

Sisters of the Precious Blood

Volume 3, Issue 5, April 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



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 x 116

<https://www.facebook.com/srs.ofearth>

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

The Climate is Changing

Watch this short 2 minute YouTube link to find out the difference these changes are making and what you can do about it <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oyguP4nLv0&feature=youtu.be>

- Assembly Directive: 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.
- Submitted by: Sr. Marie Kopin

IS WHITE PRIVILEGE REAL?



This is the title for a program that will be held on **April 14th** at the Northwest Branch Library in Dayton. It is being co-sponsored by the Sisters of the Precious Blood, the Dayton Catholic Social Action Office, Greater Dayton Christian Connections and Summit Christian Church. The program features segments from the DVD by Tim Wise entitled "White Like Me." Two of these programs have been held with participants numbering approximately 50 to 60 persons. The highlight has been small group discussions. If interested, contact Sr. Jeanette at jbuehler@cppsdayton.org

A good preparation for this gathering (or for insightful reading at any time) are the books:

SMALL GREAT THINGS by Jodi Picoult; **TEARS WE CANNOT STOP: A Sermon to White America** by Michael Eric Dyson.

Small Great Things is a novel of a Black nurse accused by a White Supremist couple of allowing their baby to die. The nurse is defended by a White woman lawyer. The book is insightful on all levels as it takes on racism and discrimination in America today. Listen to the Author's Note narrated by Cassandra Campbell; audiobook narrated by Audra McDonald, Cassandra Campbell and Ari Fliakos— <https://soundcloud.com/penguin-audio/small-great-things-by-jodi-picoult-authors-note>

Tears We Cannot Stop. . . a New York Times Bestseller. From the jacket cover: Endorsed by Toni Morrison -- "Elegantly written, *Tears We Cannot Stop* is powerful in several areas: moving personal recollections; profound cultural analysis; and guidance for moral redemption. A work to relish." For a review, check out: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/books/ct-books-0212-tears-we-cannot-stop-michael-eric-dyson-20170208-story.html>

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

Have You Heard???

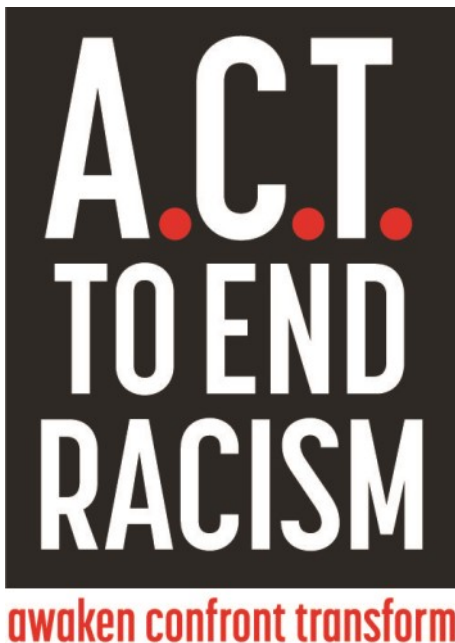
April 4th A.C.T. to End Racism Rally on National Mall

The National Council of Churches (NCC) has announced plans to hold a rally to end racism on the National Mall on April 4. The *A.C.T. to End Racism Rally* is the starting point of a multi-year effort, launched by NCC and friends, to remove racism from the nation's social fabric and bring the country together.

In remembrance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who inspired and challenged America to confront and put an end to racism, the rally will take place on the day the nation marks 50 years since his assassination.

NCC and its coalition of over 50 partners recognize that the faith community and those of moral conscience have a specific responsibility to address and eliminate racism, but also unique gifts that enable them to do so.

For additional information, check out <https://www.ame-church.com/event/act-now-unite-end-racism-rally/>





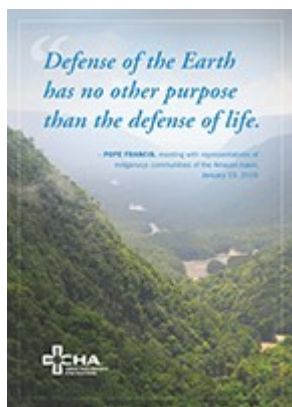
Earth Day April 22, 2018 Campaign

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.

2018 Earth Day Resources

On April 22, the world celebrates Earth Day. To help those who serve in Catholic ministry make meaning of the connection between the environment, our health and our ministry's commitment to faithfully heal the earth, CHA offers resources for your use. CHA is pleased to offer these three items:

- [Earth Day Reflection Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UF4mfKzc7TI&feature=youtu.be) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UF4mfKzc7TI&feature=youtu.be>
- [Earth Day Prayer Service](https://www.chausa.org/docs/default-source/prayers/earth-day-2018_prayer.pdf?sfvrsn=0) https://www.chausa.org/docs/default-source/prayers/earth-day-2018_prayer.pdf?sfvrsn=0
- [Prayer for our earth:](https://www.chausa.org/prayers/prayer-library/prayer/a-prayer-for-our-earth-(from-laudato-si%27)) [https://www.chausa.org/prayers/prayer-library/prayer/a-prayer-for-our-earth-\(from-laudato-si%27\)](https://www.chausa.org/prayers/prayer-library/prayer/a-prayer-for-our-earth-(from-laudato-si%27))
- [2018 Earth Day Prayer Card](#) (FREE in the CHA Store)



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

Earth Day Webinar [Climate Change, Catholics, and Health: CHA Environment Webinar for Earth Day](#)
April 13, 2018, 3-4 p.m. ET, FREE for CHA members

Additional Resources

[Catholic Climate Covenant Earth Day 2018 Resources](#)

Earthday.org

New report: [Safe Haven in the Storm: Protecting Lives and Margins with Climate-Smart Health Care](#)

CleanMed.org climate and health sessions

•Source: <https://www.earthday.org/campaigns/plastics-campaign/>

•**Assembly Directive:** Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet’s resources.

***In our last issue we published an article [regarding plastic transformation](#). One of our readers (Denise Cozart) suggests passing along this article: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/qGGabrRS8?rel=0> Perhaps it will encourage us to make a difference in some way.

Guatemala

Numerous hills, many volcanoes, lovely flowers and beautiful, gracious people -- that's Guatemala! Sr. Rosemary Goubeaux and I spent six days there, March 6 thru 14, and found it to be a very enriching experience which touched our hearts.

To visit our three community members who live there; namely, Sisters Terry Walter, Joyce Kahle and Marife Hellman, motivated Rosie and I to travel to that country and share our lives and experiences with one another. What a delight it was to see the faces of Terry & Joyce and receive their warm hugs of welcome at the airport in Guatemala City. Upon arrival at their home, the six young women who live with them also welcomed us with such a joyful, caring spirit.

The next morning Terry drove their car and took Rosie and I to San Raymundo, about an hour and a half drive into the hilly countryside, to see Marife and Holy Mary of the Most Precious Blood School (*Escuela Santa Maria de la Preciosissima Sangre*). She and everyone at her school extended a very hearty welcome.

In the next couple of issues of the **Grassroots** newsletter, we will tell you more about our trip, especially about the ministry involvements of our Sisters. For this issue the focus is on their lovely enclosed yard with an herb garden and patio. In the middle of the garden there is a circle of black rocks. The circle is filled with many different kinds of herbs, which are used primarily in cooking. Along the outer edge of the square space there are lovely palm trees, flowers, and green plants. All of this is so good for our environment.



Joyce faithfully waters and cares for these plants as well as 3 other garden areas. It is a lot of work to maintain these lovely spaces. Once a month a gardener comes to assist her and give good advice and tips for taking care of this great variety of plants. With temperatures in the 70's & 80's, while we visited there, it was a very enjoyable place to relax.



Directive: Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet's resources.

Submitted by: Sr. Martha Bertke

Vocation News from the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress!

The LA Religious Education Congress is a huge event that gathers people from across the United States and beyond. This year I had the opportunity to distribute some of our vocation literature to Congress attendees. Since I was sharing this "work" with members of other women religious communities, space was limited. Our booth, for the Vicar of Religious for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, was one of many located in the huge auditorium. I was unable to display our vocation items. Instead I stood in the hallway of the arena and asked people to pray with us as I gave them copies of the Seven Offerings and Prayers to Our Lady of the Precious Blood. People seemed grateful.

- **Directive:** Increase our use of social media to promote Precious Blood Spirituality.
- **Submitted by:** Sr. Terry Maher



Unleashing the Energies of Love

This was the title of LCWR's Imagining Justice Conference that Colleen Kammer attended in Tucson, AZ, March 12 – 14th. The retreat was led by Sr. Gail Worcelo SGM, a former student of Fr. Thomas Berry, C.P., and one of his co-founders of the Green Mountain Monastery in Vermont.

Using the teachings of philosopher and scientist Fr. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ and Fr. Berry, Sr. Gail helped participants better understand the movement of energy in the universe and how to tap into the energy fields and to manage them in order to attain greater self-enlightenment and to develop a coherence of the heart. From this place of greater wholeness, we can unleash the energies of love to create positive social change and to transform the world.

Sr. Gail led the 50 religious and lay justice promoters through contemplative exercises, mutual awakening activities and personal and shared reflection to support her lessons. Participants enjoyed the sharing and exchange of knowledge about their congregations and ministries.

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



Sisters Co-Sponsor Anti-Human Trafficking Event in Dayton



The Sisters of the Precious Blood co-sponsored an anti-human trafficking event – “S.O.A.P. UP the First Four” - at Chaminade – Julianne High School (CJ) in Dayton, on Saturday, March 10, along with Abolition Ohio, CJ, the University of Dayton (UD) and S.O.A.P (Save our Adolescents from Prostitution).

Over 60 students and adults participated in the event, the purpose of which was to educate and to provide materials for area hotel staff on human trafficking. This was done prior to the increase in out-of-town visitors to Dayton for the NCAA First Four basketball tournament on March 13 and 14.

Colleen Kammer and sisters Regina Albers, Marita Beumer, Ann Clark, Joan DeChristopher, Patty Kremer and Ceil Taphorn assembled packets of information. Sr. Marita and Colleen delivered the packets to the hotels along with bars of soap that were labeled with

the national trafficking help number.

The event energized two UD students who will co-coordinate a Dayton S.O.A.P. chapter, whereby they will train volunteers for outreach and organize S.O.A.P. activities to provide an avenue to freedom for the enslaved young people in the Dayton area.

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

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

Next issue articles for Grassroots are due April 25th so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by 05_04_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