



Sisters of the Precious Blood

Volume 2, Issue 8 July, 2017



Please consider saving paper, ink and the environment —print only if necessary.

We have eliminated much of the heavy color areas to minimize the use of colored ink. Thanks

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Enacted in our ASSEMBLY DIRECTIVES 2015 we will remember to...

- Continue to articulate and integrate our Spirituality in our sharing among ourselves and with others.
- Increase our use of social media to promote Precious Blood Spirituality.
- Stand with the marginalized, make a collective commitment to promote and witness nonviolence, and strive to effect reconciliation among God's people.
- Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet's resources.
- Network with other individuals, agencies, and groups to be effective in our current reality.

Stories from around our CPPS world

News from Guatemala



At the end of July, Srs. Joyce Kahle and Terry Walter will participate with the Precious Blood lay group in a prayer walk to homicide sites in Santa Rosita. The other four communities will follow. It will be held on Sunday, July 30. Violent crime has risen in the area and I suggested this to the coordinator of the group who's been trying to get the group moving into action. I'm looking forward to it and hope there's some ministry to the families of the victims. More information will be shared after the event.

Submitted by: Sr. Terry Walter

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

NETWORKING

A Women's Interfaith Discussion group representing the Ahmadiyya Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities was created for community building and to learn and share similarities and differences in regards to beliefs, cultural practices, religious rituals and writings – Quran, Torah, Bible. Topics for discussion are suggested and followed up. These discussions are held in different places of worship by invitation from a religious leader.

On June 10, 2017 an invitation was sent out to all of us to attend an Open House and urgent discussion regarding marches across the country in response to the Sharia law. It was held at the Fazle Umar Mosque.

Sharia is a “path to life-giving water.” It governs the religious rituals and aspects of day to day living in the Muslim community. It is not to be enforced on other religions. Because of the diversity within the Muslim community there are practices that arise due to geography, culture and age. Misconceptions such as genital mutilation and honor killings are not consistent with the Quran. An excellent site to learn more about the Sharia law <http://www.billionbibles.org/sharia/sharia-law.html>

After the discussion we were invited to join the Muslim community in their breaking of Iftar – fasting and partake of the diversity of cultural foods provided for dinner.

Submitted by Judy Niday & Jeanette Buehler

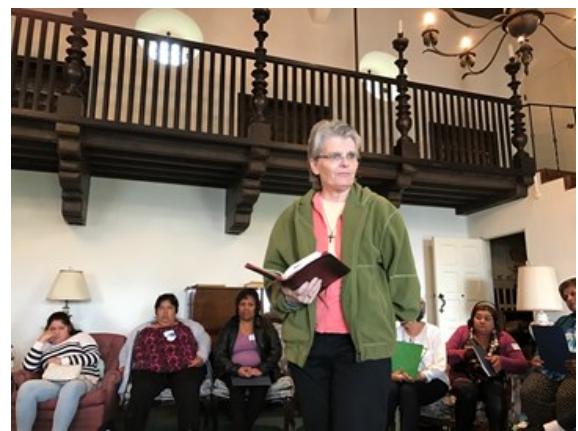
Emergent Future Directive: “networking to effect reconciliation among God's people”

Day of Healing: Honoring the Memory of Our Loved Ones, held June 10, was an ecumenical bi-lingual day of healing for men and women who have experienced the loss of a loved one to murder. Sr. Terry Maher led this day of reflection using the Emmaus Story from Luke's Gospel to participants eager and wanting to share the story of their family member; some killed in Latin America, others killed in the



United States. The day was held in Culver City, California, a city west of Los Angeles.

In one direction from our 2015 Assembly Statements we "to strive to effect reconciliation among God's people." Families who have experienced murder find reconciliation difficult. This day of healing offered the opportunity to share and bring some healing, some reconciliation into one's heart. Through prayer and small group discussions, participants could share their story. Using Mandala's participants could witness a piece of their inner self struggling to heal, to accept, to honor their hope. Writing their own Lament, opened them to be honest before God. At the end of the day, after tears shed, stories told, hope expressed, those who gathered were touched by compassion and support.



Submitted by Terry Maher

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

THE LONGEST TABLE

On Thursday evening, June 22, Sister Mumbi and I participated in the 13th "Longest Table" event sponsored by Updayton. At these events people from throughout Dayton get together with strangers until this moment, eat, and dialog about their concerns and some possible solutions for Dayton. At our gathering there were people from 20 zip codes signed up. Everyone sits at a table of six, getting to know the stories of each one and then furthering the conversation. We met people who were Hindu, Christian, Catholic and Muslim from the different areas of Dayton. For me it was so gratifying to be with a family member of the Vietnamese family that said he came to the US through the Sisters of the Precious Blood. What fond memories of Sister Dorothy Kammerer and the other Sisters involved with this project. In another conversation I met a young lady involved with the human trafficking projects. That was important for both of us, especially since I have been trying to make connections with other people and groups regarding the SOAP project. The other big project in our area of Dayton is trying to do something about the "food desert." So we were able to make connections with the organizers of the Gem City Market, which is planned as a full-service grocery store on lower Salem Avenue. It will be cooperative governance with a community voice. We all went home enriched by one another and with more of a feeling of connectedness to do what has to be done to make Dayton a welcoming city, interested in all its residents.



Submitted by Sister Marita Beumer

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

Gardening on a Small Scale

Our patio at Salem Heights is a peaceful and relaxing area where the Sisters who live here and friends who visit can enjoy its beauty. In addition to the lovely flowers near the fountain and close to the building, several of us have used our gardening skills in planting eight container gardens. In late April, after a trip to a Nursery Center to purchase our plants, we began the task of digging into the rich soil of God's earth to plant our selections. Although flowers were the dominant choice, I chose several tomato plants, Big Boy and Cherry, and a California Wonder pepper plant. With daily watering, sunshine, and a little TLC, these plants are blossoming and beginning to form fruit. Another Sister and I share a container of purple and white petunias with a Jacob's Cline at the center. These flowers

Joan DeChristopher & Mary Garke's flower garden

are encircling their box as they lift their faces to the heavens. I have found that gardening, even on a small scale, keeps us close to the grandeur of God's creation.

Other Sisters who planted a container garden were Maureen Mangen, Joan DeChristopher, Mary Garke, Ritamary Bulach, Eva Roehrich

submitted by Rosie Goubeaux

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

Ecology and Art

In March, Sister Marie Kopin coordinated a special work sharp combining **Ecology and Art** at the Rosebush Michigan Public Library. Heather Johnson, a Michigan Mushroom hunters club member, brought a collection of gourds, wood-burning devices and paints and gave us a hands on experience making birdhouses. She brought materials to transfer mushroom designs to decorate them. We learned about various shapes of gourds, how to craft bird houses with them, and had fun decorating them with Mushroom designs.

Maureen Mangen & Rosie Goubeaux's flower box



Rosie' Big Boy



Maureen Mangen & Rosie Goubeaux's flower box



Submitted by Marie Kopin

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

The following are upcoming events at Salem Heights that are open to anyone interested.

AUGUST 19th – “Awakening the Dreamer: Changing the Dreamer”

9:00 -12:00 (Hosted by the Sisters of the Precious Blood)



“Our society is on an unsustainable path, and we have a limited time to turn things around. Acknowledging this, Lynn Twist, also became aware that the resources and technologies to address our crisis already exist – the missing element is the human commitment to make it happen. With that realization the “Awakening the Dream: Changing the Dream was born...” A trailer can be found on the web by going to [amazon.com Awakening](http://amazon.com/Awakening). Two trained facilitators will lead the process which includes videos and interactive sharing. This symposium has been given and is active around the world!

AUGUST 26th –“A Closer Look at White Privilege”

9:00 – 11:30 (Sponsored by the Anti-Racism, Anti-Discrimination Task Force of the Cincinnati Archdiocese and the Sisters of the Precious Blood)

The morning will be based on the introduction to White Privilege as found in the book and DVD “White Like Me” by Tim Wise. It is a time for interactive sharing around questions such as: What is White Privilege? What is my experience of it? What might I do with what I have learned?

Submitted by Jeanette Buehler

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



This summer, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will be convening an unprecedented gathering of key leaders from dioceses and Catholic organizations from all across the country in order to assess the challenges and opportunities of our time, particularly in the context of the Church in the United States. This has been an ongoing initiative of the Bishops' Working Group on the Life and Dignity of the Human Person. The gathering will assemble Catholic leaders for a strategic conversation, under the leadership of the bishops, on forming missionary disciples to animate the Church and to engage the culture.

July 1–4, 2017
Convocation of Catholic Leaders
The Joy of the Gospel in America

The Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America will be held in Orlando, Florida, from Saturday, July 1, to Tuesday, July 4, 2017. Inspired by *Evangelii Gaudium*, the Convocation will form leaders who will be equipped and re-energized to share the Gospel as missionary disciples, while offering fresh insights informed by new research, communications strategies, and successful models.

Sr. Mary Garascia will be attending this conference representing our Congregation.

Prayer for the 2017 Convocation of Catholic Leaders

O Holy Spirit, you who first enkindled in our hearts the joy of the Gospel, renew that same joy in those who are preparing for the Convocation of Catholic Leaders.

Enflame the hearts of our bishops and their diocesan delegations; leaders of national organizations and movements; clergy, religious and laity; all who make this event possible; and Catholic leaders across the United States.

Move us to welcome the word of life in the depths of our hearts and respond to the call of missionary discipleship.

O Holy Spirit, transform our hearts and enable us to enter into the perfect communion that you share with the Father and the Son.*

Mary, Star of the New Evangelization, pray for us. Amen.

Cleaning with products you already have around the house.....

I'm always concerned about the many chemicals in the various products we use to make our homes cleaner. In the process of scrubbing, removing stains, washing dishes, using mops, dusters, sponges and cloths what should we consider?

Lemon, white vinegar, baking soda, table salt, rubbing alcohol, ammonia —each of these environmentally friendly items are elements of mix-it-yourself cleaners —and besides that, are cheap, cheap, cheap. Depending on the surface you are wanting to clean, try it on a small area first. **Safety tip:** never combine ammonia-based cleaners with chlorine bleach or products containing bleach (such as powdered dishwasher detergent). Extremely dangerous fumes are created when you do so.



Check the internet for advice on using this eco-friendly approach in your home. We'd like to hear what you try and what the results were. Fill out this form and return it to us to share in our next issue.



I prefer and have good luck using (describe task and solution):

My recommendations :

Submitted by Mary Lou Schmersal

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



Shared Justice Coordinator

In the light of our desire to stay informed and respond to issues that threaten the dignity, the sacredness and respect for the human person and all of Creation we and the Missionaries of the Precious Blood Cincinnati Province are planning to share a Coordinator of Peace, Justice and Ecology Ministry. This person will promote the mission of both the Sisters and Missionaries through education, advocacy and action on issues of justice responding to the needs of our times. As a passionate advocate for systemic change we look forward to working with a coordinator who will engage us in working closely and collaboratively to build coalitions with other justice, peace and ecological organizations.



ANNOUNCING:



Nuns on the Bus Retreat
Sisters of Charity Motherhouse
August 17-19, 2017

Sisters of Earth International Gathering
Mt. St. Joseph University
July 12-15, 2018

For further information, contact this email address: cjwilliengo@gmail.com

In 2015, Pope Francis called on Catholics to join in the World Day of Prayer for Creation on September 1, a day first proclaimed by the Orthodox Church and now celebrated by many denominations. And in last year's [letter for the Day of Prayer for Creation](#), <http://tinyurl.com/zcn4558> Pope Francis talked about a "Time of Creation" or Season of Creation, the five weeks between the Day of Prayer on Sept. 1 and the Feast of St. Francis on Oct. 4.

Plan now to join Pope Francis in praying with and for creation during this special time!

On Tuesday, June 6, Sisters Mary Garke, Eva, Pat Dieringer, Katie and I went to the Miracle Clubhouse, a day center for adults with mental illness. The mission of the clubhouse is to be a community of hope, growth and opportunity for people recovering from mental illness. Beginning in 2012, the Maria Anna Grant Fund Board gave them a \$20,000 grant toward the salary for an executive director and later a \$10,000 grant for a van. After the Miracle clubhouse partnered with the Goodwill Easter Seals of Miami Valley, the MAB gave them a grant for \$8,000 to purchase an industrial coffee cart to be used for the members to sell coffee to the 100 employees as the Miami Valley Good Will Easter Seals complex. The members have taken part in several training sessions before the coffee cart was opened to the employees.



Miracle Clubhouse is deeply involved with the Downtown Dayton Initiative, serving its members with care and helping them work towards reducing the stigma around mental illness. After the five of us enjoyed our coffee or hot chocolate, we took a tour through the Clubhouse and heard stories from the clients (members) on how much the Miracle Clubhouse has changed their lives. Miracle Clubhouse has maintained strong relationships with two of its employers, Siebenthaler's Garden Center and the University of Dayton. Members can also further their education with the nearby Sinclair Community College. The sense of a welcoming community is what makes the Clubhouse such a powerful staple of downtown Dayton.

Submitted by Ceil Taphorn

- Emergent Future directive: Network with other individuals, agencies, and groups to be effective in our current reality.



Send us your articles (approximately 125 words or less) for our next issue.

Next issue articles for Grassroots are due July 24 so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by 08_01_2017.

Please submit to Marty Bertke m.bertke@hometowncable.net

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

Your contributions make all the difference!



We're on the Web!

www.preciousbloodsistersdayton.org