



# Sharing & Caring

THE SISTERS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD ■ DAYTON, OHIO

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## SOUL FRIEND

**Precious Blood Sister Maureen Mangen is a spiritual director and retreat facilitator who has companioned many in their God quest.**

**Read more about her ministry on pages 11-13.**



## 2010 Jubilarians

Sister Carmelita Monnin, celebrating her 60th jubilee as a Sister of the Precious Blood, receives her corsage from Sister Florence Seifert, CPPS president.

This year 16 CPPS sisters are marking milestone anniversaries of their religious commitment and service to God's people. Together they represent a total of 945 years of religious life!

*Read more about the jubilee celebration and view photos of the honorees on pages 8-10.*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

# Making the leap

While enjoying a swim last month, I was given the unexpected treat of watching a toddler repeatedly jump into the pool, into the arms of his waiting dad. The little guy, about 20 months, was totally unafraid of the water. But what I most enjoyed was watching the child's *absolute delight* at hurling himself off the edge of the pool and into dad's waiting arms.

His father would catch him and swoop him down into the water, and immediately the little boy would paddle right back to the edge of the pool, wanting to do it all over again. And so it went. Little feet dancing with glee, squeals of sheer joy as he would hurl himself off the side in utter abandon. No fear, just absolute trust that his father would catch him, dunk him and return him safely to poolside again.

This went on for quite some time. The toddler seemed never to tire of this game, nor I of watching it. There was a wonderful lesson to be learned from this joyful, wet, trusting little person.

Father Angelo Anthony, outgoing provincial of the Cincinnati Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, recently offered a similar story about trust and letting go. Father Angelo was the invited presider and homilist for the June 27 Eucharistic liturgy honoring this year's 16 Precious Blood Sisters celebrating their jubilees of entrance into religious life. (See pages 8-10.)

In his homily, Father Angelo told a story recounted by the popular spiritual author Father Henri Nouwen about a well-known family of circus aerial acrobats. These daring performers would leave audiences breathless as, hundreds of feet above the ring, one acrobat would leap into

the air to be caught with split-second precision by another.

Fr. Nouwen talked with the aerial performers, expressing admiration for the skill of the acrobat who caught his relative flying through the air. What he was told by the "catcher" was that the greater skill was that of the "flyer," the person making the leap — because the flyer needed absolute trust that his or her catcher would be there, and at exactly the right instant.

A flyer who tried to grab on, who tried too hard to control the leap, would jeopardize both himself and his partner. The secret? To just make the leap. To fling oneself with outstretched arms and in utter trust that the partner would catch him.

As I prepared this issue of *Sharing & Caring*, I thought about the many leaps of faith and acts of letting go in the lives of Sisters of the Precious Blood.

CPPS women, both as individuals and as a congregation, are grounded in the present reality but at the same time look to the future, knowing that discernments and decisions need to be made. Even armed with the best data, research and decision-making, in the last analysis the secret seems to be, "Let go and let God."

Certainly the jubilarians, in their

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## **Thank you, readers, for your response!**

Thank you to the more than 100 *Sharing & Caring* readers who took time to complete our Readership Survey this Spring. In a future issue we'll report back on some of your responses and suggestions.

80, 75, 60 and 50 years of religious commitment, know what it means to be "flyers," sometimes called to leap into the void with not much more than trust that God and their community members would be at the other end, on time and faithful, to catch them.

For all of us — toddlers, aerial performers and just regular folk — life is often an invitation to simply leap out in faith into the unknown and untested, learning to be a "flyer." And placing unlimited trust in the "Catcher."

—Pat Morrison



# Sharing & Caring

### **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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# Sister Consuella celebrates a century of life

BY SISTER NOREEN JUTTE

In the Book of Sirach we read, "The root of wisdom is to fear the Lord, and her branches are long life." It is with joy that we recognize a Precious Blood Sister with long life: Sister Consuella Salmon celebrates her 100th birthday on August 25, 2010.

## Happy 100th Birthday, Sister Consuella!

Just recently I asked Sister Consuella, "How did you get to be 100 years old?" She responded, "I guess you have to ask God."

One hundred years ago, Helen Salmon was born in Denver, Colorado. While she was still quite small her family moved to Fort Wayne, Ind. When she was a child she lived in the country and walked three miles to Precious Blood School. Sometimes she rode to school in a horse-drawn carriage.

She remembers World War I and, shortly after, the great influenza pandemic of 1918-1919. In conversation, she recalls that more people died from the flu than those who

died in the war. She remembers how her father would wear a mask when walking down the street to protect himself from the flu. Times were hard!

Helen entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood on May 14, 1931. As a novice she received her religious name, Sister Consuella. After her novitiate she began a 45-year ministry of teaching in elementary education, along with 15 years as organist and 10 years as library aide.

When you are talking with Sister Consuella about her teaching, she is quick to share that she prays every day for "her children." (She has a cherished small black notebook in which, in her careful penmanship, she has written the name of every student she ever taught, together with the school and years she taught them.) She emphasizes: "I pray every day for a happy, peaceful, and fearless death for all my children" — all the children she taught over



Photo by Sr. Noreen Jutte

Sister Consuella today, and (inset) as new graduate Helen Salmon in her 1928 class photo from St. Catherine's Academy in Fort Wayne, Ind.

the course of those four and a half decades.

At the age of 80, Sister Consuella retired at Salem Heights. She volunteered in various tasks. At the top of the list of activities she enjoys is playing Scrabble, bridge and pinochle. Watching "Wheel of Fortune" and "Jeopardy" on television come in second.

Can you imagine anyone being able to remember and tell stories covering so much? Since 1910 she has

- lived during the reigns of nine popes, beginning with St. Pius X;

- witnessed the administrations of 18 U.S. presidents, beginning with William Howard Taft; and

- known 12 mothers general/presidents of her Precious Blood congregation, beginning with Mother Agreda Sperber.

As we prepare to celebrate her 100th birthday, Sister Consuella has been truly blessed with a clear, sharp mind, good hearing and sight. Until recently we would see

*Continued on page 19*



A young Sister Consuella just after her first profession of vows, and in the mid-1950s, wearing the congregation's gray habit.



# Lessons from wading in the water

BY SISTER CAROLYN HOYING

As I give you this Vocation Ministry news, I'm reminded of a graduation party I attended this year. This particular party was at the family barn that had been cleaned up for the occasion. It was a hot and humid June afternoon and three of the young children were getting a bit antsy and hot. They had just taken a ride with their grandpa along the creek that ran through the farmland. Could they go wade in the creek? Pleasee? Yes, they could, replied their mother, but they were not to get their clothes wet. Well, you can figure the rest of the story.

Yes, they did go wade in the creek for a few minutes, then without any hesitation were jumping into the water, giggling and having a wonderful time.

As we adults watched, three girls who were just a little older came down to the creek. Wading in the water would be so refreshing... They watched the younger three yelling, laughing and having a splashing great time in the water. The girls circled the area several times, getting closer and closer to the water. Finally, one brave soul stood on a rock in the creek — and unexpectedly slid into the water. The other two followed, giggling.

Two boy cousins, one about 5 and the other about 9, and their dad came and watched the six having such a great time belly flopping into the water. The parent told the boys it was okay to take off their shoes and socks and go wade in the water, too. They walked cautiously very near the water from one end of the creek to the other where the children were playing. Everyone thought surely the boys would break down and take their shoes and socks off, then join the rest in the water. But no, they just watched.

Young people who are looking at

religious life today have experiences similar to those of the kids at the creek. Some are checking it out hesi-

“Young people who are looking at religious life today are somewhat like kids dipping their toes into a creek. Some are checking it out hesitantly, watching from the sidelines but not real sure if getting toes wet or even asking questions might mean they're “signing on the dotted line.”

Others are stepping, even if gingerly, farther into the water, maybe ankle deep.... And after initial exploration, a few are eventually ready to dive right in!”

tantly, watching from the sidelines but not real sure if getting toes wet or even asking questions might mean they were “signing on the dotted

line.” They come to a display table during a vocation information day put on at a school or church.

Then there are others who have come to see what religious life is all about — they're at least getting their toes wet and stepping, even if gingerly, into the water. They've come to a discernment weekend retreat and joined in its prayer, community life and learning a little about this life style, the charism or spirituality of the community. They form a bond that might lead them to check religious life out further. We call them Inquirers.

Some of the Inquirers are wading a little farther into the water — maybe even getting wet up to their ankles. They've come for discernment evenings, community gatherings and prayer times in order to learn more about a specific community and are checking religious life out more closely. They have a Sister Spiritual Mentor who is walking with them on their journey.

All along the way seeds are being planted in the hearts of these young people. It is the God Quest and God

## *Lay members join sisters on Vocations committee*

With the newly changed and approved guidelines there are now five CPPS Sisters and four lay members on the committee.

Sisters are: **Amy Junk**, Toledo, Ohio; **Mary Lou Schmersal**, Toledo, Ohio; **Joyce Kahle**, Cincinnati; **Terry Walter**, Redlands, Calif.; and **Mary Yarger**, Lake Elsinore, Calif.

**Sister Marita Beumer**, a member of the community council, and **Sister Carolyn Hoying**, vocations director, are ex officio members.

The lay members are:

- **Mary Lynn Delfino**, a student at the University of Toledo (soon to be at Kent State);
- **Nathan Hess** from Cincinnati; Nathan is also Coordinator of the young CPPS Companions for the Missionaries of the Precious Blood;
- **Alex Loehrer**, married and very involved in St. Therese Parish in Springfield, Ohio, with marketing experience;
- **Cindy Schmersal**, campus minister at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Mo.

# 'Almost 10,' Emily's a young but veteran 'pilgrim'

Emily Forsthoefel (center) says she was "almost three" when she participated in her first "Stepping Up the Call" pilgrimage for vocations in Mercer/Auglaize counties. While her mom, Judy, walked, Emily rode in her stroller for most of the way for the first pilgrimage. But participate she did, visiting the various churches and holy sites and hearing the prayers and songs of the other pilgrims.

This past May, Emily, now "almost 10" made the pilgrimage again with her mom and brother Zachary. (Zack's participated in most of the pilgrimages, too, but Emily gets the prize for taking part in all seven of them.) It's become a family tradition!

The Forsthoefels live in Celina, Ohio, and are members of St. Sebastian Parish in St. Sebastian.

This fall, Emily heads to fifth grade at Coldwater Elementary School; brother Zachary will be in eighth grade there.

Plan to join Emily and her family for the 2011 pilgrimage, held rain or shine on the Saturday before Mother's Day!



is the one who is calling each, saying "You are mine." We hope they will respond with a "Yes, I choose to follow you, Lord, wherever you lead me."

Last year eight members of our CPPS congregation traveled to Ferdinand, Ind., to attend a workshop given by the Benedictine Sisters. It was titled, "Awakening a Rebirth of Enthusiasm in Vocations." During one of the sessions we attended, a presenter told of the advantages of having lay board members working alongside members of the congregation to foster vocations.

We saw that having members of the laity serve in an advisory capacity to our vocation team would be a real blessing, since so many of the laity want to see religious life thrive. Thus, when our Vocation Ministry Committee met to set the goals for the 2009-2010 year we set as our top priority goal establishing guidelines and implementing the process of including lay members on the Vocation Ministry Committee. This included 1) defining the purpose, the role and the process for the selection; 2) amending guidelines as needed, and 3) obtain the necessary approval for the change in the guidelines from the congregation's leadership.

During the year, CPPS Sisters were invited to submit nominations of potential prospects to the Vocation Ministry Committee. The committee in turn reviewed the nominations and sent their suggestions to the leadership team. The leadership team — Sister Florence Seifert, president, and the community council — approved the change in the guidelines and then appointed four lay members. (See sidebar on page 4 for members.)

Sister Della Mae Meyer's term has ended and she was one of the members who really encouraged us to move towards adding lay members to our committee. Thank you, Sister Della Mae, for your gentle "nudging" us in this direction!

We rely on the support and prayer of all of you as we anticipate new energy and insights for our vocation endeavors.

Above all, we remember that each one of us is the best recruiter and mentor for new life for church vocations. Like the kids at the creek, our committee's gotten our toes and ankles wet at Ferdinand last year. Now we are ready to jump in — hoping we'll have not belly flops but

great dives!

If you know of anyone who is asking questions about religious life and wants to get her toes wet, please have her call 937-231-1244 or e-mail:

**Vocations@PreciousBloodSisters  
Dayton.org.**



Mark your calendar now for a variety of upcoming Vocations discernment events! Among them:

- **Sunday, Oct. 24, "Cast Your Nets"** vocations evening for high school students and young adults;
- **Friday, Nov. 12, a "Nun Run"** for women 18-40;
- **Sunday, Nov. 28, an Advent reflection day** hosted by the Sisters of the Precious Blood, Dayton; for women 18-45.

More details on these programs and announcements/updates on other vocations programs and events will be on the website:

**www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org**; click on News & Events and go to the drop down Vocations Programs. You can also link directly to this page from the News page.

# CPPS Sisters launch literacy center in Trotwood

BY SISTER MARYANN BREMKE AND  
SISTER HELEN WEBER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We're also seeking volunteers,

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

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

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

## Lay administrator named for Maria Stein Shrine

BY PAT MORRISON

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

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

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

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



Don Rosenbeck

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

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

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

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

# Cleveland sister assists outreach to area homeless

By PAT MORRISON

CLEVELAND — One of the last things Jesus did on the night before he died — in addition to instituting the Eucharist — was an act of intimate service: He washed the feet of his disciples. Today, a Precious Blood Sister in Cleveland works behind the scenes to ensure that this act of compassion and care is repeated thousands of times over for the poor of Cleveland each year.

InterAct Cleveland, an interreligious partnership in greater Cleveland, sponsors an annual event in February or March advertised as the “Homeless Standdown.” During the event, the city’s poor and homeless are invited to come and enjoy the generosity of the local community.

Precious Blood Sister Mary Ann Mozser writes that “hundreds and hundreds, probably thousands, attend the three-day program. It is a gathering like none other. The camaraderie among the folks who provide services and the folks who receive the services is a rare gift to both...”

As vice-president of Mission and Ministry at St. Vincent Charity Hospital in the city, Sister Mary Ann’s main task in the Standdown is to organize the podiatry services for the event. She recruits podiatry residents, invites an area Catholic school to collect socks to give away. The hospital’s director of pharmacy secures the foot powder and antifungal creams.

“The poor who come for this foot care are absolutely delighted to receive two pairs of new clean socks” along with the powder and cream, she says. “It’s almost like Christmas morning for them!”

“With a warm smile and a ‘hello, my friend,’ the homeless are invited to take a seat, take off their shoes and socks and let the doctor take a look at the major means of transportation



With a warm welcome, homeless people are invited to take a seat, take off their shoes and socks, and let the doctor take a look at the major means of transportation for the poor...

Photo courtesy of St. Vincent Charity Hospital

for the poor,” she says. The podiatry residents check over each person’s feet for problems, offer suggestions about foot care and, for more serious problems, invite the person to make an appointment at the hospital’s podiatry clinic.

“I am always so impressed with the gentle touch and kindness expressed by our resident doctors of podiatry as they handle the worn and weary feet of the homeless... Besides foot care, it is the gift of respect and compassion that makes the day. What a gift!”

This year eight podiatry doctors and directors from St. Vincent’s — men and women of various faith traditions — offered their free services during

the event at the Cleveland Convention Center.

A medical pavilion also provided health screenings of all kinds: blood pressure, cholesterol, dental items and screenings, and a quick mini heart and lung check provided by various doctors and nurses.

In a barber shop section, visitors received haircuts and had beards trimmed. A social services section enabled individuals to apply for various support services, such as learning how to acquire transportation help. Photographers were on hand to donate their skills to provide photo IDs — and also offer portrait photos for people who seldom have such a valued personal item.

This year’s event also included a huge clothing section where one could find every type of wearing apparel: boots, shoes, outerwear, underwear, dresses, blouses, shirts, trousers, sweaters and more. In addition to being able to “shop” for clothing necessities, the homeless also chose free toiletries.

Another part of Sister Mary Ann’s behind-the-scenes-organizing is collecting new T-shirts from various events and giving them to the

homeless men, women and children who attend.

“We also have a group of ladies from St. Noel’s [parish] who knit caps and scarves for adults, which we take along to distribute.” Since the Standdown always takes place in winter, these are especially welcome, she says.

In addition to much-needed services and personal items for the homeless, “there was good food to nourish the body and entertainment to nourish the spirit,” Sister Mary Ann says. Perhaps, most importantly, she adds, the event offered “a warm and loving environment to comfort the souls of those who so often live every day on meager subsistence.”



BY PAT MORRISON

Summertime is often characterized by get-togethers of various kinds, from large family reunions to intimate conversations on the porch swing. Sisters of the Precious Blood are no strangers to such summer gatherings. Their annual celebration of Spirit Days and jubilee anniversaries of their sisters — centered around the congregation’s major feast of the Precious Blood of Jesus celebrated on July 1 — combine the best elements of a family reunion

and recognition of each of the congregation’s 21 clusters, or community groups.

In her opening remarks, Sister Florence Seifert, CPPS president, spoke to the sheer volume of “words” the sisters dealt with in preparation for Spirit Days: conversations, oral and written reports from consultants, committees, sub-committees, focus groups, sisters, council members. Sister Florence said she hoped the sisters had the time to think about the words and

life and led to the founding of our congregation, is part of our charism, part of our spirituality and tradition as Sisters of the Precious Blood.

“...I am confident that a deep contemplative stance is a gift that has permeated and will continue to inform the choices and decisions we have made in the past and will continue to make for the future,” she said.

As the congregation looks to its assembly in 2011, this year’s

## *Spirit Days, jubilee celebrate*

and of quiet personal and shared reflection as well.

Almost all sisters who were able converged on Salem Heights, their Dayton motherhouse, for this year’s celebrations June 24-27.

The annual gathering is a time to renew friendships, share prayer, celebrate those sisters marking milestone jubilees of religious life (*see page 10*), and also glean insights from structured input and sharing.

The theme of this year’s Spirit Days and jubilee was “Cup of Life Poured Out in Love” — a dual reference, to the life-giving outpouring of Jesus’ Precious Blood, and to CPPS women who are called to make of their own lives a similar self-gift in love to God and to the world they serve.

The days’ opening ritual on Thursday evening celebrated this theme in many ways, from the chapel’s décor, hymns and readings on the cup, to symbols

use them to “get in touch with your own thoughts, feelings and questions.”

She emphasized that she and the community council were eager to hear the sisters’ own words over the weekend. “I cannot tell you enough how important your responses are to us in leadership as we move forward,” she said.

Sister Florence noted that in all the conversations and reports of the past year that led up to Spirit Days, the word that stood out consistently as being of the essence of all CPPS activity and direction was “mission.”

She reflected that the congregation’s long tradition of Eucharistic adoration, with its component of silent prayer, was what fueled CPPS women for mission from the beginning.

“That [quiet contemplative] prayer is what Mother Brunner did which drew women to her prayer

Spirit Days focused on some of the preparations and conversations geared to that event.

On Saturday, June 26, Sister Catherine Schneider, an Oldenburg Franciscan, led the sisters in a pre-assembly process to help set the direction for Assembly 2011. Sister Catherine is a professional consultant and facilitator based in Indianapolis.

Friday and Saturday sessions were also dedicated to business and “futuring” issues the congregation is attending to in light of numbers, median age of members, existing CPPS institutions — and how the perennial call to mission and ministry both impacts and is affected by these realities.

Two topics — business items and looking to the future — came together when the sisters were introduced to Don Rosenbeck, the newly appointed lay administrator of Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics

located at the original motherhouse and convent. (See story on page 6.)

In the last of the Saturday “business” sessions, the sisters also heard reports on vocations ministry. One “new” item on the vocation scene is the addition of lay members to the congregation’s vocations committee. (See *Vocation & Formation News* on page 4.)

Liturgies and prayer rituals, PowerPoints (one on the life of Mother Maria Anna Brunner, another a toast/tribute to jubilarians), a dialogue with leadership, small group process and sharing combined with snacks, card games and just plain conversation among friends and classmates to make Spirit Days full and energizing.

As Spirit Days transitioned to a close, the celebration of Jubilee 2010 moved to prominence: honoring 16 sisters marking 80, 75, 60 and 50 years of dedicated Precious Blood living.

In a CPPS tradition, the jubilarians were feted during a Saturday evening prayer service and a PowerPoint tribute. During the prayer service, each sister received a rose and a gift. Sixty- and 50-year jubilarians received a statuette of Mother Brunner, originally sculpted by the late Sister Eileen Tomlinson. (See page 18.)

The Saturday evening dual-screen PowerPoint showcased each sister’s life and ministry, complete with photos from “yesteryear” and remembrances of each woman’s unique history and gifts.

Sunday, June 27, was Jubilee Sunday. After breakfast, the sisters being honored first gathered for a corsage pinning by Sister Florence and

## and explore ‘cup of life’

members of the community council, sat for group and individual jubilee photos, and then moved to chapel for the jubilee Eucharistic celebration.

The main presider for the liturgy was Father Angelo Anthony, outgoing provincial of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. Concelebrants were Precious Blood Fathers John Hoying and Vincent Hoying.

Touching on the Sunday’s Old Testament reading on the call of Elisha, Fr. Anthony said in his homily that like the prophet, the jubilarians, too, were called to leave all that was familiar. Elijah issued an invitation to his follower, but ultimately Elisha was free. All who follow the call of God have a similar experience: an invitation, not coercion, and a call to leave what is familiar for the untested More. The lesson for today’s God-seekers is similar, Fr. Anthony said: “Am I free enough to let go of who I am today for what I am called to be tomorrow?”

Following the homily, Sister Florence led the sisters assembled in the renewal of their religious vows of obedience, chastity and poverty.

After Eucharist, the celebration continued in the Salem Heights dining room where the jubilarians were honored with a banquet. The celebration was “officially” over when the meal ended, but in reality continued long into the evening, as the jubilarians enjoyed cards, gifts, hugs and warm greetings from their CPPS sisters, friends and colleagues.



Photos by Sr. Mary Ellen Andrisin (1), Sr. Mary Lou Schmersal (6,8) and Pat Morrison.  
**PHOTOS:** 1. CPPS socializing. 2. Sr. Lou Ann Roof leads prayer. 3. Sr. Rita Herman receives her corsage from Sr. Marita Beumer. 4. A moment in the tribute to jubilarians. 5. A smiling Sr. Thelma Wurzelbacher. 6. Jubilee Mass. 7. Sr. Claire Louise Sharpshair offers a creative ritual. 8. Sr. Florence Seifert (center) with Sisters Benita and Genny Volk, Lou Ann Roof and Carmelita Monnin.

# 2010 Jubilarians

## 80 Years

Left to right:  
Sisters  
Madonna Kempf,  
and  
Gladys Marie  
Lowe



## 75 Years

Sister M. Armella  
Schoenlein

## 60 Years

Seated from left:

Sisters Lou Ann Roof,  
Carmelita Monnin,  
Claire Louise Sharpshair

Standing:

Sisters Catherine (Katie)  
Lett, Rita Herman and Rose  
Margaret Broerman



## 50 Years

Seated from left:

Sisters Patricia Dieringer,  
Margaret Mary Rigdon,  
Jean René Hoying

Standing:

Sisters Nancy Recker,  
Mary Ellen Lampe  
Thelma Wurzelbacher  
and Benita Volk

AS LONG AS THERE HAVE BEEN  
GOD-SEEKERS,  
WOMEN AND MEN  
OF EVERY RELIGIOUS TRADITION  
HAVE SOUGHT THE HELP OF A  
“SOUL FRIEND,”  
A WISE AND GOOD GUIDE  
ON THE JOURNEY...



# Soul Friend

One Precious Blood Sister who serves as just such a “soul friend” is Sister Maureen Mangen. Sister Mo, as she is best known, is an experienced spiritual director and retreat and workshop facilitator. Currently her “base” is Tipton, Indiana, at the convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Here she may be found companioning a person in spiritual guidance, leading a retreat or workshop, or nourishing her own contemplative journey as she and others walk the labyrinth of life...

*Continued on page 12*



*Continued from page 11*

Across the centuries, God-seekers of every time and religious tradition have known that it's difficult to "go it alone" on this journey. What most of these had in common was the search for what the Irish call in Gaelic the *anam chara*, a "soul friend" to help them grow along the journey of life.

Not unsurprisingly, contemporary women and men have the same yearning for God and often turn to an experienced spiritual guide, especially at pivotal points in life. People like Sister Mo Mangen are there to assist — never to "get in the way" but always to help point to the God who is the seeker's goal.

The same can be said for every Sister of the Precious Blood, but for Sister Mo, the passion for spirituality and for helping others grow in the God quest is "in her bones."

After she became a sister, the first 17 years of ministry for this Ohio native were in elementary and high school education. She also served for a



# Soul FRIEND

time as director of postulants for the community.

But her ministry in spirituality really began in 1971 when she became co-director of the John XXIII Retreat Center in Hartford City, Ind., with Father Patrick Keith Hosey, a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette, Ind. She served there for 35 years.

After a sabbatical year, Sister Mo was invited by the leadership of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Tipton to assist with retreat ministry at their St. Joseph Conference Center, offer spiritual direction to their sisters and others, and use Tipton as a home base for her other retreats and workshops that she takes "on the road."

Since 2006 she's been an active and valued part of the sisters' campus, working with the St. Joseph Sisters, playing guitar at liturgies in their chapel, and being a warm, contemplative presence. She stops to chat with a group of retired sisters gathered at the lunch table, visits a sick sister in the infirmary, shares a laugh with an employee. She meets with the sisters at their convent/conference center as well as at Visitation House, her residence on the campus.

Tucked in a rural corner at the east side of the property is Little Noddfa (Welsh for "refuge"), a

farmhouse that today serves as a cozy setting for individual or small group retreats. St. Joseph Sister Wanda Wetli is director here, and she and Sister Mo, her assistant, often collaborate on retreats and spirituality programs offered here and in the larger conference center.

People who might think being a spiritual director or retreat coordinator is a laid-back existence have only to look at Sister Mo's calendar. Through the winter months there's "Thoughtful Thursdays," a once-a-month program from January through April that offers sharing on a book by a spiritual author, quiet time and celebration of Eucharist. There are Lenten and Holy Week offerings, the opportunity to join the St. Joseph Sisters for their annual preached retreat in the summer, and individually guided retreats.

As helpful as one-time programs or retreats are, part of Sister Mo's philosophy is that the spiritual journey, like life, is ongoing and so needs to meet people "where they're at" in their everyday lives. One response to this reality was "Daring Hearts, Radiant Spirits," a women's program of three-day gatherings held November, May and February over the span of two years. Sister Mo and another presenter, Sterling Cole, led the program. Each



session offered opportunities for prayer, meditation, worship, music, creativity and personal time.

She also shares her skills with her own Precious Blood Sisters in Dayton, serving as a presenter for spirituality days for the community and outside participants.

With their long experience at the John XXIII retreat center, Father Keith and Sister Maureen have a loyal following and are often invited to give retreats for parishes and groups. When that happens, they “take their show on the road,” as Father Keith quipped.

Sister Maureen is armed with an impressive resume and experience for her ministry. She holds a master’s degree in theology and interdisciplinary studies from Manhattanville College in White Plains, N.Y., is trained in transactional analysis therapy, re-evaluation co-counseling and the enneagram, Myers-Briggs, Centering Prayer, and other related disciplines. She is a member of Spiritual Directors International and Contemplative Outreach. Believing in the old adage that you can’t give what you don’t have, what keeps Sister Mo centered in her busy life is her own daily commitment to contemplative prayer.

But Sister Mo’s life is not all prayer and work. She’s an avid reader, likes to travel, enjoys playing the guitar, both for liturgies and prayer services and her own enjoyment, and enjoys singing and leading song. The lovely setting at the sisters’ center in Tipton allows her the enjoyment of her other hobbies, like gardening and just being around nature. A small plot and planters at Visitation House witness to her green thumb.

She is clearly energized by the retreats and programs she gives or helps facilitate. But one aspect of her ministry that she finds most meaningful is companioning women and men, religious and laity in spiritual direction.

“It is awe-inspiring to walk with a person, especially over the course of time, and to see the person grow and bloom,” she says. Companioning some directees, she said

she is privileged to witness real miracles of deep inner healing take place.

“We don’t know the burdens people are carrying,” she says softly. “Sometimes it takes a long time — in an atmosphere of listening, prayer and great trust — for a person to reach a place of healing from hurts and pain that have weighed them down for years.”

“To be a partner with God in this process is very, very humbling, and a source of deep gratitude at the same time,” she said.

As Sister Mo sums up her life (and her supposed semi-retirement) she stops to reflect. After a moment she says, “I am so blessed to have met and worked with numerous wise and wonderful people, all of whom have been a blessing to me and taught me so much. I believe that all that happens in one’s life is a gift for what we need to learn. And God is in the midst of absolutely everything...”

Some good words of good wisdom, from a wise “soul friend.”

**PHOTOS COVER:** In the Tipton convent library, Sister Mo Mangen shares a moment with St. Joseph Sister Rosemary Zauss. **PAGE 11 (top)** Taking some quiet time to walk the labyrinth on the retreat center’s grounds. **(middle)** Praying with Sister Dorothy Gall. **PAGE 12** Visiting Sister Martha Garber. **PAGE 13 (from left)** A light moment with St. Joseph Sister Wanda Wetli, director of Little Noddfa and the St. Joseph Conference Center. • Sister Josita O’Donnell shares a poem during a direction session. • In Visitation House, planning an upcoming retreat with Father Keith Hosey.

*Photos by Pat Morrison*

# Do you know

■ **Sr. Cecilia (Ceil) Taphorn** was honored as the Religious of the Year for 2010 by state Knights of Columbus. Sister Ceil was nominated by the Miamisburg KCs (St. Joseph Council #4587) for her long connection to Our Lady of Good Hope Parish and ministry in Catholic education. The award was presented during a recognition dinner at the parish on May 20.



The KCs said the honor was a “belated” thank-you for Sister Ceil’s ministry as a teacher in Our Lady of Good Hope elementary school and also for serving as the first principal of the new Bishop Leibold School when it was inaugurated in 1974. The school, named in honor of the late former bishop/archbishop of Cincinnati, is a consolidation of Our Lady of Good Hope and St. Henry schools.

■ **Sister Margo Young** was invited to her alma mater, St. Anthony School in Manteca, Calif., in February to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award from the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), the largest professional association in the world, with 200,000 members serving over 7.6 million students in Catholic educational institutions. The awards are presented each year by NCEA to honor distinguished alumni who represent the success of Catholic education and its values in their lives and work.

This was Sister Margo’s first visit back to the school, which was established by CPPS Sisters in 1955. She was a member of the first graduating class in 1961. She toured the school with its vibrant student body and faculty, and also spoke to the students about the life of a sister and what it was like attending the school in “the old days.”



Sister Margo, a medical doctor, is currently serving at St. Bernardine Medical Center in San Bernardino, Calif., where she coordinates several wellness/education programs and works at a clinic for the poor and underserved.

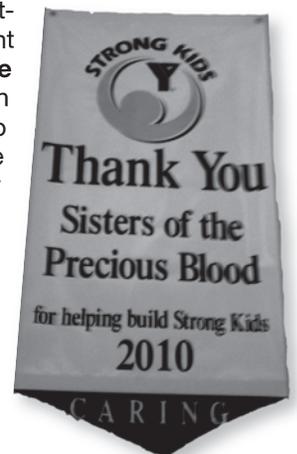
The *Manteca Bulletin* newspaper published three stories Feb. 3, 5 and 8 on its native daughter’s visit and her national honor. To read them, visit the CPPS website, News & Events > News > In the News.

■ Giving the Earth a hug (below) are **Precious Blood Sister Terry Maher** (right), Spiritual Care liaison at St. Bernardine Medical Center in San Bernardino, Calif., and Mark Winick, manager of Spiritual Care. The photo op was in conjunction with the medical center’s celebration of Earth Day on April 22. While the medical center is already a leader in environmentally friendly practices in the workplace, the Earth Day celebration was an opportunity to encourage patients, staff and others to look for “green” solutions. Participants in the 10 a.m.-2 p.m. celebration could recycle various materials, including electronics, medications, cell phones, clothing and shoes. For the Spiritual Care staff, it was also a chance to show the connection between spirituality and care for the Earth.



Photos above and bottom left courtesy of InFocus/ St. Bernardine Medical Center

■ A large, colorful banner at the Trotwood, Ohio YMCA proclaims a bright “Thank You” to the **Sisters of the Precious Blood**. The congregation made a donation to the YMCA to enable its pool to be open to serve neighborhood residents, especially children, this summer. With a shortage of operating funds, there was a risk that the pool would not have opened to serve the residents of this economically challenged community. The sisters’ donation remedied that. The congregation also made a donation to the city’s Summer Program for Youth.



■ **Precious Blood Sisters Karen Elliott and Margo Young** were part of a team that led a delegation of students from Mercy College of Northwest Ohio to Guatemala for spring break. Sister Karen is a professor at the Toledo-based college, Sister Margo a physician. The group volunteered at an orphanage for

disabled children. The students, from Ohio and Michigan, are enrolled in a new course at Mercy titled "Mission, Healthcare, Ministry and Education." To read newspaper coverage of the trip, visit In the News on the CPPS website. Students' reflections from the trip and photos will also be on the main News page at [www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org](http://www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org).

■ The **Sisters of the Precious Blood** have been an historic presence in the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio, since its founding in 1910 — and even before. The first parish in what is now the Toledo Diocese, St. Alphonsus in Peru, was founded in 1828. The first CPPS Sisters arrived from Switzerland to make their first U.S. foundation in 1844. The small group of pioneer sisters made their way through dense forests and swamp land to St. Alphonsus, which became their first residence.



Two Precious Blood Sisters serving in the diocese were part of the opening and closing ceremonies of the centennial year, in tribute to CPPS as the first women's religious community to reside in the present Diocese of Toledo. **Sister Joyce Lehman**, head of the diocese's Secretariat for Pastoral Leadership,

was invited to proclaim the second Scripture reading at the Oct. 7 Mass at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral which opened the centenary celebration in 2009. **Sister Rita Rogier**, catechetical leader at St. Thomas Aquinas and Good Shepherd parishes in Toledo, proclaimed the second reading at the Mass marking the close of the 100th diocese's anniversary celebration on April 15. In the photo Sister Rita is shown in the cathedral's historic raised pulpit. Eight Precious Blood Sisters are currently serving in the Toledo Diocese.

**Sister Rita Rogier proclaims Scripture during the Diocese of Toledo's Mass in the cathedral closing its centenary year.**

*Photo by Laurie Stevens Bertke, courtesy of the Catholic Chronicle*



## It's official! New school will honor CPPS foundress

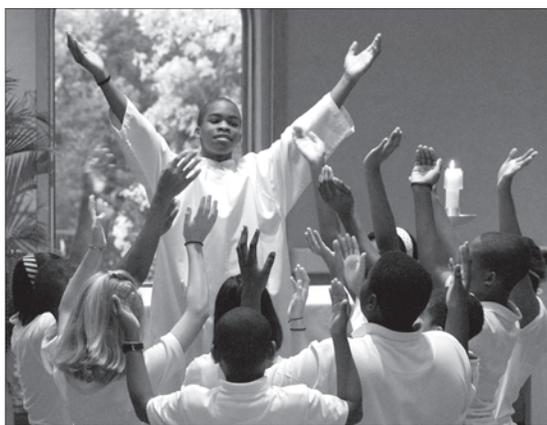
DAYTON—This fall two schools in Dayton, St. Rita and Precious Blood, will consolidate into one new school. When the decision was announced by the Cincinnati Archdiocese, the next question was: What do we call it?

Although both schools were sad to lose their separate identity, students, parents and faculty realized that a new name was needed to lead the new school into a vibrant future. More than 350 adult parishioners at both parishes responded to a survey about the school's name, offering many different suggestions. Of these, the winner hands down was... Mother Maria Anna Brunner, foundress of the Sisters of the Precious Blood.

With the awaited approval from the archdiocese, Precious Blood's pastor, Father Bill O'Donnell announced that the new school will be called **Brunner Catholic**, or **Mother Brunner** for short.

Fr. O'Donnell, a Missionary of the Precious Blood, and many parishioners said it was fitting to name

the school in honor of Mother Brunner because of the long connection and strong relationship with the Sisters of the Precious Blood. CPPS Sisters were the first teachers when both schools opened. Mother Brunner was also a married woman, mother, widow and grandmother, so many contemporary people can relate to her.



*Photo by Pat Morrison*

**During their retreat at Salem Heights, 7th-graders acted out the day's Gospel during Mass. Here Nnamdi Anene as Jesus receives praise from the disciples after the miracle of the loaves and fishes.**

A strong connection with the sisters and students continues, with students from Precious Blood School frequently visiting the sisters at Salem Heights for games, Halloween, pen pals, and this past year for their school retreat. Junior high students prayed morning prayer and attended the celebration of Mass in the sisters' chapel, with different classes taking turns acting out the Gospel of the day. They also joined the sisters for lunch and enjoyed time outdoors. Salem Heights was also the site for a team-building retreat for the 7th graders from both schools who will become the new eighth grade class at Mother Brunner.

# CPPPS Connections

Did you ever meet someone that you could never quite say “no” to? For 17 years, Sts. Peter and Paul parish in Sandusky, Ohio, was blessed to have a certain young director of religious education/pastoral associate serve our parish who certainly met that description.

Sr. Martha Bertke had the unique ability to see right into a person to find their strengths and then would invariably think of a parish ministry team where those strengths could be developed. She



would flash a smile at you that made you feel important, and thus invite you to share your story with her. We were never quite sure if it was the smile or perhaps the “slightly askew” halo on her head that created the personal magnetism. Either way, after spending just a few minutes with Martha, it was too late. You were hooked.

Precious Blood Sisters are indeed precious. When you looked at Martha (or Marty as she is known by friends) dedicating her entire life to God, you could not help but see the hand of the Holy Spirit at work. Unfortunately, Sister is no longer in Sandusky. In 2004, Martha relocated to Coldwater, Ohio, to be near her family in Maria Stein, where she continues her life of service to others even today.

Our parish definitely misses Martha but will forever treasure her in our hearts!

#### **Doug and Jan Drouillard and friends Sandusky, Ohio**

The Sisters of the Precious Blood taught me in grade school at [Our Lady of Good Hope] in Miamisburg, Ohio. Sister Cyril [Rose Margaret Langdon] taught me in first grade, Sister Mary Ann Westerheide in fourth. Sister Julie Ann Link was my teacher for fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades, and most influential in my vocation to CPPS and Precious Blood devotion.

*Editor's Note: In the Winter 2009 issue of Sharing & Caring, we invited readers to share with us and other readers their “CPPS Connection” — how they came to know the Sisters of the Precious Blood, an anecdote, memories of a particular sisters who was a teacher, friend or colleague.*

*The following is a further selection of the “Connections” we’ve received. More will be published in the Fall issue of Sharing & Caring.*

*Thanks to all of you who shared your thoughts, memories and gratitude!*

The sisters who worked in our seminaries were examples of prayer and humility and hard work. We owe them a lot.

Both the teaching sisters and those in domestic work were the greatest!

Keep up the good work!

#### **Brother Theophane Woodall, CPPS Carthagen, Ohio**

My connection to CPPS began the day I was born. My parents gave me a very special godmother, Sister Florence Seifert. When babysitting, Auntie Flo would wear her “Precious Blood Tigers” sweatshirt, get down on the floor and let us jump all over her while she “growled” — we called this game “Tiger.” Occasionally we would stay at the generalate where sisters read us books. We played in the backyard and with the water cooler downstairs!

That’s just the beginning of my connection. I went to Bishop Leibold School [Miamisburg, Ohio], where I was completely surrounded by sisters! These wonderful memories include Sister Cecilia Taphorn and her guitar, Sister Charlene Heidenreich’s silver Christmas tree, Sister Maria Speaks, my piano teacher, Sister Margie Huelsman’s “Peanuts” mural, and... Sister Susanna Laux singing in the choir.

My connection goes deeper than Bishop Leibold School, though. Many Precious Blood Sisters celebrated special times with us: First Communions, graduations, holidays, weddings, and eventually baptisms. Sister Rae Marie Ratermann made my First Communion dress and the baptismal gown for my children. We had many dinners with

Sisters Canice Werner, Barb Brown, Dorothy Schmitmeyer and [the late] Cordelia [Gast]. When I was grieving, Sister Beverly Bodnar comforted me.

I developed a special relationship with Sr. Canice. We would meet at Friendly’s and talk about the missionary work in Chile. To this day, we still communicate. My children have developed a special relationship with “Auntie Barb”; she plays games and goes on walks.

Every day I thank God for my special “connection” to the Sisters of the Precious Blood, especially for the incredible relationship I have with my godmother!

**Molly  
O’Connell  
Clifford  
Lyndhurst,  
Ohio**



**Sister Florence holds her godchild, Molly O’Connell in 1972. Below, Molly today with her children Matthew and Megan and Sister Canice Werner, a lifetime friend.**



**Sister Eileen (M. Cephas) Tomlinson**

March 22, 1917 — May 10, 2010

Perhaps heaven needed a little extra beauty, so God called Sister Eileen Tomlinson home on May 10, 2010. This woman of extraordinary art ability was born in Cincinnati on March 22, 1917, to Sheldon and Antoinette (Welage) Tomlinson. She entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood on January 31, 1937, and received the name

Sister Mary Cephas.

Sister Eileen taught art for more than 50 years, from Ohio to California: the Athenaeum and Regina High School in Cincinnati; the CPPS Motherhouse in Dayton; San Luis Rey Academy and the Loretto Art Studio in San Luis Rey, California. She was renowned for her artistic works in sculpture, ceramics, water color, calligraphy and the design of liturgical vestments and banners. In 2009, at the age of 92, Sister Eileen carved her

last statue of Mother Maria Anna Brunner, the congregation's foundress.

Eileen was a contemplative, a mystic, one whose life was lived with a deep awareness of God's presence and love — a love which flowed outward through the works of her hands. What was seen in her works was the fruit of her prayer, the depth of her Precious Blood spirituality, her love of the Eucharist, and her devotion to the Blessed Mother and to Mother Brunner. The works of her hands will remain long after she is gone and will be a source of inspiration for many. It is the woman behind the works who will remain in the hearts of all who knew her.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Eileen was celebrated at Salem Heights on May 13, 2010. Her two brothers had preceded her in death. She is survived by her niece, Faye Griffin, and nephew, R. John Tomlinson, both of Newport, Kentucky.

— Sister Jeanette Buehler



**Sister Clara Marie (M. Ildephonse) Tumbush**

December 5, 1919 — June 20, 2010

Sister Clara Marie Tumbush died Sunday, June 20, 2010, at the Maria-Joseph Living Care Center at age 90. She had been a Sister of the Precious Blood for 68 years. Her funeral liturgy was celebrated on June 23.

Clara Marie was born December 5, 1919, in Philothea, Ohio, to Henry and Frances (Wiemers) Tumbush. She was the youngest of eleven children, all of whom are deceased. She entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood on August 3, 1941, and received the name of Sister Mary Ildephonse.

Sister Clara Marie served in two primary ministries: domestic work in seminaries and episcopal residences, including St. Peter in Chains Cathedral in Cincinnati, where she was sacristan for eight years. Upon receiving training as a

licensed practical nurse she served for over 25 years at: Lourdes Hall in Dayton, Ohio; Kneipp Springs in Rome City, Ind.; the Maria-Joseph Center in Dayton; and St. Charles Seminary in Carthagena, Ohio. She retired to Salem Heights in 1990 where she did volunteer nursing until declining health necessitated her move to the Maria-Joseph Center in 2002.

Sister Clara Marie was described by a friend as a "special angel". She would respond to any need that might arise with loving care and concern. A quiet, gentle person with a warm smile, she was dedicated and compassionate. In her room at Emma Hall there was a plaque on her wall which read, "Growing old is not for sissies". Sister Clara Marie certainly was not a sissy as she walked the path of suffering and weakness the last years of her life.

— Sister Edna Hess

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.



**Sister Kathryn Ann (M. Everildis) Gunther**

April 25, 1926 — July 1, 2010

Sister Kathryn Ann Gunther, a Sister of the Precious Blood for 69 years, entered her eternal home on July 1, 2010, at Emma Hall of the Maria-Joseph Living Care Center in Dayton, Ohio. She was the daughter of Charles William Gunther and Mae Strominger-Ruppert Gunther of Wapakoneta, Ohio. She is survived by her sister, Ellen, of

Berkeley, California. Her two brothers, Edward and Charles, have preceded her in death.

Sister Kathryn entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood on August 11, 1941, after being well nurtured in her faith by family and the community at St. Joseph Parish in Wapakoneta. It was while attending daily Mass in 1941 that Kathryn felt a strong call to become a Sister of the Precious Blood.

Sister Kathryn's first mission was at Precious Blood Elementary School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for three years. She continued her teaching ministry in high schools in Ohio, Missouri and Indiana for 21 years. With the encouragement of Precious Blood Sister Gertrude Ann Droll, Sister Kathryn continued her ministry as a pastoral assistant and then moved into chaplaincy and

reflexology. Regardless of the ministry, she always gave more than anyone expected and did so with ease and great generosity. Sister Kathryn emulated the example of Jesus as he poured out every drop of his blood for all of us.

In the last four years of her life, Sister Kathryn suffered greatly from severe physical disabilities but continued to minister through prayer and correspondence. Words of complaint never passed her lips. When asked how she was, her response was always, "I am blessed." Sister Kathryn is indeed blessed as she now rests with God, whom she loved so deeply.

—Sister Madonna Ratermann

**Correction**

In the Spring issue of *Sharing & Caring*, two brothers of the late Sister Alma Catherine Huelskamp (page 14) were incorrectly identified. Sister Alma Catherine is survived by her brother Arthur (Art). Her brother Alfred is deceased.

We regret the error.

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.

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# Sister Consuella celebrates a century of life

*Continued from page 3*

her faithfully shuffling along with her walker at Salem Heights, on her way to attend daily Mass and Vespers in the chapel, and the noon and evening meals in the dining room.

But on May 31 a Scripture quote of Jesus in John's Gospel became a reality: "...When you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."

While she was walking in the hall outside her room, Sister Consuella fell and broke several bones. After a hospital stay she joined our other sisters in Emma Hall for nursing care. As she lies in bed she prays and reminisces... How many kinds of memories in these 100 years! It's common to hear her say, "Memories, oh memories!"

One of her favorite memories — and now her constant prayer — is her "Magnificat," which she composed in 1988 while having an experience at a house of prayer in Maggie Valley, N.C.:

## MY MAGNIFICAT

My soul is filled with blessed awe;  
My heart sings out in praise.

To think my Lord made me to  
His image,  
For this I'll thank Him all my days.  
He graced my soul with divinity  
His blessings He has outpoured  
This little one shudders to think;  
"Should I have been missed,  
my Lord!"

His love and His mercy follow me;  
His strong right arm leads me aright,  
As battling my pride and selfishness  
My soul is cleansed in His sight.

He feeds my hungry soul  
with strength  
At Eucharist each day.  
Oh, what a privilege, my Lord,  
That You and I unite this way!

Beginning today I'll "center" myself  
To deepen my love I'll pray,  
As I await that blessed day,  
My Lord shall call me Home to stay.

*Sister Noreen Jutte is archivist for the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Dayton. Sister Consuella has been her CPPS "Prayer Partner" for 20 years.*

## 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 Valeria Abele** on the death of her brother-in-law, Richard Abele, on April 17.

**Sister Alice Schoettelkotte** on the death of her brother-in-law, Harold Baker, on April 25.

**Sister Adeline Mertz** on the death of her brother, Robert Mertz, on May 2.

**Sister Barbara Jean Backs** on the death of her brother-in-law, Elmer Klosterman, on May 2.

**Sister Cecilia Taphorn** on the death of her brother-in-law, Bill Swearinger, on June 3.

**Sister Ann Catherine Lehmkuhl** on the death of her brother, Lester Lehmkuhl, on June 9.

**The Missionaries of the Precious Blood** on the death of Father Mario Bufalini (Atlantic Province) on June 20.

## REMEMBERING...

**Ed Kriegel**, brother-in-law of the late Sister Cordelia Gast, on April 8.

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.**



*Photo by Pat Morrison*

Here Sister Consuella gives stiff competition to Sister Paula Gero (left), during one of her favorite games, Scrabble.

## Check the web!

Remember that between issues of *Sharing & Caring* you can find updated news about the Sisters of the Precious Blood and events on the website. It's normally updated every two weeks on Friday afternoon.

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

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



## *What CPPS means to me...*

BY SISTER CECILIA TAPHORN

I think my religious vocation began in the sixth grade. I attended Nativity of Our Lord grade school in Cincinnati where the Sisters of Mercy taught. Sister Incarnata was my sixth-grade teacher and also my piano teacher. She was a very happy and kind person and left a huge impression on me.

After I graduated from eighth grade, I went to Regina High School in Norwood, Ohio, where the Sisters of the Precious Blood taught and lived in the convent attached to the school. I had many wonderful sisters for my classes, but my business teacher had a major influence on me. She, too, was very happy, kind and had a special way of acknowledging me. She went out of her way to talk to me and took an interest in my social life. As far as I can remember she never talked to me about being a sister.

I was a typical teenager. I was active in sports, went to parties, and was having fun. Unlike many teens, however, I went to daily Mass during Lent and to other devotions at the church. As a family we prayed the rosary each night. I had a feeling that I might have a religious vocation, but I didn't want to enter the convent.

My mother taught me by her example that unless a person does what God wants, one will never be happy. Of course, I wanted to be happy, so every night in my senior year I prayed, "Lord, help me to want what You want." I don't think I ever mentioned to anyone about saying that prayer each night. Yes, God did answer my prayer.

In April of my senior year after the sisters drove a careful of us girls to visit the Precious Blood Sisters' motherhouse in Dayton, I knew that I wanted to become a sister. To see the sisters as truly human and happy was of utmost importance to me. Those two qualities assured me that I would not lose my individuality or my joy and love for life.

I entered the community the following August, 1959. In all my educational and pastoral ministries, I have tried to share God's love in a personal way and to be a caring and life-giving presence. I am very grateful to God for calling me to serve the church as a Sister of the Precious Blood. They have been not only happy but very rewarding years... And yes, I'm still having fun!



*Learn more about the Sisters of the Precious Blood*

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