



Sisters of the Precious Blood

Volume 2, Issue 12, November 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

Recently the Brunner Literacy Center (BLC) launched its seventh year of operation. Over these years a wide variety of needy individuals have passed through its doors. The dream of the Founders (Sisters Maryann Bremke and Helen Weber) was to reach out to the many in this area for whom illiteracy was a crippling handicap. By striving to make the BLC invitingly homey and welcoming, needy individuals came for help. With the assistance of hundreds of volunteers, the Founders' dream became a reality. To date over 1000 individuals have sought literacy assistance from the BLC.

the years, have provided a construct for meeting the wide variety of literacy needs. These programs cover the very basic needs of adults through a grade six level; preparation for and acquisition of the G.E.D; various licensure preparation; English as a Second Other Language (ESOL) instruction and other programs to meet individualized needs. Challenges are constant and the BLC makes every effort to meet them. Recent expansion of our teaching sites to include Catholic Social Services tutoring (immigrants) and G.E.D. teaching at the Bennet J. Cooper Center (recovering drug addicts) have been two responses to such challenges.

Desiring to keep this good work moving into the future, the BLC boasts of a Board of Directors composed of eighteen members whose responsibility is to do just that. To date an outstanding administrator and a competent bevy of highly qualified assistants create a staff to insure long-term success. Individuals mentioned are highlighted on the BLC's website: <https://www.brunnerliteracy.org/>. There you can find much enlightening information about this good work that two Sisters of the Precious Blood dreamed about more than six years ago.



- Submitted by Maryann Bremke, CPPS
- Stand with the marginalized

The Third Wiseman

Scottsdale is an upper-class suburb of Phoenix, and in the 70's I was teaching there. Just before Christmas I went to the post office, crowded with the usual pre-Christmas mailing crowd. In front of me was a woman with a little blond boy, about 3 years old. In the line next to us was a black man, tall and distinguished looking, with a neatly trimmed salt and pepper beard. Spying him the boy called out in that loud, piercing voice some young children have: "Mommy, Mommy, look!" We all held our breath because Scottsdale in those days had virtually no black residents, and this man was surely the first black person the boy had ever seen. What was he going to say? "Mommy," he cried again, "Look! There's the third Wiseman!"



Wouldn't it be wonderful to live in a world where people of color are regarded with the positive delight this child had for the third Wiseman? It's Black History Month. Some years ago, Black Catholic Month was put into our US Catholic liturgical calendar for November. In my opinion, it gets lost there among All Saints and All Souls and Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Of course, not all Black American Catholics are of African origin but rather hail from Jamaica or Haiti or Cuba or Brazil or ... with slavery as perhaps the common thread.

The first Black Catholics in my life I knew but did not really know. They were African American high school students at the Catholic all girls high school I attended. They "kept to themselves" eating together in the lunch room. I don't remember any black student ever venturing to answer a question in classes. They were not members of the science club or student council or the national honor society. They were a separate track in our mostly white school and the same "separate trackness" was too often true of Catholic parishes. The definitive book by Fr. Cyprian Davis OSB on Black Catholic History notes that lack of integration of Black Catholics was typical of US parish life until recently. Common documented practices were that Black Catholics often had to sit in a segregated area of the church, like the balcony or one side of the Church; their children could not make first Eucharist with the white children; they received communion at a separate section of the communion rail or after the whites; and of course they sometimes had to use the "separate but equal" drinking fountains and bathrooms in Catholic Churches and schools that were current in the wider US culture until the 1960's. For the better part of a hundred years following the Civil War, Fr. Davis notes, the US church failed to distinguish itself from the secular culture. In some places in the US, Black African American Catholic established separate black Catholic parishes where today they worship in ways that maintain their cultural identity, with Gospel choirs, clapping and praise dancing, and dialog type homilies. The majority of Black Catholics; however, belong today to non-Black Catholic parishes.

As I began parish work, I began to know personally Black Catholics — as parents of children in our faith formation programs, as catechists, occasionally as diocesan personnel. A special privilege came when I was pastoral coordinator of a little African American and White parish. Then an even different degree of closeness began to happen. I began to eat in Black homes where they taught me how to come some traditional African American dishes. I listened to my parishioner friend's personal stories of discrimination within our church. I attended a couple national Black Catholic Congresses and shared motel rooms with black women. From them I learned that being no darker than a paper bag was the ideal. With them I sat shocked in a crowd of 3,000 African Americans at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. "The Lord looks angry," my black sister said. I looked up to see the three domes of the great Basilica where all the figures are blonds, and the stern Christ has corn yellow hair and turquoise eyes. Most recently I was privileged to receive the feelings of some Black Catholic friends who were disheartened and even frightened by the racism directed against them in the last presidential campaign.

A couple months ago I wrote about a special kind of faith called ecclesial faith. Ecclesial faith is not the "Jesus is my personal savior" kind of faith. It is faith that hears God's love poured out through flawed, limited and fallible people and times and institutions like our Church. If there are any Catholics who exemplify ecclesial faith, I think it is Black Catholics.

The US Bishops, in "Brothers and Sisters to Us", say that racism is an evil which is in our Church. We can do something about this just by talking about it, by stepping over the hidden color line even if just by sharing coffee and a donut or touching hands during the Our Father, by letting people know you do not appreciate racist jokes, and in so many other small ways. If you are privileged to be a friend of a Black Catholic, ask to hear their story of how they happen to be Catholic. Thank you to all our Diocesan Black Catholics who have stayed with us, your Catholic brothers and sisters, as we continue trying to understand, accept, and honor you.

- Stand with the marginalized, make a collective commitment to promote and witness nonviolence, and strive to effect reconciliation among God's people.
Submitted by Sr. Mary Garascia, CPPS

October 14, 2017, was the date of the Annual Fall Mycology Educational Foray day at the Alcona Conservation District Woodlot near Tawas City, Michigan. Sister Marie has presented an outdoor field experience twice a year at this educational and recreational property near the State forest area close to Lake Huron for 5 years. This fall, in spite of drier weather, 28 species of fall fungi were collected and identified by nearly 30 attendees. Heather Johnson, a Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club hunt leader "intern" was supervised by Sister Marie and added much information and life to the 3 hour program. The photo shows the two district Rangers, Joe lukasiewicz and Eric Brandon along with the chair of the Conservation District's Board. Go to <http://www.alconaconsevation.org/calendar-of-events.html> to see more about both the fall and spring 2017 mushroom hunt events.



Marie Kopin, C.P.P.S., works with Conservation District Officers and their Board in Michigan

- Submitted by Marie Kopin, CPPS
- Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet's resources.



Sister Genny Volk makes a great groundskeeper!!!!

Genny really cares about her environment. Often when I go for my walks around Salem Heights and the Maria Joseph Center, I see Genny with a trash bag and a "picker upper" gathering pieces of paper, cigarette butts, or anything else that mars the beauty of the grass, sidewalks and the grounds, not only at Salem Heights but mostly around the Maria Joseph Center. She takes great pride in knowing that the Maria Joseph Center was once her home. Genny is truly an inspiration to me and I admire her for what she is doing. As they say, "Genny kills two birds with one stone"--- she not only gets her exercise, but at the same time shows she cares for her environment. Her efforts demonstrate that she really appreciates the gifts that God has given us to enjoy. Thank you, Genny, for taking extra care to show appreciation by caring for the environment.

- Submitted by Ceil Taphorn, CPPS
- Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet's resources.



Sister Marie Kopin, C.PP.S. works with Sisters of other Communities



Marie and Sisters Constance and Vicky standing by the international bridge at Port Huron Michigan

Sister Marie is also networking with two groups of Michigan Sisters, the Sisters of Mary Reparatrix in Port Huron, Michigan, and the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Port Huron eco-spirituality workshop consisted of two sessions. The first one was in the afternoon at the Pine River Preserve with attendees finding and identifying specimens outdoors. The group then moved to the Full Circle Eco-Spirituality Retreat Center near the Huron River for an evening session with sandwiches and a Power-Point presentation tying together the morning's findings with an overview of the Kingdom of Mushrooms. Go to <http://www.fullcycleretreat.org/programcalendar.html> to see a list of related programs for the remainder of this year.

At the Dominican Center in Grand Rapids, Marie gave a "Brain Training" presentation to a group of Dominican Retired Sisters. These Monday

sessions are designed to keep curiosity and new ideas alive and to have fun doing it at their retirement center. This class emphasized Spiritual Aspects of mushrooms besides showing sample photos of fall fungi. They also learned about how mushrooms have been used in Hebrew History, and are present in 80 bible verses. There was much lively discussion and the group found that "Mycologists Have More Fun-gi".

• Submitted by Marie Kopin, CPPS

• Network with other individuals, agencies, and groups to be effective in our current reality

Sr. Donna Liette on “Megyn Kelly Today”



Monday, September 25, Sr. Donna Liette, Fr. Dave Kelly, along with a group of mothers from the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation (PBMR) in Chicago made an appearance on “Megyn Kelly Today”. They all did a great job of getting the word out on the Precious Blood family’s ministry in the Back of the Yards neighborhood in Chicago. Also in ministry at the PBMR are Fr. Deny Kinderman, C.PP.S., Br. Juan Acuña, C.PP.S.; and Sr. Carolyn Hoying, C.PP.S.

We are so proud and thankful for all the good work they are doing for others.

In case you missed it, here’s a link to Sr. Donna Liette’s appearance on “Megyn Kelly Today”.

<https://www.today.com/video/megyn-kelly-introduces-the-chicago-nun-who-s-taking-back-her-streets-1054208579842>

• From Missionaries of the Precious Blood

• Network with other individuals, agencies, and groups to be effective in our current reality

Pope at the UN demands response to hunger, climate and migration

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis demanded today that world governments collectively commit to end rising world hunger by resolving the conflicts and climate change-related disasters that force people to leave their homes in search of their daily bread.

Francis drew a standing ovation today at the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, where he marked the U.N.'s World Food Day by calling for governments to work together to tackle the interconnected problems of hunger, global warming and migration.

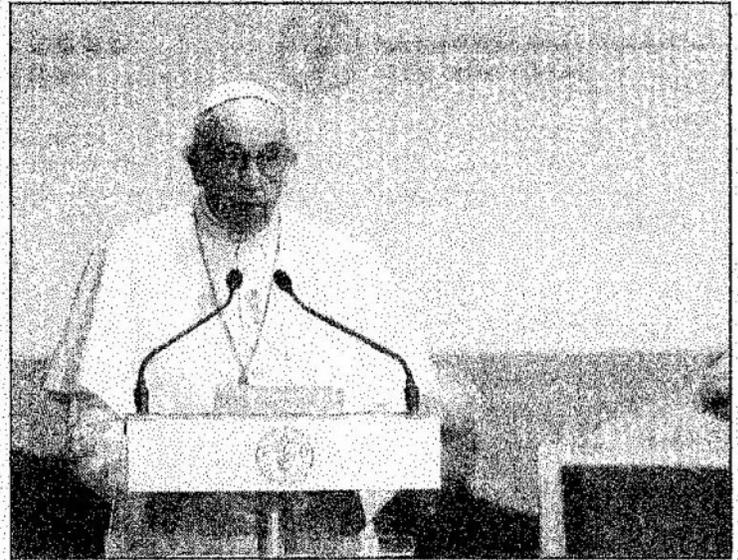
He cited the Paris climate accord, in which governments committed to capping heat-trapping emissions, as an example of taking action to fight global warming based on scientific evidence. But in what appeared to be a jab at the United States, which has announced it is withdrawing from the accord, Francis

lamented that "unfortunately some are distancing themselves from it."

Francis said negligence and greed over the world's limited resources are harming the planet and its most vulnerable people, forcing many to abandon their homes in search of work and food.

"We are called to propose a change in lifestyle and the use of resources," Francis told the audience, which included agriculture ministers from the Group of Seven nations. "We cannot make do by saying 'someone else will do it.'"

Last month, the U.N. reported that the number of chronically hungry people in the world was rising again after a decade of declines thanks to prolonged conflicts and climate change-related floods and droughts. While the 815 million chronically undernourished people last year is still below the 900 mil-



Associated Press

Pope Francis delivers his speech today during his visit to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on the occasion of the World Food Day.

lion registered in 2000, the U.N. warned that the increase "is cause for great concern."

Francis said the answer wasn't to reduce the world's population but rather to better manage the planet's abundant resources and prevent waste. Francis called the population control argument — which the Catholic Church has long opposed — a "false solution."

Rather, he called for a new model of international cooperation that incorporates love, fraternity and solidarity into responding to the needs of the poorest.

Francis said it's not enough to respond with pity, "because pity is limited to emergency aid."

Love, he said, "inspires justice and is essential to bring about a just social order."

In a tangible sign of his message, Francis' gift to the U.N. food agency to commemorate his visit was a marble sculpture of Aylan, the toddler who washed up on a Turkish beach in October 2015. The sculpture, which features a wailing angel over the little boy's corpse, symbolizes the tragedy of migration, the Vatican said.

In what ways do these areas highlighted by Pope Francis arouse in us concern, a desire to take a stand, and make a difference in some way? What will you do?

OTSE — Ohioans To Stop Executions



OTSE was founded in 1988 and their mission is simple: **end the death penalty in Ohio.**

Since October 2007, Kevin Werner has lead OTSE's efforts. This is his 10-year anniversary and here are a few of his accomplishments:

- 14 executions have been stopped
- he's written 31 different grant proposals
- 13 bills related to the death penalty have been introduced.

Thanks to Kevin, our Sisters, and many other people who carry out this important work to end the death penalty.

• Submitted by: Sr. Martha Bertke, CPPS

• Network with other individuals, agencies, and groups to be effective in our current reality.

ETHICAL FAIR TRADE SALE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 9am - 4pm

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON (River Campus)

1700 S Patterson Blvd., Dayton, OH



Each year the Catholic Social Action committee of the Dayton area sponsors a Fair Trade Sale in the area. As the name indicates it is a sale, an opportunity to buy articles from countries throughout the world at a reasonable price. Besides that, it means that the articles for sale come directly from the people who made them in the different countries and who have received a just price for the merchandise. For the past years the Sisters of the Precious Blood have been selling articles from Guatemala, giving our proceeds to our mission in Guatemala. When I was in Guatemala in March I met several of the women who make some of the articles that we sell. How humbling and what a privilege!

On a national level Catholic Relief Services bring in quality merchandise from around the globe, including coffee, chocolate, purses, art pieces, clothing and much more. In this way they are ensuring that artisans and farmers throughout the world are treated fairly, with dignity and respect.

This year the sale is on **Saturday, December 2**, a time to prepare for gift-giving, not only for our loved ones, but also for those who are involved in making the product. Plan now to attend this one or a similar one in your area.



for those who are involved in making the product. Plan now to attend this one or a similar one in your area.

- Submitted by: *Sr. Marita Buemer, CPPS*
- 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 **November 25th** so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **12-01-2017**.

Please submit to Marty Bertke m.bertke@hometowncable.net
...or to Mary Lou Schmursal cppsnews@bright.net

Your contributions make all the difference!

We're on the Web!

www.preciousbloodsistersdayton.org