City Manager **Michael J. Lucking**.

The celebration took place at Maranatha Christian Fellowship Church in Dayton. It included musical selections, Scripture readings, prayer and fellowship. Presenting the awards were Pastor Matthew Scott of Lord of Life Christian Fellowship; Father Benjamin Speare-Hardy, pastor of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church; and Pastor Paula Bowser of Trotwood Church of the Brethren. Bishop Truman L. Martin, pastor of Maranatha Christian Fellowship Church, offered the welcome and closing prayer.

The tribute to the Sisters of the Precious Blood accompanying the award read:

"The Sisters of the Precious Blood [are] a group of Catholic women graced with the overwhelming awareness of God's love for the world as shown through the shedding of Jesus' life-giving Precious Blood. They have been a part of the Dayton/Trotwood community since 1928.



"The Magnificent 7," recipients of the 2011 "Keeping the Dream Alive" award: Diana Whitt; Cameron; Marie Battle; Sr. Florence Seifert, CPPS: Michael J. Lucking; Bishop Truman Martin; Mayor Joyce Sutton Cameron; John R. Smith.

"Their ministries have included education and care for the elderly, most notably converting the large red brick convent on Salem Avenue into a retirement and health-care center now known as the Maria-Joseph Center. Over the past years, the Sisters have supported the Trotwood area in a variety of ways through contributions to: the YMCA summer swimming program, the support of area food pantries, assistance to "Helping Hands," projects of local churches, and to the PRIDE festival.

"The Sisters have opened the doors of their home to Block Club meetings; to students and faculty of the United Theological Seminary for room and board, as well as for the use of their chapel; and to persons in need of temporary shelter, such as residents of Hoover Place at the time of the fire that damaged many rooms there.

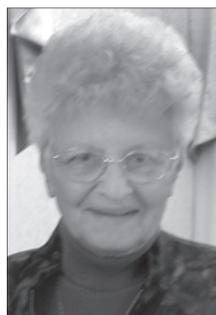
"Most recently the Sisters have undertaken to open the Brunner Literacy Center in collaboration with Precious Blood Parish.... Flowing from their belief in the sacredness of all human life, the Sisters have re-initiated ecumenical homicide vigils for the Dayton, Trotwood and Harrison Township areas."

## of service

president. Sister Florence also thanked all the employees for their professionalism and dedication to the Sisters of the Precious Blood and the congregation's facilities and ministries.

Forty-three other employees were also honored with a certificate for years of service. These are: 22 years of service: **Nancy Wilson**; 21 years: **Linda Koenig**; 16 years: **Kimberly Jaynes**; 14 years: **Omer Bertke, Diane Dues**; 13 years: **Sr. Barbara Ann Hoying, Sheree Neumann, William Wolters**; 11 years: **Elton Benson, Brenda Gabbard, Kimberly Lewis**; 9 years: **Sr. Regina Albers, Sr. Beverly Bodnar, Linda Hageman, Sr. Jeannine Kloeker, Sr. Janet Winandy**; 8 years: **Tammie Bane, Ruby Felton, Sr. Jean René Hoying, Sr. Gerri McGeorge, Patsy Nelson**; 7 years: **Barbara De Los Santos**; 6 years: **Tamiko Morrison, Sr. Pat Will**; 4 years: **William Caripides, Jean Henderson, Patricia Morrison, Sr. Nancy Recker**; 3 years: **Rebecca Bruggeman, Susan Gehret, Dennis Mescher**; 2 years: **Michelle Bodine, Lori Boyd, John Buehler, Brian Donchez, John Gilley, Wanda Plassenthal**; 1 year: **William Jones, Stephen Klosterman, Pamela Snyder, Michael Wilemaitis, Amy Wolfe**.

Together these dedicated people bring their skills and commitment to excellence in untold ways for the benefit of the sisters, other staff and the world of CPPS.



Sr. Mary Ellen Andrisin



Donna DeCamp



Filomena Johnson



Sr. Mary Ellen Lampe



Sr. Mary Lou Schmersal



Denise Sheperd

## IN MEMORIAM



### **Sister Bernadine (Mary Ernesita) Veit**

February 15, 1915 — January 25, 2011

Sister Bernadine was 96 at the time of her death at the Maria-Joseph Living Care Center in Dayton, Ohio. The funeral liturgy was celebrated in the Salem Heights chapel on January 27, 2011.

Bernadine was born in Wapakoneta, Ohio, one of seven children born to Joseph and Mary (Madigan) Veit. She entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood on August 15, 1931, and received the name Sister Mary Ernesita. Later, after the Second Vatican Council, she returned to her baptismal name.

In preparation for her educational ministries, Sister Bernadine obtained degrees in education from the Athenaeum of Ohio (bachelor's) and from Xavier University in Cincinnati (master's). She spent 38 years in Catholic and public schools as either teacher or principal. In Ohio she served in Bellefontaine, Botkins, Burkettsville, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, Fort Recovery, Miamisburg, Minster, Ottoville, and Ottawa; she also served in Phoenix, Arizona.

In 1974, Bernadine began a second-career ministry at the Maria-Joseph Living Care Center as clerical aide and dietary assistant. Five years later she retired to Salem Heights, remaining active as receptionist there, but kept connected to the Maria-Joseph Center as a Eucharistic minister.

Sister Bernadine considered prayer one of her primary ministries. Her companions claimed she spent more time in chapel than any other sister at Salem Heights. The rosary was Bernadine's favorite prayer; even when she was only partly conscious, her lips moved in a rhythm of continuous Hail Marys.

Bernadine chose as her motto in life "service with a smile." No doubt there were days when that smile on the outside was possible only because she loved deeply, knowing how generously Jesus shed every drop of his blood in love for all.

Sister Bernadine is now resting with her parents, five sisters and brother in God's eternal embrace.

—**Sister Madonna Ratermann**



### **Sister M. Iona (Geraldine) Taylor**

December 12, 1913 – January 16, 2011

Sister Iona was 97 years of age at the time of her death and had been a Sister of the Precious Blood for 82 years. She donated her body to science.

Geraldine Marie was born in Peoples, Kentucky, the oldest of three daughters born to William and Rose (Moeller) Taylor. By the

time she was 14 years old, Geraldine had lost both her parents. Sister Regis Kirschner welcomed her and her sister, Julie, to St. Joseph's Orphanage in Dayton; Mary Elizabeth, just days old, was adopted by the Hannegan family.

On February 2, 1929, Geraldine entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood and received the name Sister Mary Iona.

Sister Iona earned her degrees in education from the Athenaeum (bachelor's) and from Xavier University (master's), both in Cincinnati. She later earned a doctorate in language arts from Indiana University. For nearly 60 years she was teacher, principal, reading specialist and consultant, ministering in Ohio,

Missouri, Colorado, California, Indiana, Michigan and Louisiana. Believing that every child could learn to read, Sister Iona became a strong advocate for the "Workshop Way" of teaching reading, giving workshops on it across the United States and in Europe.

In her mid-70s, Sister Iona semi-retired but continued to serve in parishes and at Precious Blood Seminary in Carthage, Ohio. At the age of 89, she fully retired to Salem Heights. After a serious illness, she moved to Emma Hall in 2008.

Sister Iona was close to God. Prayer and the Eucharistic liturgy were immensely important to her. Her favorite personal prayer was the rosary; she readily offered to pray the rosary for anyone who asked for her prayers.

Several months before her journey to heaven, Iona spoke of God being almost ready to call her home. We are confident that at her own "homecoming" celebration, she was indeed ready to be welcomed by Mary and the God she loved so much.

—**Sister Madonna Ratermann**

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 Ignatius Lichtle** on the death of her brother, Andrew Lichtle, on March 13.

**Sister Elizabeth Jane Westgerdes** on the death of her brother, John Westgerdes, on March 14.

**Sister Martha DeBrosse** and the former **Sister Mary Camille (Theresa) DeBrosse, CPPS**, on the death of their brother, Benjamin, on March 22.

## REMEMBERING...

**Agnes Voisard**, sister of the late Sister Rose Behr, CPPS, on Dec. 26, 2010.

**Robert C. Junk**, brother of the late Sisters Luca and Emiliana Junk, CPPS, on Jan. 26.

**Sister Rita Braun**, RGS, sister of the late Sister Sarah Braun, CPPS, on March 11.

**Harley Human**, husband of Alma Human (the former Sister Margaret Mary Stallo, CPPS), on March 17.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

## Check the web!

There's always something new on the CPPS website. If you haven't visited for awhile, here are just a few new features you'll find:

- A brand new page, Our Spirituality, featuring reflections from various CPPS sisters on Precious Blood spirituality (See drop-down under Who We Are).
- A news story, printable schedule and map for the upcoming annual Vocations pilgrimage, "Stepping up the Call" on May 7. (See both News and Vocations pages.)

[www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org](http://www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org)

# Meet Mary Lynn and Alex

Continued from page 5

## Mary Lynn Delfino

Mary Lynn is a self-described "avid Philadelphia Phillies fan." She also enjoys "hanging out with friends, traveling, reading good books, eating ice cream, enjoying the outdoors and finding the grace present in each day."

Currently Mary Lynn works in Catholic campus ministry at Kent State University. "Each day I have the privilege of accompanying young adults in their spiritual journeys," she says, "helping them to discover their vocation."

She credits the development of her own vocation to lay ecclesial ministry to the nurturing of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Scranton), sponsors of Marywood University, where she did her undergraduate work in advertising/public relations. "Their accompaniment as teachers, mentors and spiritual guides continues to be a great well from which I draw," she says.

Knowing how important women religious have been in her own journey, she says, energizes her for the work entrusted to the Vocations Ministry Committee, adding, "Thank you for this opportunity to serve your congregation!"

## Alex Loehrer

agency. In 2011, he and his business partner launched a sister agency, Genessa Health Marketing, focusing specifically on healthcare clientele regionally and nationally.

Alex was introduced to the Sisters of the Precious Blood two years ago, when he served on the advisory team for the potential repurposing of the congregation's Salem Heights property. In 2010, he happily accepted an invitation to join the CPPS Vocations Ministry Committee.

In his free time, Alex participates in the First Friday Society for Catholic Professionals, an international apostolate that encourages Catholic business professionals to attend First Friday Mass. He's also active in the Little Flower's Big Harvest, a Springfield-based gardening ministry that helps families start backyard gardens to donate portions of their bounty to the Second Harvest Food Bank; and in the National Advisory Board for a French language education initiative.

Alex lives in Springfield, Ohio, with his wife, Abby, and their three children, Oscar, 6, Genevieve, 3, and Kingston, 8 months. The Loehrers are members of St. Teresa Parish.

## Sharing & Caring Order Form

Would you like to receive your own free copy of *Sharing & Caring* on a regular basis? Simply print the information below and mail it to us at the address on page 2. You may also use this form to request a *Sharing & Caring* subscription for another person. (Please check appropriate box below and include your own name.)

Or save a stamp! Activate a subscription, request a sample copy or change your address online at [www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org](http://www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org); click on News & Events > Our Newsletter.

I'm requesting this subscription for myself.

This subscription is for the person listed below.

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Sisters of the Precious Blood  
4000 Denlinger Road  
Dayton, OH 45426-2399



## What CPPS means to me...

BY SISTER MARYANN BREMKE

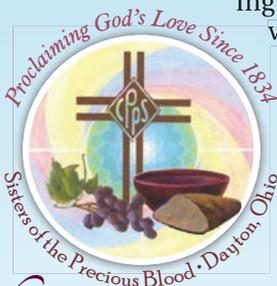
Long before I knew what the letters stood for, I was immersed in a CPPS world. Three generations of my ancestors lived in the shadows of St. Charles Seminary and the Maria Stein Convent. We Bremke and Fortkamp families breathed in the air that was Precious Blood. It was an integral part of our daily lives.

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood were the shepherds of our Immaculate Conception Parish and Sisters of the Precious Blood taught all 12 grades in the school. Their constant message of the redeeming love of Jesus made its mark on those of us fortunate enough to be touched by their dedication. The giant statue of St. Gaspar in the church sanctuary perpetually pointed to the giant crucifix, and every decade of our family rosary was introduced with the words: "Praised and blessed be the Sacred Heart and the Precious Blood of Jesus in the most holy sacrament of the altar." My world was the color of CPPS.

Along about second grade I began thinking that I wanted to be a sister, and there was only one kind of sister in my young world. My goal was set early on.

I would be a sister dressed in a long black robe with a red cord! I spent many hours after school, on free days and even Saturdays helping my teacher, Sister Protasia Schneider, prepare her classroom for her students. I knew that one day I would be doing the same thing. Sister Protasia often reminded me that my dad sat in her classroom 25 years previously. I had to live up to his caliber of goodness and sister inspired me to emulate that goodness. At age 7, I was still being immersed in a CPPS world, quite oblivious as to how CPPS would etch my future.

From my now personal vantage of having lived as a Sister of the Precious Blood for 55-plus years, CPPS has taken on a depth dimension hidden from me in childhood. The heart of its meaning is still redeeming love, but it has been nuanced through living vows, community and mission. It calls me daily to be a life-giving presence in ministry to those in need. It challenges me to live Mother Brunner's charism into modernity. CPPS is my personal signature to live as a committed member of the *Congregatio Pretiosissimi Sanguinis*. My world is still, and will always be, the color of CPPS.



*Learn more about the Sisters of the Precious Blood*

Contact Sister Carolyn Hoying, CPPS, Director of Vocations • 4960 Salem Avenue, Dayton, OH, 45416-1797  
Phone: (937) 278-0871, Ext. 1303 • E-mail: [Vocations@PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org](mailto:Vocations@PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org)

[www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org](http://www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org)