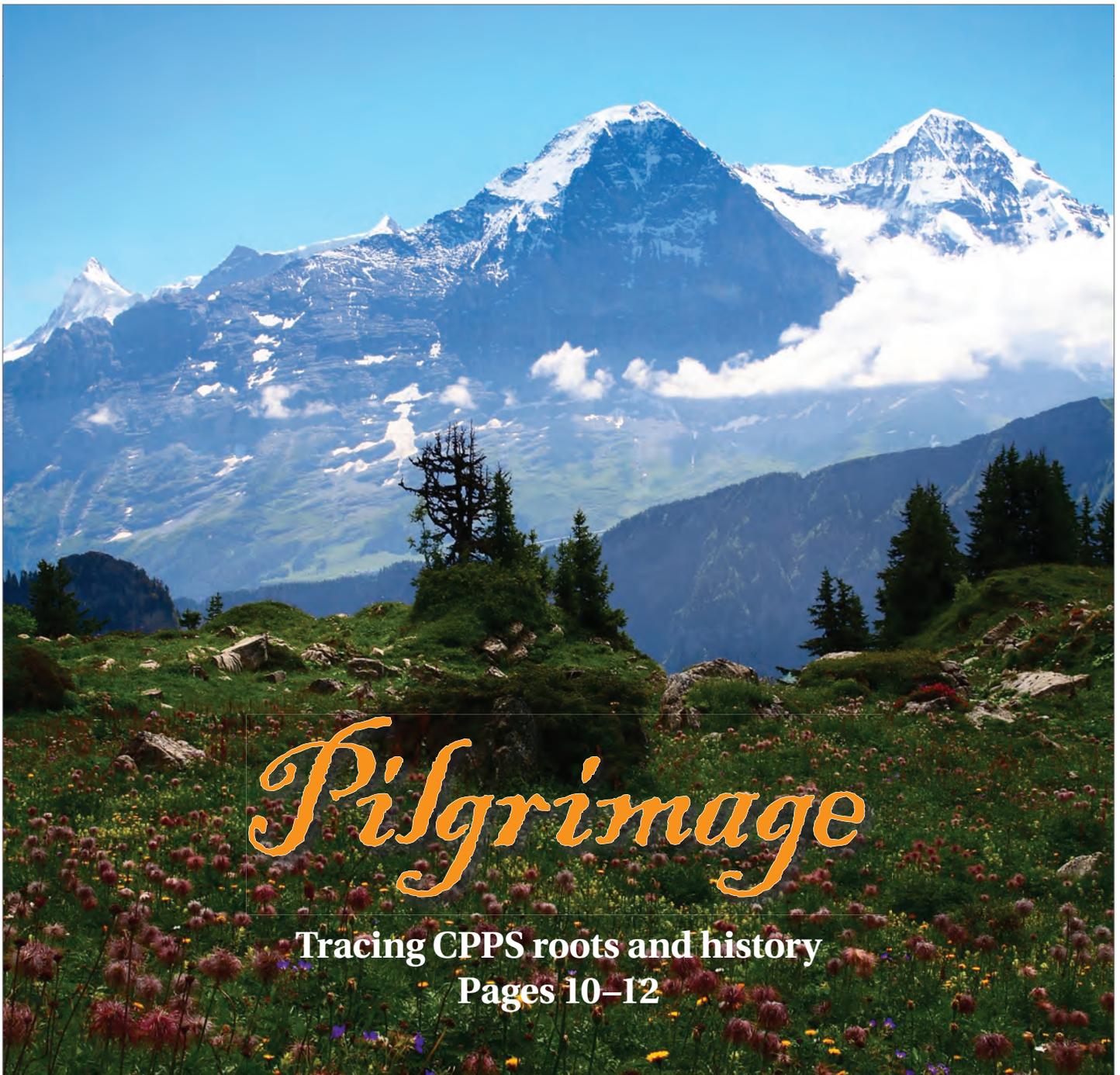




Sharing Caring

THE SISTERS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD ■ DAYTON, OHIO

Volume 20 Number 4 ■ Winter 2009



Pilgrimage

Tracing CPPS roots and history

Pages 10–12



A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcoming a new decade, new media

Back in the heady days of the '70s, I was a graduate student studying filmmaking and animation. Our professor was a marvelously creative Russian filmmaker, who had a penchant for predicting where technology was headed.

Within the decade, our instructor said, 16 mm reel-to-reel film will be passé. We'll witness nothing short of a revolution in the world of film. We'll have boxes to attach to our TV sets, he said, and will be able to pop in a plastic cassette with a feature film and view it right from our living rooms. And forget about going into

film animation as a career, because soon it will be mostly created by a computer.

Our typical collegiate response was to speculate that Professor Dimitri was hitting the vodka a bit too earnestly.

But in just 30 years we've moved light years beyond even those technological advancements. DVDs have replaced the video cassette, and today you don't even need a TV to watch the movie: you can view it on your computer, or even your cell phone!

It really is amazing to consider how much change we've witnessed in traditional media in this past decade, not to mention the advent of the "new media."

The new technology has already transformed language: Remember when a web was something spiders wove? When a mouse was a small rodent? When twitter and tweet were things that birds did? When "text" was a noun?

Today, you can store hundreds of images from your digital camera on a memory card smaller than a postage stamp. And on phones the size of a credit card, you can take, send and store photos and videos. You can add an "app" that lets you make the Vatican carillon your ring tone, upload the rosary to your iPod, have the entire Bible at your fingertips through a two-inch flash drive, even e-mail the pope if you're so inclined. Cincinnati's new archbishop gave a press conference — immediately posted to YouTube! Many religious and civic

Continued on page 14



Sister Rita



Sister Meta



Sister Elizabeth

In Loving Memory

As *Sharing & Caring* was in the final stages of production, the Sisters of the Precious Blood were saddened at the deaths of three sisters, within a week at the close of 2009 and start of 2010.

- **Sister Rita (M. Hilda) Sonderman** died December 31, 2009. She was 93.
- **Sister Meta Marie Creadon** died January 2, 2010. She was 85.
- **Sister Elizabeth (M. Irmina) Massarek** died January 6, 2010. She was 81.

A double funeral liturgy was celebrated for Sisters Rita and Meta on Jan. 5 at Salem Heights; the funeral liturgy for Sister Elizabeth was celebrated on Jan. 8. Interment for the three sisters was in Salem Heights Cemetery.

The complete texts of the eulogies for Sisters Rita, Meta and Elizabeth are available online at **www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org >In Memoriam.**



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.

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

A & B Litho, Inc., Trotwood, Ohio

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

What's *YOUR* 'CPPS Connection'?

An invitation to share your part in our history!



As this issue of *Sharing & Caring* goes to press, the Sisters of the Precious Blood are just concluding the yearlong celebration of the 175th anniversary of the congregation's founding. If you've been reading this newsletter and/or visiting the website, you will have shared in some of the news of the various celebrations around the country: the lecture series, an Open House, special events and liturgies in Dayton, Maria Stein, Glandorf and Cincinnati, Ohio; and in Arizona and California.

Wherever they have celebrated, the sisters have given thanks to God for the opportunity to minister in this particular place. But they've also given thanks for the goodness of the people among whom they lived and worked, and for what they, as individuals and as a congregation, have received and learned from God's people.

Each human being is touched and shaped in some way by the people we meet and interact with. Sometimes that interaction has taken place over the course of years. Sometimes it's been a brief encounter, even just a matter of minutes. But it's memorable.

During this anniversary year, many people have said how much they enjoyed the anniversary celebrations they attended because these gave them a chance once again to connect with Sisters of the Precious Blood — with sisters who perhaps taught them years ago, with whom they work now, or with whom they have forged some kind of connection through friendship, prayer, ministry.

As this special year draws to a close, *Sharing & Caring* invites you to share something about your own connection with the Sisters of the Precious Blood. It might be an anecdote from school days, a memory of a particular CPPS sister who touched your life, something about the anniversary year. If you're a former student, a friend, a colleague, a former member, we'd like to hear from you.

Tell Us About Your 'CPPS Connection'

Please send your submissions — 250 words or less — to *Sharing & Caring* by mail or e-mail (see below) or use the Contact Us form on the website:

www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org > **Contact us**

We will use some of these, as space allows, in future issues of *Sharing & Caring* and on the website. (By sending it to us, you give us permission to publish it, and to edit for space or clarity.)

PLEASE INCLUDE:

- your name, city and state, and an e-mail or phone number (in case we have questions).
- the name and city/town of the parish, school or ministry and the year(s) relating to your "CPPS connection."

MAIL TO:

**CPPS Connection – Sharing & Caring
Office of Communications
4960 Salem Avenue
Dayton OH 45416**

Or e-mail: Communications@PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org

DEADLINE: March 31, 2010



Vocations Ministry 2009: The year in review

BY SISTER CAROLYN HOYING

In the musical “The King and I,” Anna, the governess challenged with bridging East and West with her young charges (and their father the king), offers a perennially inviting message: “Getting to know you, getting to know all about you...”

In some ways, that’s a message which is at the heart of vocations work as well: We meet women discerning religious life — or sometimes initially not that specific, just what they feel God may be inviting them to be/do — and through programs, retreats and one-on-one visits and sharing, they get to know us. And at the same time, we get to know them — backgrounds and interests, and most importantly their hearts’ desires as they discern where and how God is calling them.

2009 was a year filled with some wonderful opportunities for this mutual “getting to know you.”

Women’s Inner Journey

The third Friday of every month we have been hosting an evening titled Women’s Inner Journey. It’s a gathering of lay women with the sisters for a simple meal, followed by evening prayer and then *lectio divina*, which is shared prayer based on the Scripture reading for Sunday’s liturgy.

The gatherings have been held at two Dayton locations: the Glen at St. Joseph, where five of us live, and at the Orchard House, another CPPS community of five sisters. Through Women’s Inner Journey we have met some wonderful women and hope to continue to meet and pray with them and with others.

Dayton and California events

October was a very busy month,

both in Dayton and in California.

The weekend of October 3-4 in Dayton brought the third in the 175th Anniversary Year’s lecture series with Precious Blood Father Barry Fischer on Saturday and a Mass of Thanksgiving at Precious Blood Church with Archbishop Daniel Pila-

Everybody has a vocation — God calls every member of the church by name. Seen in this light, the challenge is not to find out *whether* you have a vocation, but to identify the vocation you *unquestionably* have.

—Russell Shaw in *America* magazine

czyk on Sunday. (See *Fall Sharing & Caring* and the website for coverage and photos.)

Half a continent away from Dayton, the anniversary celebration continued at Mission San Luis Rey, one of CPPS’ historic ministry sites, with gala festivities the weekend of Oct. 16-18. With energy running high from the celebration, we purposely scheduled a retreat day for women, “Is God Calling You?,” on Oct. 24. Publicity announcing the retreat had been sent to all the diocesan offices and local media, and the California sisters, led by Sister Mary Yarger, spread the word locally to all the area parishes with bulletin notices and posters.

Four Spirit-filled women came for the retreat, which was hosted by Sister Terry Maher at her home, with another woman making the retreat two days earlier because of a scheduling conflict.

Before we began the day with prayer, there was a relaxed “getting to know you” time, while both retreatants and sisters shared a little about themselves. The day was multi-faceted, with a good mix of in-

teraction and prayer. Morning prayer took the form of imaginative Scriptures led by Sister Terry Walter. Sister Terry Maher told the story of her own call, noting how God continued to nudge her to say “yes.” In sharing her story, she used the steps in the discernment process that she took to come to her final decision to come and check it out. The discernment process continued after lunch. The last segment offered time for Q&A, followed by evening prayer using the church’s Liturgy of the Hours and *lectio divina*.

After a local newspaper received our news release about the retreat, they were interested in a follow-up story: What makes young women today consider religious life? So when the retreat was over, staff writer David Olson of Riverside’s *Press-Enterprise* newspaper interviewed retreatant Stephanie Rosas and also showcased Sister Terry Maher in her new ministry in pastoral care at St. Bernardine Medical Center. (See our website under News>In the News and follow the link to read his feature story, “A Catholic Woman’s Journey.”)

Workshop brings new insights

From California it was back to Dayton, where on the last weekend of October members of the Vocation/Initial Formation Team, the Vocation Advisory and Vocation Ministry Committee and community council gathered for a workshop with Divine Word Missioner Father Gary Riebe-Estrella of Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Father Gary’s expertise as a theologian is weaving theological themes together with everyday praxis, especially from the perspective of the U.S. Latino community. And from this lens, he views new ways for communities to explore and present religious life today. In 2008 he was awarded for outstanding

contributions to formation for religious life from the Religious Formation Conference. It was a powerful weekend filled with hope and challenge for all of us.

Woman's Day of Advent Reflection

On the second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 6, we hosted A Woman's Day of Advent Reflection at Salem Heights. More than 20 women of all ages and walks of life came together to pray with and explore the theme "Blessed are you among women."

Sister Donna Liette presented the first segment of the day. She invited the circle of women to introduce themselves to each other by saying the name of the person next to her and greet her with, "you are blessed among women." Then we reflected on what Mary means in our lives. As a reflection point, a baby blanket placed on the floor held a statue of a very pregnant Virgin Mary. (See page 19 "Letters" for one retreatant's sharing on the power of this experience for her.)

Following Mass and lunch, Sister Maryann Bremke presented the next segment of the day. She used a free-verse reflection from Edwina Gately's book *Soul Sisters* as the framework for a PowerPoint presentation on Mary and women. Quiet reflection time was the perfect follow-up to this powerful presentation.

The day's final segment



Mark your calendars now for the "Come and See" Discernment retreat March 12-14, 2010 at the Maria Stein Spiritual Center. Check the website for details closer to the date, or contact Sister Carolyn Hoying at the e-mail above.

was a session on contemplative prayer using Scripture. Sister Pat Will used the Visitation Gospel passage from Luke (1:39-56) as a prayer starter. Like Mary, the retreatants left with much to hold and ponder in their hearts. Many expressed thanks for the opportunity to take a break from the hectic pace of the holiday season to enter more deeply into the spirit of Advent's pregnant waiting with Mary.

What vocation shortage?

A few years ago, author Russell Shaw wrote an article in *America*, a Catholic weekly magazine, titled "What Vocation Shortage?" Each person, he wrote, has a personal vocation, but the majority of us don't see that our life choices as truly a call from God.

"The idea of personal vocation is the antidote," he writes. "Everybody has one — God calls every member of the church by name. Seen in this light, the challenge is not to find out *whether* you have a vocation, but to identify the vocation you *unquestionably have*."

So, what is God doing in you? We are called to be open to the whisper of God's gentle voice calling us... If you are someone who is willing to accept the challenge to follow Jesus Christ with the gift of your life, contact Vocations@PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org for more information.

Advent Retreat GLIMPSES

As the Blessed Virgin and Elizabeth might have, Dana and Christie share thoughts during the retreat.



Retreatants and sisters joined together in the Blessed Sacrament chapel for quiet personal prayer.



Renee in a prayerful moment of the retreat.



Lois and Maxine, members of St. Benedict the Moor Parish in Dayton, attended the retreat, along with Lois's twin sister, Louise.



By SISTER ELEANOR McNALLY

THE geographical center of the Navajo Nation is Chinle, Ariz. (Ch'inili). An experienced nurse, Sister Margaret Mary (M. Innocent) Imes began her ministry among the Navajo in 1971 at Chinle's Extended Care Hospi-

tal. It was a far cry from her previous ministry at St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica, California, where she nursed many a movie star back to health. Here, instead of Hollywood celebrities, she would minister to the area's indigenous people, and its poorest.

in splendor only by its 8,000-foot peaks.

As director of the clinic, Margaret Mary served among doctors, nurses and patients for eight years, bringing the healing hands of Christ to the native peoples. There were times when she felt the Navajo tradition and its deep ties to nature bordered on su-

perstition. But she did not let that get in the way of serving these peoples who, in spite of loss and persecution by our country, have given us a deep respect for the Great Spirit and this wonder-filled world.

of the U. S. Public Health Service Hospital. Many victims of drinking accidents came into her care; for the 12 years she served there, she spent much of her time consoling the families of those who had died in often tragic circumstances. On her meditative walks, Sister Margaret Mary often stopped to pray at the many crosses that marked this desert land— crosses that paid tribute not

In 1979, Margaret Mary was called from northern Arizona to the state's south, and to ministry among another Indian nation. Here was the

Among the Southwest's



Photos courtesy CPPS Archives

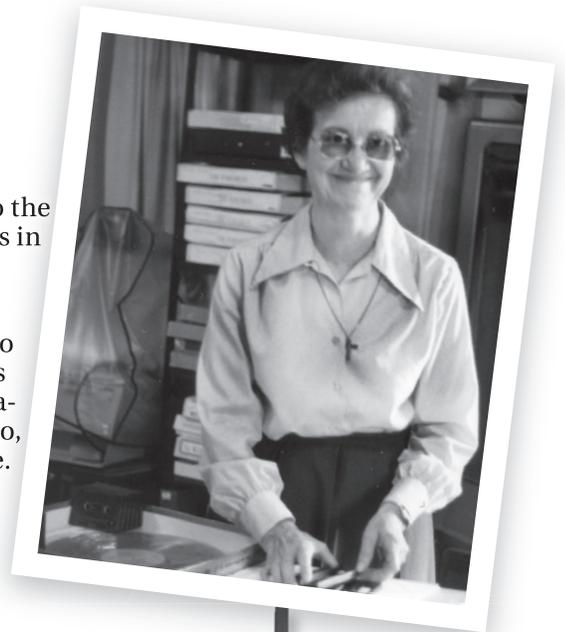
At left, newly professed Sister M. Innocent later went on to devote more than 20 years to ministry in Arizona among the peoples of the Navajo and Tohono O'odham Papago nations. At right, an older woman, now Sister Margaret Mary, she pauses for a snapshot outside her small mobile home in Sells, where she worked in the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital serving the Papago.

only to the crucified Christ, but in a powerful way also recalled the sufferings of the peoples who lived in the region.

From the emergency room she later moved to nursing care in the hospital's outpatient department. When she retired in 1993, she continued her volunteer service as a Eucharis-

cious Blood Sisters responded to the call to serve other native peoples in the Southwest.

The Diocese of Gallup covers northern sections of New Mexico and Arizona. Within its confines are five Native American reservations — the nations of the Navajo, Hopi, Laguna, Zuni, and Apache.



Native peoples

tic minister in the hospital and in the parish near her home, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

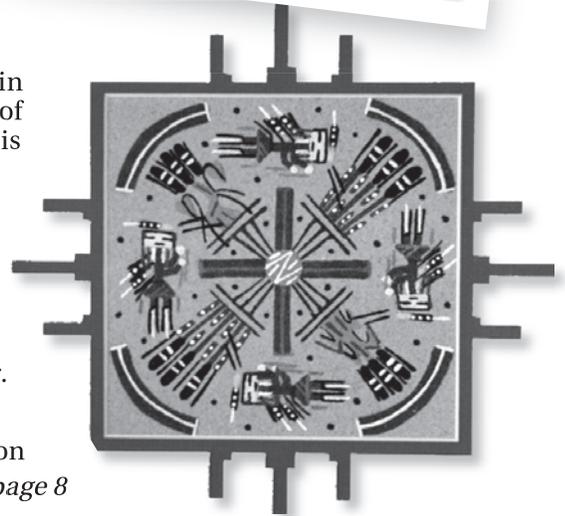
Sister Margaret Mary's quiet, giving presence in Sells was recognized when she was presented with a special award honoring her loving service to the Tohono O'odham division of the Papagos.

Just two years after Sister Margaret Mary began her ministry among the Navajo and later the Tohono O'odham Papagos, two other Pre-

Sister Gemma Koenig arrived in the Gallup Diocese and the city of Holbrook, Ariz., in 1973. Here this talented educator helped establish the Christian Formation Center and Library, and became its director. Within the year, she knew she needed help, and knew right where to turn: her younger sister, Dorothy (Sr. M. Angelista), joined her.

Together they ministered not only to the indigenous population

Continued on page 8



Photos courtesy CPPS Archives

CPPS "sister sisters" Gemma and Dorothy (M. Angelista) Koenig brought the liturgical and sacramental updating of the Second Vatican Council to pastoral workers and the people of the Diocese of Gallup, N.M. Above, outside the diocese's evangelization office; top right, Sister Dorothy among the audio-visuales used for teacher training; bottom right, Gemma in the Christian Formation and Evangelization Center she helped launch for the diocese. Center: a traditional native sand painting, a gift to Sister Margaret Mary Imes.



Among the Southwest's Native peoples

Continued from page 7

but to the variety of cultures and ethnic groups in the area.

Both Koenig “sister sisters” were gentle, loving persons who quickly adapted to the dry barren land with its snows in winter and sand storms in summer. And both learned patience: Often in traveling the rutted roads, they had to stop and wait for flocks of sheep being herded by the Navajos to cross the roadway.

It didn't take Dorothy long to master the intricacies of the audio-visual media for the diocesan teacher training programs which Gemma conducted. Thanks to her expertise and comfort level with this then-new technology, Dorothy soon became coordinator of audio-visual material for the whole diocese.

This was an exciting time in the church as well as in society. The reforms of the Second Vatican Council were being implemented across the country and around the world. Across the large Gallup Diocese, the two sisters enthusiastically introduced the liturgical and sacramental *aggiornamento*, or updating, that Vatican II had called for to the Native Americans, the Spanish speaking and the Anglo community. Through their many workshops, Sisters Gemma and Dorothy skillfully blended the new liturgical and sacramental reforms into the native culture.

The effectiveness of this CPPS duo's work caught the attention of Gallup's bishop, Jerome Hastrich, who wrote to them in 1977: “Just a note to tell you that I appreciate your initiative in spreading our Teacher Training Program. I heard about your good work from time to time, and want you to know I appreciate all you are doing.”

Eager to be of service in other ways, Gemma did tutoring at the Indian Dormitory in Holbrook and also served as a substitute teacher there and at the reservation. Dorothy worked as a first-grade teacher's aide in the local public school.

In 1983, the two moved to the diocese's Religious Education Office in Gallup, where they continued in their official capacities and also served as Eucharistic ministers and lectors at of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish.

The following year, Sister Gemma accepted a short-term ministry in Chinle, and then moved to Phoenix where she



CPPS Sisters who worked in the Southwest often received Native American art and artifacts as gifts from the people. The vase, above, depicts a Navajo tribal dance of women and men. The delicately woven lidded basket is a hallmark of Tohono O'odham craftsmanship.

worked at St. Gregory School. Sister Dorothy, too, found herself called to an unexpected ministry: the care of their elderly and infirm father. After his death, she later moved to Phoenix also, where she worked on behalf of senior citizens.

Both sisters “officially” retired in 1993 to Sun City, Ariz., Gemma volunteering with the elderly at the large St. Elizabeth Seton Parish.

Sister Gemma died in 2006, Sister Margaret Mary Imes in 2008. For

both these Precious Blood Sisters who spent many years in this ministry, the native peoples of the region — and all the people of the Southwest they served — always had a special place in their hearts.

Sister Dorothy still lives in Sun City, where she still energetically serves as a volunteer with the St. Vincent de Paul Society in its work with the homeless, and especially with the diocese's Catholic Outreach Center. In her early 80s herself, she says she enjoys her work “with the elderly.” She provides respite care, and visits infirm seniors in their homes. “One man I visit is 98... I never know if he'll be here the next time..” she says.

“I don't ‘do’ much except be present to them — and for many that's the best thing one can do, be ‘company’ to them,” she told *Sharing & Caring* in a telephone interview in December. “They're often lonely, and sometimes all it takes is a short visit to cheer them up.”

“I'm happy I have the good health to still keep busy as a volunteer,” Sister Dorothy reflected.

Although 25 years have passed since her ministry among the native peoples, she too, remembers them fondly.

“Not everyone can adapt to ‘the Indian way,’ of life, she said.

Time-fixated non-Indians, for example, are often frustrated by the apparently casual, relaxed pace of native life, she said. “You had to understand, when you had a program, that they might show up an hour ‘late’ (by our standards), or not at all. But that's part of the Indian way — people, life's events that happen from moment to moment, are more important than a schedule.”

But the Precious Blood Sisters who ministered among the native peoples



Photo by Ambria Hammel, The Catholic Sun, www.catholicsonline.org. Reprinted with permission.

Sister Mary Louise Hoelscher, foreground (see Fall *Sharing & Caring*), and Sister Dorothy Koenig are veterans of decades of service among the Native Americans of the Southwest. Here, during the presentation of gifts, Sister Dorothy is greeted by Franciscan Father Vince Mesi, pastor of St. Mary's Basilica in Phoenix. The basilica was the site of the Phoenix celebration of CPPS' 175th anniversary in March.

did adapt to "the Indian way." "And once we got used to its differences (from Anglo culture), we loved it."

"The Indian peoples are hospitable, grateful and welcoming," she said. And despite the grinding poverty of reservation life (and even beyond the reservation), she said, "I most of all admired their joyfulness. I learned so much from them..."

That has been the ongoing refrain of the Precious Blood women who

served, whether for a few years or for decades, among the native peoples of the Southwest:

We came to teach, but instead we learned so much.

We came to give, but instead we were enriched by so many gifts.

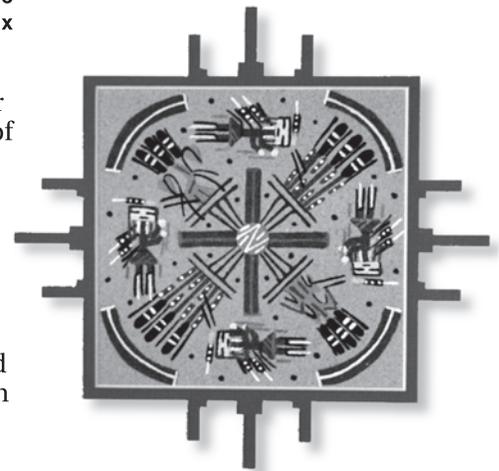
The sisters all agreed they received so much from the deep faith and rich culture of the peoples they came to minister to and live among.

Today, most of those early ministries have been ended and sisters have moved on to serve in other places. Many of the sisters who served in the Southwest have gone home to God.

But the names of these native peoples and their proud nations rest gently on the hearts and memories of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, like a litany of prayer and praise:

Mexican-Americans, Apache, Hopi, Tohono O'odham Papago, Pima, Zuni, Yaqui, Navajo...

And they give thanks.



Arizona conference room honors Sister Luca

A catch-all once dubbed "Luca's Closet" is transformed into a conference room at the Franciscan Renewal Center, dedicated to this CPPS sister who worked tirelessly for the area's poor

BY SISTER HELEN WEBER

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona — As the sun rises in the Arizona sky, warming the land on the north side of Camelback Mountain, the buildings of the Franciscan Renewal Center — popularly known as The Casa — mirror the brightness of the sun in their white stucco walls. One recently refurbished building

displays its name in large letters over the door: SISTER LUCA.

From 1968 to 1989, Precious Blood Sister Luca Junk worked for the area's Catholic Charities, directly serving the poor of Phoenix. As a 60-year-old teacher, she had come to the Southwest from the Midwest hoping that

Continued on page 18

Photo courtesy CPPS Archives

Sister Luca Junk was tireless in collecting and distributing food, clothing and household items to help the poorest in the barrios around Phoenix.



Editor's note: In conjunction with the 175th anniversary of CPPS' founding, the congregation had offered sisters who hadn't done so the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the places connected to the congregation's founding and to other sites related to the Precious Blood family. In September 2009, a group of 15 sisters made this historic 10-day pilgrimage to Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Italy.

One of the pilgrims was Sister Helen Weber. Sharing & Caring is pleased to offer readers this armchair tour.

BY SISTER HELEN WEBER

As a small trickle of a mountain stream becomes a roaring river, so does an inspiration reinforced by God's grace and personal passion

began where our foundress Maria Anna Brunner began, in the hills and valleys of western Switzerland.

After our long overnight flight across the Atlantic and settling into Maria Stein Abbey, we spent the first day where it all began for Maria Anna Probst: the villages of her birth and childhood and then her home after she married John Baptist Brunner. Until she was 68 years old



Pilgrimage

Tracing CPPS roots and history



of one woman become a throng of almost 2,000 women inspired by her devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus.

A serene Swiss valley was the birthplace of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. A group of 15 sisters undertook a pilgrimage following in the footsteps of Maria Anna Brunner from Switzerland to Rome in her quest to discover the will of God. We

she never lived outside of the villages on the grassy slopes of Beibelberg in Canton Solothurn. Although we weren't able to enter the home belonging to the Brunners, we were able to absorb the peacefulness and the beauty of the area.

We soon realized that Maria Anna's mountainous trek to the village for Mass would daunt many of her spiritual daughters.



PHOTOS: 1. St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, at dusk; 2. Benedictines at Maria Stein, guestmaster Father Armin and Abbot Peter; 3. tomb of St. Gaspar del Bufalo in the Church of Santa Maria in Trivio, Rome; 4. and inset, CPPS pilgrims pray in the chapel of the Precious Blood, Sorrowful Mysteries near the Brunner homestead in Switzerland.



Within a hundred yards of the Brunners' house we made our first connection: It was a stunning modern chapel dedicated to the Precious Blood built in 1974 by Ida Hanggi and others in memory of Mother Brunner. Our voices filled the silence of the countryside with prayer and song.

During her life, Maria Anna spent many hours visiting the various shrines of Switzerland, so it was proper in following in her footsteps that we do the same. We left Maria Stein Abbey only after we attended Mass at the Shrine of Maria of the Rock (*Maria im stein*). Then, enroute to her further adventures we stopped for a visit at one of her favorite sanctuaries: Einsiedeln and the Black Madonna.

At the persuasion of her children, the widowed Maria Anna sold her home when she was 66 and, for a short time lived with her daughter. Then her eldest son, Francis de Sales, asked her to come and help him in the domestic work of a seminary he was starting in an old castle across the country in Canton Graubunden.

So Maria Anna left the gentle, rolling hills she had known from birth and went the rugged region of eastern Switzerland — a very different world. There she assisted her son and returned to her prayer and works of charity, as she was still in the quest of learning what God's will might be for the rest of her life.

We CPPS pilgrims followed Maria Anna across Switzerland to the site of Castle Loewenberg. The hardy members of the group climbed the hilly terrain to search for the ruins

Continued on page 12

5. In the chapel of the original Maria Stein Shrine, Sister Mary Ellen Andrisin places prayer intentions at the altar of the Blessed Virgin. The intentions were sent to the CPPS Maria Stein Center in Ohio, to be brought to the Swiss Marian shrine. 6. Hardy pilgrims climb the rugged terrain to Castle Loewenberg. 7. The Swiss landscape near Mother Brunner's home. 8. CPPS pilgrims with the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Schellenberg; Archbishop Wolfgang Haas of Vaduz, Liechtenstein, is at bottom left.

CPPS Photographers: Sister Joanne Belloli: 1, 2, inset 4; Sister Mary Ellen Andrisin: 3, 4, 6; Sister Mary Lou Schmersal: 5, 7.



Pilgrimage

Continued from page 11

of the castle. Today on the site of the castle there is a large institute, displaying the Loewenberg coat of arms. Where Mother Brunner formerly helped young seminarians, the institute there today serves immigrants. Some of the CPPS pilgrims gathered rocks from their discovery of the site, the rock of our foundation!

In December 1832, Francis de Sales Brunner decided to take a trip to Rome to further his request to do missionary work. His mother decided to go with him to continue and deepen her search for the will of God.

We CPPS pilgrims followed in their steps by taking the train from Switzerland to Rome. But before we left the beauties of the Alps we visited another site, one which later impacted the life of the congregation: Schellenberg.

The Sisters of the Precious Blood located at Schellenberg in the tiny principality of Liechtenstein are the descendents of our congregation. In the 1850s, many young women in Europe were seeking admittance into the congregation in the United States. Father Brunner decided to create a convent that would be a “vocational testing ground” for candidates in Europe. This convent was erected in Schellenberg.

The sisters living there now are the continuation of that first community that functioned as something of a “feeder” convent for vocations to the young Sisters of the Precious Blood in America. However, in 1896 the Schellenberg sisters became an independent congregation.

The Schellenberg sisters warmly came out to greet their CPPS pilgrim “cousins” from the United States. After praying and singing together with the Schellenberg sisters, visiting their Brunner museum, and enjoying a lovely repast, (and posing for the requisite souvenir photo with them), the pilgrims went to the cemetery and prayed for our sisters buried there.

The train trip from Zurich to Rome was long and tiring. But it was easier than Mother Brunner’s trip, which required trains to stop frequently for more fuel and water for the steam engines. We decided that our ancestor was made of tougher stuff than we are! We arrived almost on schedule in the Eternal City. We went directly to our pilgrim residence, which was literally across the street from St. Peter’s Square. We were lulled to sleep by the bells of St. Peter’s chiming every 15 minutes.

In addition to Dayton CPPS, there are several women’s Precious Blood congregations, and of course the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, priests and brothers. It was Maria Anna’s son, Father Brunner, who was also instrumental in bringing the Missionaries of the Precious Blood to the United States. An Italian priest,

St. Gaspar del Bufalo, had founded the Missionaries in Italy. Later, another women’s congregation, the Adorers of the Blood of Christ (ASC) was founded by a young Italian woman, St. Maria De Mattias, who drew her inspiration from St. Gaspar’s spirituality and ministry.

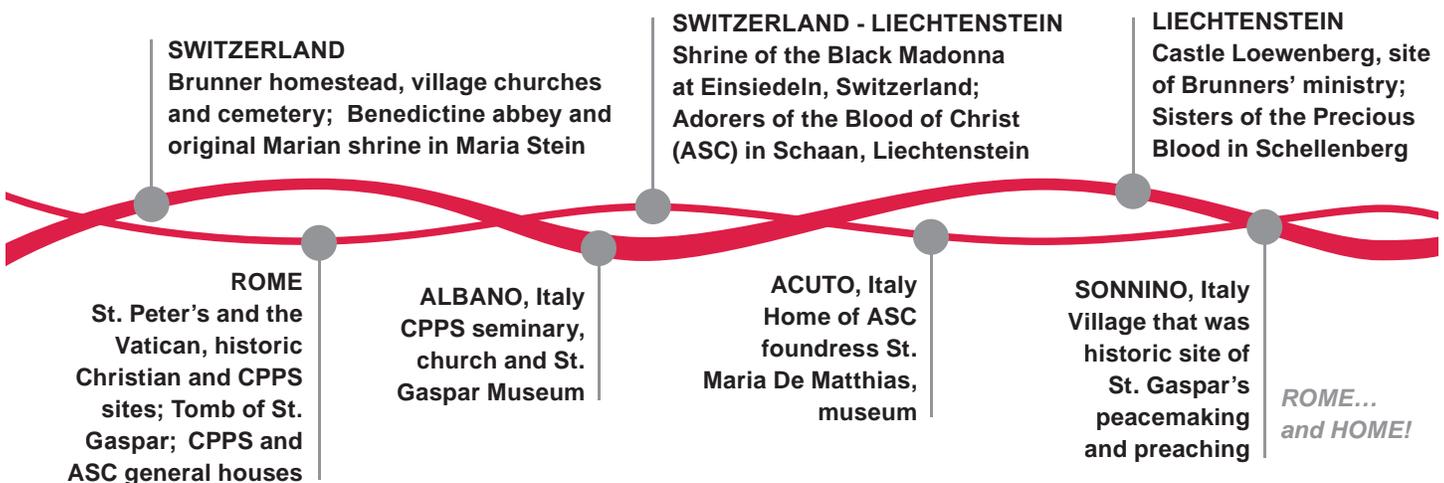
With this rich family history and connections, it’s not surprising that our time in Italy was spent primarily visiting the places where St. Gaspar and St. Maria De Mattias lived and ministered.

Precious Blood Father Emanuele Lupi and Sister Emilia of the ASCs were our gracious companions and expert tour guides as we traveled to the churches and congregational houses in Rome and the towns of Albano, Acuto and Sonnino. In each place we grew in our understanding and appreciation for the works of these two saints and co-workers in the Precious Blood.

While in Rome, we did make sure to take time to be tourists as well as pilgrims. We visited St. Peter’s Basilica and the art galleries of the Vatican Museums, particularly the Sistine Chapel. We also went underground, literally, to experience the catacombs.

Memories of this anniversary-year pilgrimage will fade with time, but what we have gained through the experience is forever part of us. From that small and humble beginning — one passionate woman filled with the love of God — came generations of women dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus.

Pilgrimage Timeline, September 10-21



More Anniversary Year Highlights



Photo by Sister Carolyn Hoying

Franciscan Father Chuck Talley, pastor of San Luis Rey Mission Parish, and members of the parish staff pose for a souvenir shot with Sisters of the Precious Blood attending the celebration. Pictured with Fr. Talley (front) is Sister Gladys Marie Lowe; others, from left, are: Sisters Terry Maher, Joyce Langhals and Janet Winandy; Angie Muro, parish youth minister; Sister Marita Beumer; and front, (at Fr. Talley's left), Wanda King, director of the parish Montessori school.

Historic mission is site of CPPS anniversary weekend

OCEANSIDE, California— The lovely and historic Mission San Luis Rey and its vibrant adjacent faith community was the site of the Oct. 16-18 weekend that marked the California festivities of the congregation's 175th anniversary.

A Mass of Thanksgiving in the historic mission church on Saturday, Oct. 17, was a highlight of the weekend. Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino was the presider, and several area priests, including Fr. Chuck Talley, pastor of San Luis Rey Mission Parish, concelebrated the liturgy. More than 400 attended the Mass and luncheon which followed.

In addition to San Luis Rey parishioners, other guests included members of Blessed Sacrament Parish in San Diego; friends and co-workers from parishes and St. Bernardine Medical Center in San Bernardino, and former students of the San Luis Rey Academy which the sisters staffed.

Twenty-four CPPS Sisters from across the country joined the eight currently living and working in California. Many of these were natives of the Southwest, or had spent years serving in the Golden State, where CPPS was first planted in 1913.

During the luncheon, Sister Florence Seifert, CPPS president, presented legacy donations of \$15,000 each to

Continued on page 14

Memories abound at 175th celebration in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI—On Nov. 15, more than 275 well-wishers and Precious Blood Sisters filled St. Margaret Mary Church in Cincinnati's North College Hill neighborhood to offer thanksgiving for God's blessings and CPPS ministry in the region.

Ties to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati area strong, since CPPS sisters were invited to the then-diocese in 1846, originally to serve the needs of the growing German immigrant population. The parish is just one of several where Precious Blood Sisters served since their arrival in the Cincinnati area in 1892, where they first began teaching at St. Rose Parish. They taught at St. Margaret Mary School for 60 years. And also in Cincinnati they founded and staffed their own Regina High School for 49 years.

Fathers James Schutte and Jerry Gardner, St. Margaret Mary's pastor, concelebrated the liturgy, which, appropriate to the celebration, was the votive Mass of the Precious Blood. Fr. Schutte challenged the sisters to keep "shouting" the message of God's love and care; they "shout" by their presence, their ministry, their prayer, he told the assembly. After the Creed, all CPPS sisters present renewed their vows.

Following the liturgy, the celebration continued in the parish's Madonna Hall. There Sister Florence Seifert, CPPS president, presented a legacy donation of \$17,500 on behalf of the congregation to Sister Barbara Hagedorn, president of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. The donation is for the new Cristo Rey School which the Sisters of Charity are sponsoring, scheduled to open in 2011. The new school's president, Joliet

Continued on page 14



Photo by E.L. Hubbard, www.elhubbard.com

Smiles were in abundance as Precious Blood Sisters and well-wishers crossed the parking lot to St. Margaret Mary Parish's Madonna Hall for the reception following the Mass of Thanksgiving.

For full news coverage and more photos, visit the website:
www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org

175th Highlights

California *Continued from page 13*

St. Charles Mission School, St. Michael Indian School, and to Catholic Charities of the San Bernardino and San Diego dioceses. The donation to Catholic Charities is to assist immigrants who are eligible to legalize or secure their status in the United States but do not have the funds.

In addition to the Eucharistic liturgy, the weekend included several significant gatherings: Friday night brought a warm reunion of CPPS Sisters and former members and co-workers. Sunday morning the CPPS in attendance visited the mission cemetery for a prayer service honoring the memory of the 136 deceased sisters who had lived and ministered at San Luis Rey or Escondido. The sisters gathered around the grave of Sister Hildebertha Gutman, the only CPPS Sister buried in California, as the names of all were read aloud and remembered in prayer and song.

Later Sunday morning, at the pastor's invitation, the celebration continued at the 10 a.m. liturgy with the parish family. After Mass, the parish's women's group, Las Madrinas, hosted a reception for the sisters in the dining room of the former academy where so many CPPS women have served.

Historic displays of mementos and photos and a PowerPoint presentation tracing CPPS history and ministry in California were a fitting background for the color, song and conversation that characterized the San Luis Rey celebration.

Cincinnati *Continued from page 13*

Franciscan Sister Jeanne Bessette, was also on hand to receive the donation.

"We see this as a continuation of the legacy of the Sisters of the Precious Blood in education and other ministries in the Cincinnati area," Sister Florence said, noting that CPPS looks forward to continued collaboration with the Sisters of Charity.

New decade, new media

Continued from page 2

leaders and even just "ordinary folk" have joined the revolution and set up a personal page on Facebook or are writing a blog, to get their message to the widest audiences possible.

Although our CPPS plunge into the technological revolution may be modest by some standards, it's heartening to see the results. In the past decade, the CPPS Technology Committee has helped all the congregation's members who so wished get connected by e-mail and to navigate in the world of computers and the internet. It's great to see even sisters in their 90s enjoying this new technology, connecting with family and friends by computer and surfing the web.

We continue to explore ways to keep sisters around the country and around the world connected and informed about the ongoing technology conversation.

In the Communications Office, we're constantly updating the website, posting new photos and stories. Currently our skilled "web tech," Michelle Bodine, is in the process of "building" newly designed pages, doing the behind-the-scenes work of getting them ready to make their debut soon.

One of the more interesting aspects of working with the website is reading the "traffic reports," which detail how many visitors come to the site, how long they stay, what pages they visit most often, and even what countries our visitors are from. In our most recent report, our CPPS website had over 1,800 visitors in a day, with close to 22,000 over the course of a week. Obviously, there's no shortage of interest in the Sisters of the Precious Blood and what they're doing!

As we hope you've noticed, we're also making *Sharing & Caring* more interactive, with the "mouse" logo pointing readers to the website for fuller coverage, more photos or archived stories. And you can also read *Sharing & Caring* online — including back issues to 2006.

As with anything new, of course, there's the danger that all this technology simply spawns out-of-control greed and consumerism, creating more unnecessary "toys" and gadgets to clutter our lives and our landfills. Sometimes the "bells and whistles" are literal — as when omnipresent cell phones or electronic games or texting steal any semblance of silence from our lives, to our great detriment. And when millions of people on our planet are dy-

ing for want of basic necessities like food and clean water, is it even moral to covet a "cooler" phone or a GPS or the newest Wii?

But as people of faith and hope, we also recognize that these newest technological creations can and should be used to proclaim the Good News. As Precious Blood people, we know they can advance Christ's own mission of healing and reconciliation.

We might not personally feel a need to embrace, use, (or even understand!) all these new inventions and social networking, but we can appreciate their power for good.

A wise response to all of this might be that of Samuel Morse when he sent the first telegraph message from D.C. to Baltimore in 1844. Awed by the potential of this then radically new technology, Morse also saw God's providential role in its development. He tapped out the message, from the Bible's Book of Numbers: "What hath God wrought!"

Wherever he is today, I'm sure Professor Dimitri would raise a toast to that!

— Pat Morrison

Staying in the Fire offers candid exploration into the impact of change

Staying in the Fire: A Sisterhood Responds to Vatican II
By Phyllis M. Kittel; WovenWord Press, 2009

REVIEWED BY SISTERS BENITA VOLK AND JOYCE LEHMAN

After nine years the project originally called the Jubilee History is now completed. Phyllis Kittel (the former Sister Mary Harold) has done an amazing job of listening to the stories of Precious Blood Sisters, reflecting on our experiences and articulating our CPPS journey since Vatican Council II.

Curious about how the many changes she was observing had occurred since she left our community in the late '60s, Phyllis approached the congregation's general council with the request to explore and write about how CPPS women had implemented the Second Vatican Council's directives for change. The council accepted her proposal and gave her unprecedented access to both the congregation's archives and members. Originally begun as an oral history, the book evolved into our story told through Phyllis' voice.

As you read *Staying in the Fire*, you will recognize the lived experience of Sisters of the Precious Blood in ways that were not previously articulated. What you might not find in this book is a detailed explanation of specific events with their particular nuances. But what you will find is a unique insight into and overview of the progression of the lives of Sisters of the Precious Blood illustrating the change from what we were to what we are.

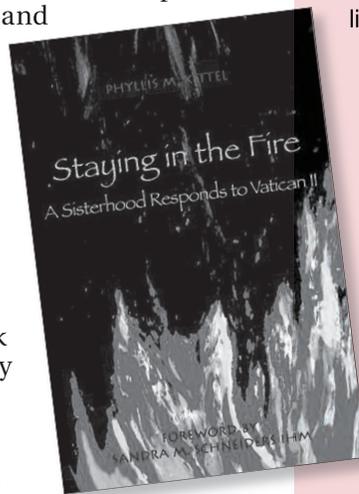
It's a pleasure to read "our" story from Phyllis' fresh perspective. Particularly enjoyable are the individual — and often inspiration-

al — stories, many of which you may never have heard before.

In her foreword to *Staying in the Fire*, (see sidebar), IHM Sister Sandra Schneiders, a respected theologian and analyst of religious life, says that "Phyllis Kittel has written an extremely important, very timely work that is badly needed in the Catholic Church today." The laity will find this book especially helpful in answering their questions about what has happened to the "good Sisters."

Phyllis herself says, of the congregation and her discoveries about it for *Staying in the Fire*: "Having kindled the spark and come to live within their own renewing fire, the Precious Blood sisters are becoming more of what they have always been, women of prayer. From the overflow of their prayer, they offer — in witness and in ministry — their gift to a needy world: the bread of life first baked by Maria Anna Brunner."

For more information about *Staying in the Fire*, contact WovenWord Press at www.wovenword.com.



Excerpts from the Foreword

As... a former member and continuing friend of the congregation she studies,... Dr. Kittel collected 40 focused, intensive-extensive oral histories of members of the community who have lived through the renewal of religious life in response to Vatican II.

Weaving these first-person testimonies into an integrated living history she describes in depth, often in the sisters' own words, their experience in regard to prayer, ministry, community life, the vows. With their help she analyzes the community's remarkable journey from a fervent pre-conciliar convent life of sacralized routine, uniform prayer and observance, generous collective works, minimal individuality in life and ministry to the vibrant life of a renewed religious congregation....

Kittel probes all the areas in which religious have struggled and won through to new and deeper understanding of their life and commitment to it (and) she does not avoid the challenging issues... She gets her finger on the pulse of the process as well as the results of renewal...

The reader is allowed to witness, firsthand as it were, how the reciprocal interaction between the theology of renewal and day-to-day living have generated the actual experience of corporate re-creation in one... religious congregation over the four decades the process has been underway. [*Staying in the Fire*] puts warm flesh (and Precious Blood) on the theoretical skeleton and illuminates the sometimes dark process of creating a path where there are no maps....

It should be read by lay people who know by experience that the sisters are on the right track but do not know how to answer the nostalgic traditionalists pining for the habited nuns of their youth.

It should be read by young people attracted to religious life today who wonder if there is any way to live this life authentically that does not require dropping out of the real world by a return to some medieval lifestyle.

And it will be read, I am sure, with delight by many people who are just curious about "what makes nuns tick."

—Sister Sandra M. Schneiders, IHM
Monroe, Michigan

175th Anniversary gift: a special scholarship to St. Joseph College

RENSSELAER, Indiana — The Rensselaer Program of Church Music and Liturgy at St. Joseph College is the recipient of a \$15,000 legacy donation from the Sisters of the Precious Blood. Sister Florence Seifert, CPPS president, presented the donation on July 25 to Dr. Steven Janco, the program's director. The gift was part of the monies set aside by the congregation to be used in areas of ministries, in gratitude for the blessings received over the past 175 years.

Sister Florence thanked the students for their dedicated hours of church music and liturgical ministry, often in positions that are volunteer or low-paying. She said CPPS rejoiced that advancing the students' education and skills as musicians and liturgists would serve the wider church for years to come. The donation was met with a standing ovation from the graduate students, faculty and more than 100 guests in attendance.

In accepting the donation, Dr. Janco said the gift would be titled the Sisters of the Precious Blood Scholarship, to be placed in a special fund to provide scholarships to deserving graduate students. He said he was particularly grateful because the gift would not only enable students to participate in the program who otherwise would not have the financial means, but it would also provide a sound financial footing for the program.

Dr. Janco introduced St. Joseph College's president, Dr. F. Dennis Riegelneegg, who offered his own thanks and welcome and expressed his hope that the collaboration between the sisters and the college would continue for many years to come.

Attending the celebration with Sister Florence were Sisters Donna Liette and Sister Joyce Ann Zimmerman. Sister Donna was the last CPPS Sister to serve on faculty at the college. Sister Joyce Ann taught an intensive course in sacramental theology there in 2008 and will be a presenter for one of the three Rensselaer Lectures in 2010 marking the program's 50th anniversary year.

Sister Joyce Ann spoke briefly of the congregation's 175th anniversary year and of the continuous collaboration between the Missionaries of the Precious Blood who sponsor the college and the sisters who served on the campus for many years in domestic arts and on the teaching staff.

The first Roman Catholic liturgical music program of its kind, the Rensselaer Program of Church Music and Liturgy was founded in 1960 by Precious Blood Father Lawrence Helman. A number of CPPS Sisters earned master's degrees in church music from the school.

Do you

■ **Sister Karen Elliott** has been granted the distinction of being named associate professor of religious studies at Mercy College of Northwest Ohio, where she has served as assistant professor since 2004. The promotion was decided by the college's board of trustees and its Rank and Promotion Committee, a faculty peer review group.



Promotion from assistant to associate professor means that above and beyond the requirements and credentials needed for assistant professor, the individual demonstrates not only potential but excellent teaching performance. She or he also gives evidence of notable scholarship, research or other creative activities that are likely to result in additional academic achievements, as well as service to the college.

In addition to her classroom ministry at Mercy, Dr. Elliott is also a faculty presenter in the Toledo Diocese's deacon formation program, and is a presenter for numerous adult education programs and retreats in Ohio and beyond. She is also the author of a forthcoming book on the ministry of women in the early church as outlined in the Letters of St. Paul. It is scheduled for July publication by Anselm Academic, an imprint of Saint Mary's Press.

■ **Immaculate Conception School in Celina, Ohio**, an historic CPPS ministry location, hosted a 175th anniversary celebration on Oct. 16. Fourteen sisters from Dayton, Mercer and Auglaize counties joined **Sister Nancy Wolf** (photo) for the children's Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish. First-grader



Emma Homan dressed as a young Mother Maria Anna Brunner and helped Sister Nancy share the story of the CPPS foundress with the children and adults present. After the homily, the sisters renewed their vows — a first for many of the children to witness — and Precious Blood Father Richard Riedel gave them a special blessing. Following cookies and punch, the sisters toured the school, many visiting their former classrooms.

Sisters of the Precious Blood first arrived to teach the children in Celina in 1878. Over the 131 years since, 225 CPPS sisters have taught at Immaculate Conception, where Sister Nancy still serves today.

know that...



■ **Sister Madonna Schneider** (above right) had a surprise visitor to Emma Hall: a Florida resident who was... her first-grade student. Virginia Hornick Schafer, now of Venice, Fla., attended all eight grades at the former Salem Heights Day School in the 1930s. Sister Madonna, today a youthful 94, also attended the CPPS-run day school and later, as Sister Leola, taught Virginia in the first grade.

During their Sept. 14 visit, Virginia and Sister Madonna shared memories of those early years. Virginia, 85 and married for 65 years, also recalled other Precious Blood Sisters who were her teachers, especially the late Sisters Amanda Geenan, Cassimira Biedrzycki and Sixtus Enneking, who was the principal. "Many thanks for the great education I got," she said.

■ **Sister Margaret Daniels** was honored by the Senate of the 128th General Assembly of Ohio in September 2009 for "exemplary attainment" for her lifetime of community service through the Democratic Party.

The honor presented by the Senate — co-signed by Ohio Senate President Bill Harris and Senator Fred Strahorn of the 5th Senatorial District — reads: "Your distinguished credentials readily explain why you were chosen as a recipient of this honor, a tribute to you for your numerous contributions to the community. Never content to take a passive role in life, you are a longtime member and supporter of the Trotwood Democratic Club, having served on its board of trustees many times." The proclamation continues: "To your credit, you have shown how very much can be accomplished by a conscientious, industrious person... and you can be proud that your vision and vitality have inspired many who know you to dedicate themselves similarly."



Sister Margaret, 92, is "officially retired" at Salem Heights, but is known for her energy in urging voter registration, for voters to get informed about the issues and into the voting booth. She shares information with the sisters and the public on bills and legislation, encouraging contact with policymakers and "making one's voice heard" on matters of the public welfare. Her Democratic loyalty might have a little to do with the fact that Sister Margaret hails from Chicago (and is also a faithful Chicago Cubs fan!).

Sr. Anne Schulz honored as Woman of Excellence

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, Ohio — At a dinner ceremony in Cincinnati on Nov. 20, Sister Anne Schulz was honored as a Woman of Excellence by the West Chester Chamber Alliance. The honor, which she shared with nine other area women, acknowledged her leadership within the Liberty Township — West Chester community.

The annual event, now in its ninth year, honors

women who through their careers or volunteer work have enhanced business, education, culture and philanthropy in the community and surrounding region.

Sister Anne has served as principal and CEO of Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School (MTCES) in Liberty Township since the innovative school's inception in 1998. Her edu-

Continued on page 18



Photo courtesy MTCES

Sister Anne Schulz (with bouquet) is surrounded by past and present students of Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School. The students attended the celebration which honored their school's founding principal as a Woman of Excellence.

Sr. Anne Schulz honored as Woman of Excellence

Continued from page 17

cational ministry spans 40 years, including 28 years as a principal. The independent Catholic school educates children from kindergarten through eighth grade.

Sister Anne “has provided Mother Teresa not only with leadership but also direction,” said MTCES parent and former board member Jennifer Schuppe. “As a community, we have been very blessed to have her at the helm as a teacher, an administrator and a woman of strong faith — which gives our community three valuable qualities in one person to nurture our children.”

St. Xavier freshman and 2009 MTCES graduate Ken Angel was among those honoring his former principal. “I have known Sister most of my life, and she has been a mentor and a friend. She has kept me on the straight and narrow and has always been there for me,” he said. “I am happy she is being honored for all that she has done for so many young people.”

More than 70 members of the MTCES faculty, parents, board members and friends were joined by several Precious Blood Sisters in honoring Sister Anne.

The presentation remarks paying tribute to the veteran educator

praised her for “the huge role [she played] in taking this school from a kindergarten program to a ‘robust elementary school with over 400 students...’ Not only a teacher and principal, Sister Anne is a good listener and serves on several committees and boards.” The presentation noted that she also encourages students to reach out beyond their immediate community, for example, by donating food and clothing to Reach Out Lakota, which serves the needs of the Lakota Sioux nation.

“Sister Anne knows how to reach out to others with a smile, laugh and an inspirational word...

She recognizes that every student has a true talent and it is her duty to find that gift and cultivate it. She has been described by many as a leader, mentor, giver and friend...

“Sister Anne supports and encourages her students, parents and staff through love, devotion and respect. She follows her motto: ‘Life is so short; enjoy each day!’”

 (Sister Anne’s ministry was the cover story in the Fall 2007 issue of *Sharing & Caring*. You can read it online in PDF format at www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org. Go to News & Events > Our Newsletter and then click on the Fall 2007 issue.)

Honoring Sister Luca

Continued from page 9

Arizona’s dry climate would help her arthritis.

She was assigned to Sacred Heart School, a parish school located within the poor Mexican-American barrios. Early on in her teaching she noted the grinding poverty that marked her students’ lives. She began collecting food and clothing to donate to the children and their families. After a day of teaching, she moved out into the neighborhoods and homes of the poor, assisting them in whatever they needed.

In 1968, Sister Luca asked for and received permission to end her classroom ministry and dedicate her life full-time to serving the poor. Catholic Charities offered her a position on its staff; she accepted only on the condition that she could be in the field, in direct services. For the next 20 years she was a dynamo of activities — all directed at improving the lives of the area’s poorest people.

Sister Luca set up a system for the collection of materials for distribution. One of these collection centers was in Scottsdale, at the Franciscan Renewal Center. The center provided a room attached to the maintenance buildings, soon dubbed “Luca’s Closet.”

Periodically she or one of her volunteers would gather the donations and bring the items to a center to be sorted. Luca knew all her families and their situations and personally supervised the sorting; she generally distributed the items herself while talking to the families and learning of other needs.

After Sister Luca died in 1989, her mission gradually died too. For many years, “Luca’s Closet” was just a “junk room” at the renewal center, collecting a rag-tag collection of miscellaneous things there only because they needed somewhere to be stored.

In Winter 2009, the renewal center needed an additional conference room. The staff cleaned out



**The Sister Luca Conference Room
Franciscan Renewal Center**

the junk room, painted it and laid carpet. Ready for its new function, it needed only a name for identification...

Franciscan Brother Joseph Schwab, the renewal center’s director, had met Sister Luca personally when he was a teenager, and knew of her work. He decided that naming the room for this dedicated Precious Blood Sister would be appropriate.

The newly created and named conference room was used for the first time on March 31, 2009, for a youth program. The youth leader began her session by telling the youth the story of Sister Luca, the energetic woman with a great heart for the poor.

LETTERS...

Just a quick note to say I just love your newsletter, *Sharing & Caring*, and seeing and reading about all the great women of CPPS.

I'll be back among you soon, living in Centerville, Ohio. I hope to attend the holy hours again!

Gloria Doan
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Our family greatly appreciates the loving concern and support that we received during my brother, Arnold's, brief illness and after his death on Nov. 11.

Those of us who have been touched by his good deeds and generosity are reminded to keep his legacy alive.

We are grateful for the outpouring of prayer, your presence with us, the



expressions of sympathy, and donations to the Arnold and Eugenia Beumer Scholarship Fund.

In Jesus' redeeming love,

Sister Marita Beumer
Dayton

How fortunate I am to have such a loving and caring community and friends.

With encouragement and prayer I was able to fly to Raleigh, North Carolina, to be with family to celebrate new life for the last of my nine siblings, John Nader.

Many thanks to all for your prayers and cards of sympathy.

Sister Catherine Nader
Dayton

Editor's note: The following is a reflection shared with us by one of the women who attended the Dec. 5 Advent retreat at Salem Heights, on the theme of Mary's waiting. With the author's permission, we're pleased to share it with you. (See pages 4-5 for more news about the retreat.)

A retreatant's reflection

BLESSED are you among women!"

This simple phrase passed from woman to woman, preceded by her name.

My first thought was, "Oh, how can the angel's greeting to Mary be so casually extended to us common women here?"

Then the tears began to flow.

Blessed am I among women?
Blessed am I?

Thus, as we knotted our personal experiences together with pieces of blue ribbon, we began the contemplation of Mary's Advent journey, and how she has touched each of our lives. We were finding things that we shared in common.

The powerful PowerPoint presentation drew us to much better under-

standing of the vital role Elizabeth played through her understanding of the wonder that is Mary's Child and through her loving presence and support. We were challenged to be Elizabeth to those who are in need of compassion and wisdom. We were challenged to be like Mary, ready to follow the will of God.

We shared more of our lives. We reflected on the images we had seen and the impact this day would have on the rest of our Advent. More than once was I moved to tears this day...

By the end of the day we were a close-knit group of women. It was plain to see that everyone who attended was deeply moved.

Thank you, sisters, for all your hard work that allowed us to share this experience and motivated us to patiently wait and prepare with Mary.

—Elaine

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:

Sisters Alma and Luella Huelskamp on the death of their brother, Eugene Huelskamp, on Oct. 21.

Sister Marita Beumer on the death of her brother, Arnold Beumer, on Nov. 11.

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood on the death of Father Edward McCarthy (Cincinnati Province) on Nov. 18.

Sister Catherine Nader on the death of her brother, John Nader, on Nov. 29.

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood on the death of Father John Zvijak (Cincinnati Province) on Nov. 29.

Sister Angeline Hoffman on the death of her brother-in-law, Rudy Hensel, on Dec. 15.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

Subscribe or change address online



Save postage and time and subscribe to *Sharing & Caring* on our Web site.

To subscribe, click on News & Events and go to Our Newsletter. Simply complete the online form and your new subscription will be activated, to begin with the next issue.

To send a change of address online, go to the Contact Us icon (top right on the home page), click on General Contact and type your information into the blank form at the bottom of the page. Be sure to include both your old and new address.

An auto response "receipt" tells you that your information has been successfully sent.

www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.org

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

In California, CPPS reaches out for community health

SAN BERNARDINO, California— Two new additions to St. Bernardine Medical Center's Mission Services team — Precious Blood Sisters Margo Young and Terry Maher — are poised to make a big difference in the hospital's impact on community health.

Sister Margo Young, a medical doctor who is a native of Modesto, Calif., is the newly appointed Community Outreach MD.

Dr. Young, who spent the last 13 years in Guatemala at a rural clinic, sees her primary responsibility as working with the surrounding community to improve access to care and health education, especially for the hospital's underserved population. She directs patient care to those most in need. Since May she has also been offering her services at the hospital's H Street Clinic, a collaborative effort which serves a broad client base in the city of San Bernardino, especially patients who are poor, elderly and members of minority populations. The clinic not only serves patients directly, but also offers health education. (A future issue of *Sharing & Caring* will profile Sister Margo's work at the H Street Clinic.)

Sister Terry Maher, SBMC's new Spiritual Care Liaison, has a master's degree in theological studies and has spent most of her ministry years working in parishes. In her new ministry at the medical center, she provides spiritual support to patients in the emergency department and neonatal intensive care unit. She also works with area faith communities to serve patients' spiritual needs.

Sister Terry is also working with the medical center's palliative care coordinator to institute the "No One Is Here Alone" program to companion patients who have no family available for support. She said she looks for-



Photo courtesy of St. Bernardine Medical Center

Although it looks like a lovely California vacation spot, the setting where Precious Blood Sisters Margo Young and Terry Maher were photographed is actually a garden on the campus of St. Bernardine Medical Center in San Bernardino, Calif. Both sisters — Margo as a physician and Terry in spiritual care — are bringing their expertise to support SBMC's efforts to heal body, mind and spirit.

ward also to enhancing programs of spirituality within the hospital, and to working with the staff on spirituality and wellness.

Both positions are new within St. Bernardine Medical Center, and this Precious Blood duo will work closely with Mission Services to define their work and the ways in which they can make a difference in support of the hospital's mission. As women religious, both bring the added asset of helping to ensure St. Bernardine's Catholic legacy in their work.

For both Terry and Margo, it's a learn-as-you-go process, underscored by the goal of fulfilling their Precious Blood mission: to be present in the healing of a fractured world, helping to reconcile or restore at least one piece of that puzzle to wholeness.

Both sisters are part not only of new and innovative ministries at SBMC, but also of a newly expanded CPPS presence in California. Currently eight Precious Blood women — almost double the number a year ago — live and work in "the Golden State."

This story incorporates information from the SBMC newsletter, In Focus. Adapted with permission.