



SEPTEMBER 2017
NUMBER 620

CINCINNATI C.P.P.S. NEWSLETTER

*In Christ, through the
shedding of his blood,
we have redemption and
forgiveness of our sins.*

Ephesians 1: 7a

Garden Grows with Unconditional Love

Staff Members in it For the Long Haul

Dave Kelly, C.P.P.S.

Excuse me if I have told this story before, but I think it is worth repeating.

We have a flourishing, traffic-stopping, community garden that interrupts the abandoned, empty and boarded-up theme that surrounds our Precious Blood center. On one side of the building is the peace garden with flowers and an outdoor grill, labyrinth and basketball court. On the other side is a vegetable garden that is on the University of Illinois at Chicago's community garden tour.

In regards to the garden area, my job is simple: mow the grass and not the flowers. I am fair at it. I enjoy it. The sound of the mower insulates me for a moment from cell phone, doorbell, etc. Even when someone waves to get my attention for some need, admittedly, there are times that I wave back as though it were merely a kind gesture or friendly hello, and I keep on mowing.

The youth work in the garden, watering, weeding, and just the overall work that is needed to keep the garden producing "good fruit." Last year in the heat of the summer, one of the youth who worked in the

garden was sitting upstairs in the kitchen drinking some juice or water. I happened to walk by and asked Marques why he was sitting there and was not outside where I knew Sr. Carolyn Hoying, C.P.P.S., was working (straw hat and all). Marques explained that he was taking a break. Innocently, I said "Marques, you should take a break when Sr. Carolyn takes a break." With a pained look and in all sincerity he exclaimed, "she don't take no breaks!" I laughed and had to admit that he was right. I left him in peace.

I believe in the old adage attributed to St. Francis, "preach the gospel always and, if necessary, use words." The commitment of Sr. Carolyn, Sr. Donna Liette, C.P.P.S., and Fr. Denny Kinderman, C.P.P.S. speaks volumes to the sacredness of all life.

This year, here at PBMR, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Fr. Denny's priesthood ordination and the 60th anniversary of Sr. Donna's solemn profession. Their commitment and the love they have for the families and youth—unconditional, no-strings-attached love—is the very essence of the gospel message. The garden is but a manifestation of that love of life.

In a world where we have disposable everything, the sacred commitment of Fr. Denny, Sr. Donna and Sr. Carolyn convey the certainty and the consistency of God's love for his people—all people. At the core of our



Sr. Carolyn Hoying, Sr. Donna Liette and Fr. Denny Kinderman show their commitment every day at the Precious Blood Center.

work is witnessing to the love of God. That love comes alive in how Fr. Denny, Srs. Donna and Carolyn live their lives.

Working with young men and women who have been traumatized through neglect, abandonment and violence has its challenges. Their ability to trust is damaged; they often live for the moment. To many, it is about survival at all costs. The daily presence of people who care, not just about what you can do or what you might have, but care for you as a human being, is the only means of breaking through to a child who has learned well not to trust anybody.

None of this is easy, nor is it quickly done. You have to be in it for the long haul. It takes men and women who are willing to live their lives in such a way that love becomes more than a word or sentiment—it becomes a life lived. Ultimately, you must believe in the power of love—that it has the power to transform even the most troubled and pained soul.



The New Creation

Reflections from
the Precious Blood
Ministry of Reconciliation