



Sisters of the Precious Blood

Volume 2, Issue 10, September 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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Precious Blood Prayer Walk 1
- Brunner Literacy Involvement 2
- Literacy Changes Lives
- Building Hope and Changing Lives @ Brigid's Path 3
- A Hospitable Heart 4
- Fresh Produce Shared & Preserved
- Musical Abundance
- Season of Creation 5
- A Change of Heart is Required 6
- Sharing Precious Blood Spirituality

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

Precious Blood Prayer Walk



Praying at first site

Sun., July 30 we had our first Precious Blood prayer walk to the sites of five murders here in Santa Rosita, one of the five sections of the Precious Blood parish here in Guatemala City. It took place following the 7:00 AM Mass at the church. The PB Spirituality group in the parish helped to organize it with input from Sisters Terry Walter and Joyce Kahle and a former gang member who gave us the exact locations of the murders. Members of the prayer group contacted the families of the victims to see



Praying at second site

if they wanted to be included. There were more than 5 murdered, but only the Catholic families wanted to be a part of it. We had a large crowd of people from Santa Rosita that joined us. We prayed an adapted Seven Offerings of the Precious Blood that included prayers for the victim, the family, the community, the perpetrator of the crime, and for an end to violence, etc. at each site. Then Deacon Victor prayed a special prayer and gave a blessing to any family member at that site. It was really quite powerful. The prayer walk ended with a closing prayer at the church.

We all live in such dangerous times -- and some of us in more dangerous areas than others. The gang activity is heavy both here in Guatemala, as it is in Chicago, but it isn't something we think about a lot until something like this happens. Any one of us could be in the wrong place at the wrong time. We just trust that God is with us and that God's angels are protecting us, and so we go about our ministries without giving the gangs a second thought because we won't let fear consume us.



Praying at 3rd site

We are thinking that next month we want to have this prayer walk in San Gaspar, another neighborhood of the parish, with families of murder victims there and each month choose a different area of the parish. It's so sad that this is even needed, but hopefully it will make a difference in the neighborhood. We know it made a difference for those families and those of us who participated.

- Submitted by Joyce Kahle
- **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.

BLC INVOLVEMENT



I had long cherished the idea of becoming involved in Adult Basic Education but opportunities pursued never seemed to pan out. I became very excited when I learned about the Brunner Literacy Center. I was asked to serve as Intake Coordinator for incoming students though I had planned on being a tutor.

My first interviewee was an African-American male. He was totally illiterate, even though attending twelve years in the school system. However, he was quite

“street smart”, able to negotiate public transportation/money matters without too much difficulty!

In the friendly environment of the BLC I continued doing intakes and became familiar with the difficulties faced by these individuals: employment, limited resources, drug, and family life issues. I no longer do intakes, but now volunteer as a desk receptionist.

I find my volunteer ministry at BLC very fulfilling. It provides opportunity to be a life-giving presence to marginalized persons, to staff, and to visitors.

For details about the Center, link to <https://www.brunnerliteracy.org/>

- Submitted by Sr. Rose Margaret Boerman
- **Emergent Future Directive: Stand with the marginalized**

LITERACY Changes Lives

The Brunner Literacy Center, in Dayton, OH, will hold its 5th annual 5-K RUN/WALK Saturday, October 28, 2017 beginning at 10:00 am. For more information and/or to register for the event, go to: www.brunnerliteracy.org

Also, you can purchase Raffle Tickets and the prizes are: \$500, \$300, \$200. Tickets are available at the Brunner Literacy Center at www.brunnerliteracy.org/donate or call 937-567-9600. Proceeds benefit the BLC. Drawing is after the 5K on Sat., Oct. 28.

I am a strong promoter of the Brunner Literacy Center and therefore I am selling Raffle Tickets, \$5.00 a ticket or 6 for \$25. Just contact me, Sister Margie Zureick at Salem Heights. This is a very good way to support one of the sponsored ministries of our Congregation.

By the way, last year I sold the winning ticket to Sister Eleanor McNally. Carole LaCombe Muhlenkamp is presenting the check. Carole and her husband John Muhlenkamp are coordinating the 5-K Run (and have been since 2012).



Submitted by: Sr Margie Zureick

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.



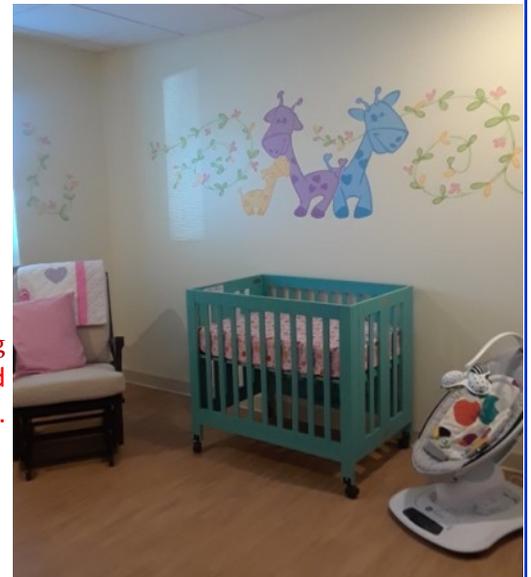
BUILDING HOPE AND CHANGING LIVES



Brigid's Path is a unique facility located in Ketter-

ing, Ohio that will provide medical care for infants who have Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, (NAS). Brigid's Path is the first of its kind in Ohio and the second in the nation to care for drug exposed infants.

Brigid's Path will provide a comfortable, home-like setting where newborns can be compassionately withdrawn from their drug exposures. Babies will receive one-on-one specialized therapeutic treatment from medical staff. There will be a total of 24 private nurseries to provide a soothing and low-stimulation setting for each baby during his/her stay at Brigid's Path. The length of stay is 20-30 days but will ultimately be determined by the needs of the infant and the stability of the environment of which babies will be released. In addition to caring for infants, Brigid's Path will provide up to one year of on-site support in helping mothers, families and other care givers access resources that are important to them and their babies. Family Advocacy



Brigid's Path™ provides inpatient medical care for drug-exposed newborns, non-judgmental support for mothers, and education services to improve family outcomes.

cy programs at Brigid's Path will be a vital part of the success in achieving a healthy life style for families and their infants.

- Submitted by Sr. Jean Rene Hoying
- **Emergent Future Directive:** Network with other individuals, agencies, and groups to be effective in our current reality.

*The one who does justice
will live in the presence
of the Lord. Ps. 15*

A Hospitable Heart



Over the years Sr. Ritamary Bulach's hospitable heart was evident to the many she served in various dietary departments as well as for her many friends and family. Now that she is retired she still has time to enjoy many different hobbies which she did not have time for while in full time ministry. One of her hobbies is baking delicious goodies just to share them with others. Her hospitality creeps out in all kinds of ways –like in this ice cream cake specialty.

“Everyone likes ice cream cakes, but they are very expensive to buy. Here is an easy way to make this special treat. I like to make things from scratch so, I make my favorite 2-layer cake, and freeze the layers on two separate plates. I line one of the pans that I baked the cake in with parchment paper, fill it with ice cream, and put it back in the freezer. When everything is well frozen, I pull the ice cream out of the cake pan with the parchment paper, put the ice cream on top of one layer of cake, cover the ice cream with the other layer, and frost all with butter cream frosting.”

"The heart of hospitality is about creating space for someone to feel seen and heard and loved. It's about declaring your table a safe zone, a place of warmth and nourishment."

Shauna Niequist, author
Bread & Wine: A Love Letter to Life Around the Table

• Submitted by: Sr. Ritamary Bulach

• **Emergent Future Directive:** Continue to articulate and integrate our Spirituality in our sharing among ourselves and with others.



The earth has yielded its increase; God our God has blessed us.” (Psalm 67)

Sister Barbara and I have been very blessed to receive the fruits of the earth both from Barb's garden and the fields of her brothers, Mike and Harry. This year Barb's garden yielded eggplant, green peppers, cabbage, and tomatoes. From early spring through late fall we receive seasonal vegetables. Actually the last red leafy lettuce was picked on New Year's morning 2017! Boxes of home canned tomatoes, pinto beans, green beans, red beets, pickles and applesauce line our garage wall while the freezer is stocked with tomato juice and sauce, rhubarb (along with rhubarb pies), spinach, asparagus, broccoli, sweet corn, squash for “pumpkin” pie and bread and cabbage rolls. Fresh produce is also shared with the food service at Salem Heights and Sisters in the Dayton and other areas as well as with the food pantry at Catholic Social Services. Some of these preserved veggies are gleaned from the field after the pickings have been done for market or are produce which is too ripe to sell or share, so that these do not go to waste. Water from our downspout is caught and used to water the flowers around the house.

Submitted by Sr. Florence Seifert

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

Musical Abundance

Every convention of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians is an abundance of liturgical celebrations, learning opportunities, top notch concerts and companionship with like-minded colleagues. They offer a choice of 30 – 40 daily workshops on various subjects, as well as liturgical concerts, music reading sessions, hundreds of exhibits, communal Morning and Evening Prayer and opportunity for daily Mass. The opening and closing Eucharistic Celebrations are very festive and memorable.

The theme of each convention relates well to the current situation of our nation and world. This year, the 40th annual convention was held at the Duke Energy Center in Cincinnati, July 10th – 14th. Representatives from 44 U.S. states and several other countries were present for this gathering which focused on the theme: *Formed as One - Union of Voices and Unity of Hearts.*

Each summer, we return to our communities with renewed enthusiasm for sung worship and a stronger commitment to serve God's people at prayer. We are very grateful to our Precious Blood Community who provide the opportunity for us to attend these annu-

al Conventions. Submitted by Sr. Pat Will and John Buehler **Emergent Future Directive:** Continue to articulate and integrate our Spirituality in our sharing among ourselves and with others.





Every October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis celebrates the saint who saw all created beings as his brother or sister. A free program to help you explore how to better care for creation and the poor is available at <http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/FOSF> Take time to register for and to watch this

WEBINAR

Befriend the Wolf: Blessing All God's Creation 2017 Feast of St. Francis Program

Thursday, September 7th | 3:00- 3:45 pm eastern

Presenters: Fr. Mike Lasky, OFM Conv., and
Paz Artaza-Regan, Program Manager, Catholic Climate Covenant

To register, link to <http://preview.tinyurl.com/y8k9pkn6> . This webinar will unpack the story of the Wolf of Gubbio as a wonderful and useful metaphor to harmonize our relationship with God's Creation in our modern lives. We will also discuss how the 2017 Feast of St. Francis program can be used in your parish, school, and faith community to foster that relationship.

Whether you are already planning to use the 2017 Feast of St. Francis program or want to understand it more before committing, we welcome your participation and questions in this webinar!

LAUDATO SI'S CHRISTIAN PRAYER IN UNION WITH CREATION

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence
and your tender love.
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.

O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

A CHANGE OF HEART IS REQUIRED

Pope Francis' revolutionary encyclical *Laudato Si* calls for a "broad cultural revolution" to confront the environmental crisis. At heart, *Laudato Si*, addressed to "every person on the planet" is a call for a new way of looking at things, a "bold cultural revolution" (No. 3, 114). We face an urgent crisis, when, thanks to our actions, the earth has begun to look more and more like, in Francis' vivid language, "an immense pile of filth" (No. 21). Still, the document is hopeful, reminding us that because God is with us, we can strive both individually and corporately to change course. We can awaken our hearts and move towards an "ecological conversion" in which we see the intimate connection between God and all beings, and more readily listen to the "cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" (No. 49).

"To use religious language, what the pope is calling for is conversion." James Martin, S.J.

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

Sharing Precious Blood Spirituality

Did you ever have an idea in your mind that began as a seed and grew into a vision? That is what happened when three Catholic families sought permission to start a new parish and build a church in Coldwater. From this tiny seed, Holy Trinity Parish was born in 1867, or 150 years ago.

Missionaries of the Precious Blood served at Holy Trinity Parish from 1867 to 1906, 39 years. Then leadership and responsibility for the parish were given to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Sisters of the Precious Blood served here from 1913 to the present day, sharing our Precious Blood Spirituality for 104 years.

From a seed that was planted, the faith of many people is developed, nurtured and continues to grow. Numerous people believe in Jesus Christ, pray together as a community, celebrate the sacraments, are educated in the faith, reach out to others, and live as true disciples of Christ in our world.



- **Submitted by: Sr. Martha Bertke**

- **Emergent Future Directive: Integrate our Spirituality in our sharing with others.**

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

Next issue articles for Grassroots are due **September 25th** so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **October 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