

Sisters of the Precious Blood

Volume 3, Issue 1, December 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



Grief and the Holidays

The memories of those we love are held in our hearts for all time. There are those moments when those memories pull at our heart strings causing us to fall into a kind of funk until we can sort out what we are feeling and why. What triggered our sadness? Why did grief pick this time, this moment for us to take notice? This time of year, as people make plans for holiday gatherings, Christmas decorations appear in the stores and, seemingly, everyone you meet is happily preparing for

the holidays, we feel a little more deeply the absence of one who lives in our memories and won't be at the table, opening gifts, helping to cook, or clean up. Our holidays are not bright and cheery — all the time.

Grief NEVER takes a Holiday was the title of a talk Sr. Terry Maher presented to a group of parishioners at Holy Names of Jesus Parish in Redlands, California, on November 8th. The talk presented ways in which folks struggling with loss may get through this holiday season. Participants were given the opportunity to share what may work for them as they talk with family, share their hopes and their struggles. Also shared with the group were various approaches to handling emotions that may rise up as the holidays unfold. After the presentation participants lingered and shared their story of loss with each me and each other.

Submitted by: Terry Maher

Assembly Directive: Stand with the marginalized ... and strive to effect reconciliation among God's people

Harvest Love and Joy!

These words come to us from Rev. Linda Wygant, of Grace Seeds Ministry in Chicago.

Here's how we're all connected in this particular "giving thread"!



Marty Linderborg, from First United Methodist Church in Oak Lawn, donated the leftover pie pumpkins and gourds from their church's fantastic, annual pumpkin sale/festival. I picked them up — on my way to make another harvest pick up from the urban farm at Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation in the Back of the Yards neighborhood in Chicago. PBMR, via **Sr. Carolyn Hoying** and Mary Harkenrider, gifted us with beautiful bags of red mustard greens and Toscano kale! Thank you!



PBMR is hosting a Thanksgiving celebration for the community - which provides outreach, spiritual support, education, and vocational training to children, youth and adults in the neighborhood. I was able to share some of the pumpkins and gourds, which will be used for their feast! PBMR's gift of greens and the remaining pie pumpkins and gourds were given to the fantastic food pantry run by Catholic Charities at St. Blasé in Summit. You can see, by the smiles on the Sisters' faces, that they were delighted to receive your gifts!

Dale and Alice Valaskovic visit St. Blasé twice a week during the growing season — sharing the delicious harvest from the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church garden!



Thank you all for your continuing commitment to community, to connection, to advocacy for food justice, and for sharing God's love and abundance!

Photos of wonderful gifts shared and celebrating the network ministry.

Submitted by: Carolyn Hoying, CPPS

Assembly Directive: **Stand with the marginalized ... and strive to effect reconciliation among God's people**



Educating to make a Difference

Sisters Rosie Goubeaux, Mary Garke, Joan DeChristopher and I joined Sr. Anne Schulz on November 4 for the 2017 Champions of Mercy Awards Dinner sponsored by Catholic Charities of South Western Ohio. Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School under the leadership of Sr. Anne was presented with an award for being an excellent school whose students and staff demonstrate compassion and outreach to those in need. The students host a monthly food drive for Reach-Out-Lakota and St. Raphael food pantries. Every



Sisters Rosemary Goubeaux, Mary Garke, Ann Schultz, Joan DeChristopher, Cecilia Taphorn

October, fifth grade students collect socks for the homeless and all students donate baby items for Right to Life groups. Seventh and Eighth graders give up their holiday parties to host a party for students at Fairwood Elementary School in Hamilton. They invite Hawthorn Glen Retirement Community members to be their guests at the school's Thanksgiving meal and share gifts with the seniors at Christmas and Easter. Last year, the 8th grade leadership committee hosted the Lenten prayer for the Rice Bowl project, introducing the student body to the need of people in other countries. They also bring in food of the country they were presenting, so that students can sample it during lunch on each Friday of lent.

Submitted by: Sister Ceil Taphorn, CPPS

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

Native Peoples on Trial

I was very impressed with this video (<https://www.lakotalaw.org/our-actions/on-trial>) about Chase Iron eyes of the Lakota tribe. He certainly has words of wisdom for us. The local government is trying to hold him responsible for violence against the government as a jihadist when he participated in nonviolent demonstrations regarding construction of more oil pipelines on tribal land in the Dakotas. I see this as being outrageous! The video tells the story in true terms and gives hope to unite us all. Please feel free to pass this around so all will know the truth. These pipeline and drilling issues are especially true where I live, Isabella County, containing the largest oil field in Michigan. We have many cases of cancer, old oil fields and equipment not cleaned up, and methane gas burning off all the time and much more.

Submitted by: Marie Kopin, CPPS

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





Preparation

In preparation for making her first profession of vows, Sr. Bela, meets regularly with a group of Sisters. Included in the group are: Sisters Jeanette Buehler, Mary Garke, Rosemary Goubeaux, Della Meyer and Genny Volk.



Each of us is reading Religious Life in the 21st Century by Diarmuid O'Murchu, MSC, a member of the Sacred Heart Missionary Congregation. He has written several books and is an influential thinker on religious life. This seminal book surveys the historical rise and fall of religious orders and congregations and reveals an unfolding pattern that gives hope for the present and future.

When we gather together, we share insights gained and make comments regarding the ideas that are presented in his writings. We are finding the book to be not only enriching but also challenging to some of our formerly held ideas regarding religious life. This sharing is a way of bonding with one another.

Submitted by: *Sr. Della Mae Meyer, CPPS*

- Assembly Directive: Continue to articulate and integrate our Spirituality in our sharing among ourselves and with others.



**God, our Father and protector,
without you nothing is holy,
nothing has value.
Guide us to everlasting life
by helping us to use wisely
the blessings you have
given to the world.
We ask this through our
Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Submitted by Noreen Jutte, CPPS

- Assembly Directive: Continue to articulate and integrate our Spirituality in our sharing among ourselves and with others.

COMMUNITY GARDEN TAKES ROOT

Harvest for Hope a community garden was begun by Michelle Emerson, three years ago. Located at 300 St. Louis Ave. near Our Lady of Mercy which served as a victory garden at the end of WWII. Tom Bensman and Jean joined Michelle as board members. Michelle created a website whereby anyone could volunteer to work in the garden. That's how I got involved.

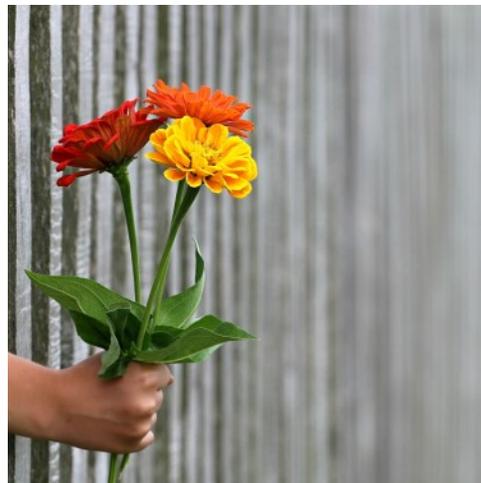
This year marked a few “first” for Harvest for Hope. In July, we held our first interfaith Youth Mission Week, with six faith groups bringing almost 40 youth into the garden for a week of service (i.e., “work”) and celebration. The primary achievements were the completion of the quarter-mile walking path around the property and beginning of the accessible garden. We gathered to bless the garden and our work.

Other youth joined us in the garden as we participated in the Global Youth Service Day for the second year in a row, and throughout the growing season various student groups from the University of Dayton contributed their skills, energy, and enthusiasm to our growing projects. Other community groups chipped in now and then to help make this our best year yet for volunteer hours. As a result our giving exceeded 1,000 pounds-over half a ton of fresh, organically raised produce for the hungry in our community. Much of the total went to the Food for the Journey community meal that is served every Wednesday evening at Our Lady of Mercy parish and the remainder was given to neighbors and passersby. Last year the produce was given to the House of Bread.

At the end of the season we held our first Gatherings in the Garden designed to bring the garden neighbors together to share food and stories. Two cookouts were held with about 20 neighbors sharing in a potluck meal. And we will continue next spring.



- Submitted by Judy Niday, CPPS
- Assembly Directive: Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet's resources.





Renewal Applications

Most of the driving population take for granted their driver's license renewal. Yet, for non-citizens with temporary immigration benefits from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), renewal and expiration dates depend on the validity of the immigration benefit.

Thus, DACA recipients known as Dreamers will lose their driver's license as their work permits expire. In many instances they are the only family member who is legally

able to drive, buy a car, hold car and house titles in their name because with the work permit comes a Social Security card.

For the last five years, I have prepared initial and renewal applications for DACA. Maribel, Manuel, Jose, Genesis, Daisy and others shared their dreams, and now their frustrations and concerns. So much is at stake for the Dreamers and their families. As the DACA program will end on March 5, 2018 and every day that Congress fails to pass legislation 122 Dreamers lose their DACA and their driver's license.

Join with the Dreamers and call your members of Congress, sign petitions and talk with others on the importance of passing the Dream Act. <http://www.cnn.com/videos/cnnmoney/2017/08/30/what-is-daca.cnnmoney/video/playlists/daca-decision/>

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

Send us your articles (approximately 125 to 150 words or less) for our next issue.

Next issue articles for Grassroots are due **December 26th** so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **01_02_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