

Sisters of the Precious Blood

Volume 3, Issue 2, January 2018

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

Another successful BLC 5-K Literacy Run



The Brunner Literacy Center, like all 501c3 organizations, survives on its donations—corporate and personal. Fundraisers supplement these donations and require the drive and enthusiasm of committed supporters like John and Carole Muhlenkamp. Five years ago this dynamic duo organized our first 5-K Run for literacy. The net profit in 2012 was \$6000; in 2017 in excess of \$30,000. The chairpersons, supported by vibrant committee members, generated this productivity. The critical element of success lies in event sponsors and the overall hard work of staff, tutors, Board and community. Held the last Satur-

day of October each year, the 5-K run draws a wide variety of runners to Englewood Park off Route 40 near Dayton. Music, comradery, warm-up exercises, and energy foods complete the often-chilly race setting.

The ten o'clock sound of the gun signals runners to GO! The pros are off with a blur while the majority of *racers* move along in an energetic walk—some even pushing strollers. Shy of twenty minutes the first returners cross the finish meter; others dribbling in until the last of the more than one hundred fifty participants register completion.

Awarding the ribbons and the raffle drawing ends another successful BLC 5-K Literacy Run. By way of note...Sister Margie Zureick repeatedly sells the winning \$500, \$300 and \$200 raffle tickets. Sister is one of our outstanding supporters.



Submitted by Sr. Maryann Bremke, CPPS

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



I was in Jackson County, Kentucky, where I was working with six other volunteers. We lived on donations of food and money—for everything. We had lots of government commodities, so we ate a lot of that stuff. One day we were down to our last half-carton of powdered milk. As they left for the day, my coworkers said, “Don’t give out any milk today.” About an hour later a woman came and asked for a food box. So I packed up a nice supply of food. (I can still picture her.) As she was thanking me for the box, she noticed there wasn’t any milk in there. “Oh,” she said, “Do you have any milk, because I have two toddlers at home.” Although I could hear the voices of my coworkers, I also heard the voice of the Lord. I hardly hesitated; I went into the kitchen and got that box of milk and gave it to her.

After she left, I was trying to figure out how I was going to tell the group that we had no more milk. Then I heard a Jeep Cherokee pull into the parking lot. As I approached the vehicle, I noticed it was jam-packed with boxes of government powdered milk. The priest who had brought the milk said that it was from his school in Covington. The school cafeteria hadn’t been able to use it all.

When I was at St. Paul’s in McKee I got a call from a home-health nurse who asked me if I could take a teen-aged boy to the emergency room in Berea. He had scratched his leg with a rusty nail and blood poisoning was going up his leg in blue streaks. So I threw a mattress in the back of the van and went to pick him up. The house was up a hill. I pulled around to the back of the house on a gravel “road”. His mother and her other sons carried Burton to the van. His mother got in. I was going to turn around and go back the same way I had come, but Lola said, “Just keep straight on; this road will come out on the highway.” It was pouring rain; the further we went the less the gravel and the more the mud. At the bottom of a hill we sank into the mud. I rocked the van out of the mud, but the wheels were spinning; there was no traction to go up the next hill. Lola and I began to pray. Suddenly we started up. It was as though a force was pushing us all the way to the top of the hill. Lola asked me, “How did you do that?” I still don’t know! We got the boy to the hospital on time. I now realize that, without cell phones or any passing traffic, we could have been stranded for hours or days. It was truly a miracle.



Tell us some of your miracle stories!

Above articles Submitted by Margie Zureick, CPPS (written by Paula Gero, CPPS)

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



“is this God speaking?”

Years ago, I found myself in charge of the L’Arche community in Cleveland. L’Arche provides group home living for the mentally handicapped. The group was in serious financial difficulties. Our CPPS community came to the rescue and paid very large electric and gas bills, but there was still the water bill to be paid so they would not shut off the water. It was for (if memory serves) \$1532.16. I was resigning myself to the water shutoff when I got a call from Al Hembra, a branch of the Knights of Columbus.

The Al Hembra group takes up a collection at most parish churches and uses the money to support those who are handicapped in many ways. The local head of the group....a very Italian gentleman...called me one day and said...“This is Luigi.....and...we’ve given away most of our charitable funds for this year, but we have a little—a very little—left. We were told that you work with L’Arche and we wondered if you could use what little we have left in our collection.” Of course we could. The gentleman went on to explain it was not very much but they would happily give us what they had.

The amount still remaining in their collection was \$1532.16. I paused when I heard the amount and then said....“Is this God speaking?” There was silence on the other end of the line for a moment and then the gentleman responded...“No, this is Luigi from the Al Hembra calling!”

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

Submitted by Mary Ann Moszer, CPPS

Tell us about the miracles you have experienced!

Find or MAKE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL EACH DAY!

It is amazing what the creativity, willingness and use of a little time here and there can do to make a major difference in people's lives. Since 2011 several dozen ladies have worked together to make well over 6000 scarves, caps, and mittens of all sizes to warm the hands and heads of many people in our area and beyond. While meeting together each month to share ideas, support, prayer, encouragement and their final products, they work mostly at home. These artists have become more aware of the needs of their neighbors and in the process have (re) discovered their own talents as well. The donated yarn yields surprising results. Take note of the photos on p.4 illustrating some of the delightful outcomes.

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- Submitted by Mary Lou Schmersal, CPPS

MIGRANT SHARES HER STORY

At Salem Heights on December 12, thirty of our sisters gathered to hear about the plight of migrants and refugees, to learn what our Catholic response to these individuals should be and to listen to the personal story of Laura, a college-age woman who arrived in the United States from Mexico as a four-year-old.



Laura, who is registered in the U.S. under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), attends college on a full academic scholarship. She does not receive any government assistance. She tearfully relayed her ambition of becoming a doctor, because she is fearful that her scholarship will be revoked or worse, that she will be deported to Mexico, a country that she doesn't know.

Laura and some 800,000 individuals who are registered under DACA (which has been repealed), will potentially be separated from their families unless Congress passes legislation to grant them legal status. To lend our voice to this legislative process and to participate in the Archdiocese' 10,000 letters for DREAMers campaign, the sisters signed letters to their congressional representatives.

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- Submitted by Colleen Kammer



Mount Pleasant, Michigan, now has a Free Pantry for the needy

Sister Marie has supported our Senior Girl Scouts and community needs by going to the "Official Ribbon Cutting Celebration" of our unique "Laurels Free Pantry" in Mount Pleasant, MI. in mid December, 2017. Senior Girl Scout Ally Kaniski, creator of this project, is shown cutting the ribbon. She has worked in connection with the Laurels' Nursing Home to develop a unique way to serve our needy and is now a Junior in High School. She has networked with many agencies coordinating things to make this project such as carpentry supplies, paint, advertising, and encouraging donations of nonperishable foods, paper products, and personal care items which are being placed inside this "Pantry" box. The Laurels Little Free Pantry is an 80 hour Gold Award project and is the highest achievement within Girl Scouts. You can like their Facebook page "Laurels Little Free Pantry" for more information.



The Isabella County Soup Kitchen Guests celebrate Christmas with Holiday Songs and Gifts

Sister Marie Kopin participated in another Christmas Musical event for Guests at the Isabella County Soup Kitchen (ICSK), <http://www.icsk.org/>. Here, she is playing keyboard while Sue Sobaski Wood, Chair of the ICSK Board, adds rhythm and bells, and Genny Sobaski, past manager, of ICSK plays guitar as does her husband Gerard. All have been members of a former church instrumental music group directed by Marie. This is an annual event to which ICSK "guests" can look forward. Marie has participated in various ICSK volunteer events for the past 6 years and is also pictured with Kim, the manager. A number of Turkeys were awarded by a lottery to Guests and special menu items were provided. ICSK accommodates the homeless, needy, seniors, handicapped, and anyone who wishes to share meals with us.

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 - Submitted by Marie Kopin, CPPS

January 14th is World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees

A PILGRIMAGE TO BEATIFICATION

The pilgrimage began May 4, 2017 with the announcement that Venerable Fr. Solanus Casey, OFM, Cap. was to be Beatified in Detroit, MI later in the year.

On that day, I remembered living as a child about eleven blocks from St. Boniface Monastery where Fr. Solanus had been a Porter for many years. I remembered attending Mass there with my mother and older brother. I recalled being at the Monastery on January 9, 2017 for the funeral mass of my Aunt Mary who was a lay Third Order Franciscan. I remembered my uncle praying for my dying father with a second class relic of Fr. Solanus Casey. Later I found a second class relic of this saintly man among my parents' belongings. I also remembered stories of the Capuchin soup kitchen which Fr. Solanus co-founded in Detroit in 1929 and how a cousin volunteers at the soup kitchen today.

After the announcement of his beatification, I began to read and study about him and pray to him. When invited to be a volunteer at the beatification, without hesitation I decided to do so both for the experience and to give back to the Archdiocese and the city of my birth.

I read books and articles, listened to "Solanus stories", and talked with several CPPS members who visited the Detroit Solanus Casey Center. This led me to a deeper appreciation for the gentle, humble priest, who had a special affection for the poor and needy, and walked the streets of Detroit and Brighton, where I now reside. He accepted individuals where they were in life and challenged them to grow, inspiring me to similar action. He witnessed charity to numerous people; his compassion influences me and others. One story was about several women came to see Father Solanus from a Catholic sanatorium in Rome City, Indiana. Assumption is this was Kneipp Springs and the women were influenced by our CPPS Sisters. Stories from individuals in the Brighton area, told of spiritual and physical healings in his lifetime and after his death. I met a group of women who were orphans and knew him as chaplain. I discovered a shrine in his honor at St. Mary Magdalen Church, in Brighton.

Many people from the United States, Ireland, Canada, Italy, Panama, etc., came for the beatification. More than three hundred of his relatives made the journey and 60,000 plus of all ages assembled for Mass on Saturday November 18th at Ford Field.

Liturgy began with "This is the feast of victory for our God..." During Mass a picture of Blessed Solanus was unveiled and a Song of Thanksgiving was sung.

The Gospel focused on Luke 11:10 inspiring Blessed Solanus throughout his life. Jesus speaks "Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you." Thank God ahead of time was lived by Blessed Solanus.

I was blessed by my pilgrimage and being a witness to the Beatification of Blessed Solanus Casey. The journey of faith continues. Blessed Solanus Casey will be remembered by the Church each year on July 30th.

- **Assembly Directive: Network with other individuals, agencies, and groups to be effective in our current reality**
- Joanne Belloli, CPPS 11/24/2017

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

Next issue articles for Grassroots are due January 25th so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by 02_02_2018.

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