

Sisters of the Precious Blood

Volume 3, Issue 4, March 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

BRIGID'S PATH UPDATE

After years of dreaming, planning, and working in many areas, Brigid's Path welcomed its first baby in late December. Since that time, four other newborns have arrived. This first crisis nursery in Ohio for drug-exposed babies has become a reality here in Dayton.

In addition to a beautiful and peace-filled home for the infants with care from dedicated nurses and volunteers, Brigid's Path has a strong family advocacy component. Social workers aid the parents and families in numerous ways with the hope that the infant can return home if not yet to its parents, to other family members.

I have done my training and am now a "baby cuddler". It is so special to hold a little one and pray for healing for both the child and family.

Submitted by: Arlene Hirsch cpps

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

Sisters of Earth 2018 Conference:

"Sharing the Wisdom, Shaping the Dream: Creating the Future We Want"

July 12-15 at Mount St. Joseph University, Cincinnati, OH

For more information, contact Colleen Kammer, 937-275-0303 X116

Sisters of Earth is an informal network of religious women who share a deep concern for the ecological and spiritual crises of our times, and who wish to support one another in work toward healing the human spirit and restoring Earth's life support systems. Founded in 1994 by several Catholic Sisters from the US and Canada.

- Assembly Directive: Network with other individuals, agencies, and groups to be effective in our current reality
- Submitted by Colleen Kammer



Caring for Others

Chaplain Sylvia Moseley Robinson, MDiv, a chaplain from the Dayton Correctional Institute (DCI) informed Sister Jeanette Buehler that women prisoners are in need of personal items. The fastest growing prison population in Ohio is women, noticeably poor, white women. While in prison the women receive \$13 a month for personal items and other items that can be purchased within the prison. Those with no family support, struggle to purchase soap, deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo and things we take for granted.

Through efforts made by Sr. Martha Bertke, the Social Action Committee of Holy Trinity Parish in Coldwater invited people to donate items for these women. People have been very generous and all items have been delivered to the Dayton Correctional Institute. Chaplain Sylvia and these women are so grateful.

Directive: Stand with the Marginalized
Submitted by: Sr. Martha Bertke

“One Border, One Body”

Tuesday, February 20th, at St. Charles Center, Colleen Kammer showed the film “One Border, One Body”, which deals with the topic of Immigration. This was the second film shown there on this important topic. There were 25 people in attendance and following the film there was good discussion amongst the participants.



Refugees

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out

It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way
-Brian Bilston

(now read from bottom all the way to the top —note the difference in the message)



• **Directive:** Stand with the marginalized
Submitted by Colleen Kammer

LCWR and Social Justice

Working for a more just and peaceful world is an integral component of LCWR's vision and goals. While many member congregations are actively engaged in efforts promoting social, economic, and earth justice, LCWR provides opportunities for addressing issues of concern with a corporate voice by taking action on resolutions approved at the national assembly.

Imagining Justice

A Learning Lab for Leaders and Justice Promoters will be held

Monday, March 12 to Thursday, March 15, 2018

Redemptorist Renewal Center, Tucson, Arizona

Since 1998, LCWR members have provided an event each year in response to the LCWR goal of working for a just world order by using our corporate influence to effect systemic change. Participants use the tools of contemplation, theological reflection and social analysis to think systemically about situations where transformation is desired.

This gathering begins on Monday with the evening meal and concludes Wednesday evening after the evening meal, reserving Thursday as a travel day.

Colleen Kammer, Peace, Justice and Ecology Coordinator, for the Missionaries and the Sisters of the Precious Blood, will be attending this event. There she will interact with religious and lay people who represent various religious congregations and collaborate and/or network with others.

Here is a link to it: lcsr.org/social-justice/ImaginingJustice2018

Approximate Time it Takes for Garbage to Decompose in the Environment

Glass Bottle.....	1 million years
Monofilament Fishing Line...	600 years
Plastic Beverage Bottles.....	450 years
Disposable Diapers.....	450 years
Aluminum Can.....	80-200 years
Foamed Plastic Buoy.....	80 years
Foamed Plastic Cups.....	50 years
Rubber-Boot Sole.....	50-80 years
Tin Cans.....	50 years
Leather.....	50 years
Nylon Fabric.....	30-40 years
Plastic Bag.....	10-20 Years
Cigarette Butt.....	1-5 years
Wool Sock.....	1-5 years
Plywood	1-3 years
Apple Core.....	2 months
Waxed Milk Carton.....	3 months
Newspaper.....	6 weeks
Orange or Banana Peel.....	2-5 weeks
Paper Towel.....	2-4 weeks



Source: Penn State University, U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Information Source: U.S. National Park Service; Mote Marine Lab, Sarasota, FL (decomposition times); National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program. More info about marine debris is available at the NOAA Marine Debris Program and Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation websites.

Learn more about plastic in the ocean in "What We Know about: Plastic Marine Debris" Info Sheet and the "Plastics in the Ocean" Infographic, both from the NOAA Marine Debris Program.

Information Source: U.S. National Park Service; Mote Marine Lab, Sarasota, FL (decomposition times); National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program

https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/trash/documents/marine_debris.pdf



A World Without Plastic Pollution

Earth Day April 22, 2018 Campaign

From poisoning and injuring marine life to disrupting human hormones, from littering our beaches and landscapes to clogging our waste streams and landfills, the exponential growth of plastics is now threatening the survival of our planet.

In response, Earth Day 2018 will focus on fundamentally changing human attitudes and behaviors about plastics and catalyzing a significant reduction in plastic pollution.

Our strategy to *End Plastic Pollution* will:

- Lead and support the adoption of a global framework to regulate plastic pollution
- Educate and mobilize citizens across the globe to demand

action from governments and corporations to control and diminish plastic pollution

[Inform and activate citizens](#) to take personal responsibility for the plastic pollution that each one of us generates by choosing to reject, reduce, reuse and recycle plastics

Work with [universities, school teachers and students](#) to End Plastic Pollution

- Work with other organizations and networks and make Earth Day 2018 a platform to End Plastic Pollution by [developing resources that others can use](#) and build partnerships.
- Promote the work that cities and local governments are doing to tackle plastic pollution
- Empower journalists across the globe to report on the problem and its emerging solutions.

Earth Day Network will leverage the platform of Earth Day, April 22, 2018 and the growing excitement around the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day in 2020. We will work with key constituencies and influencers to build a world of educated consumers of all ages who understand the environmental, climate and health consequences of using plastics.

We will engage and activate our global network of NGO's and grassroots organizations, campus youth, mayors and other local elected leaders, faith leaders, artists and athletes, and primary and secondary students and teachers.

We will organize events in all continents of the world, build a global following and activate citizens to join our End Plastic Pollution advocacy campaigns.

In sum, we will use the power of Earth Day to elevate the issue of plastic pollution in the global agenda and inspire and demand effective action to reduce and control it.

Earth Day Network—the global coordinator of Earth Day—is building the world's largest coalition of people united to ensure a healthy planet. Working year-round with more than 50,000 partner organizations in 192 countries, our global campaigns and programs bring hundreds of thousands of new voices—representing youth and faculty, the faith community, minority groups, women, teachers, students and others—into the environmental movement.

[Please join us and add your voice to our network!](#)

- Source: <https://www.earthday.org/campaigns/plastics-campaign/>
- **Assembly Directive: Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet's resources.**

Sister Marie Kopin works with the local chapter of CCL/CCE, the Mt. Pleasant Citizens' Climate Lobby/Education



Sister Marie partners with Marie Koper

The September 2016 issue of *Grassroots*, contained "[A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation.](#)" In the spirit of that prayer, Sister Marie has found many companions in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, to help her spread the word, that the pollution and the rate of world warming that makes life so much more difficult for the poor, women and children, and the elderly can still be reversed. One person is Marie Koper, the group leader of Mt. Pleasant CCL/CCE chapter, who promotes climate education and action in our area (see photo).

For instance, there is a motel next to a cross-country ski trail system north of Sister Marie that now closes in the winter as there are not enough weekends with snow for skiers to come up and use the facility!

What will it be like for winter sports vendors and participants, in our northern states? What about the MI Winter Sports industries who depend on them for a living? What about the Winter Olympics with fewer international sites with enough snow to hold the games? Here in Michigan, snow making is becoming more and more prevalent for ALL kinds of winter sports. Snowmobile trails may soon cease to exist. With few snowfalls, those who snowplow streets and driveways get less income too. New chapters of CCL such as one developing in Roscommon County, MI, are addressing just those issues.

Marie notes that José Aguto, Associate Director of [Catholic Climate Covenant](#), who works to care for the poor and all creation, spoke to CCL members on their [December 9, 2017](#), national video call, recommending collaboration. You may wish to check this out and also the international map of [CCL chapters](#) in the U.S. and the world. Please share the [good news](#) of climate solutions such as these with friends and family, too.

[Citizens' Climate Lobby](#) is a non-profit, non-partisan, and international grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change. CCL volunteers are empowered to build political support for climate action through the relationships they create with their relentless respect and persistence.



Citizens' Climate Lobby Citizens' Climate Education



Submitted by Marie Kopin CPPS

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New Precious Blood Spirituality Book



Monday, October 30, 2017 Sr. Joyce Lehman sent a message to all CPPS Sisters. She wrote: "Dear Sisters, I am forwarding a note we received from Father Jeff Kirch, CPPS, and Secretary General for the Missionaries. Please read the invitation and decide if you feel inspired to participate in the venture. If you are so inspired, please let me know so that we don't have 5 Sisters all writing on the same topic. We're praying to the Holy Spirit that some will represent us well."

The note from Father Jeff states: "The General Council of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood have decided to publish a new book on our shared Precious Blood Spirituality. We are envisioning a collection of essays written from variety of perspectives on a variety of topics. In addition to welcoming submissions from the Missionaries, we also want to extend an invitation to the sister congregations with a shared Precious Blood charism to submit essays."

In a later communication from Fr. Jeff we learned that he would like to have all essays by March 15 and ideally would like to publish the book before December 2018. The General Council envisions essays of 2,000-3,000 words, approximately 6-8 pages, double spaced. Fr. Jeff is responsible for the editing process and the book will be published in English.

Thanks to all members of our Congregation who submitted the following articles:

Sr. Jeanette Buehler	All Life Is Precious (Homicide Prayer Vigils)
Sr. Marita Beumer	P B Spirituality as the Dynamic of Intercultural Ministry
Sr. Martha Bertke	Precious Blood Spirituality and the Death Penalty
Sr. Anne Schulz	Precious Blood Spirituality and Education

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

Next issue articles for Grassroots are due March 25th so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by 04_05_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