



Sisters of the Precious Blood

JUNE 2018 Volume 3, Issue 7



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!

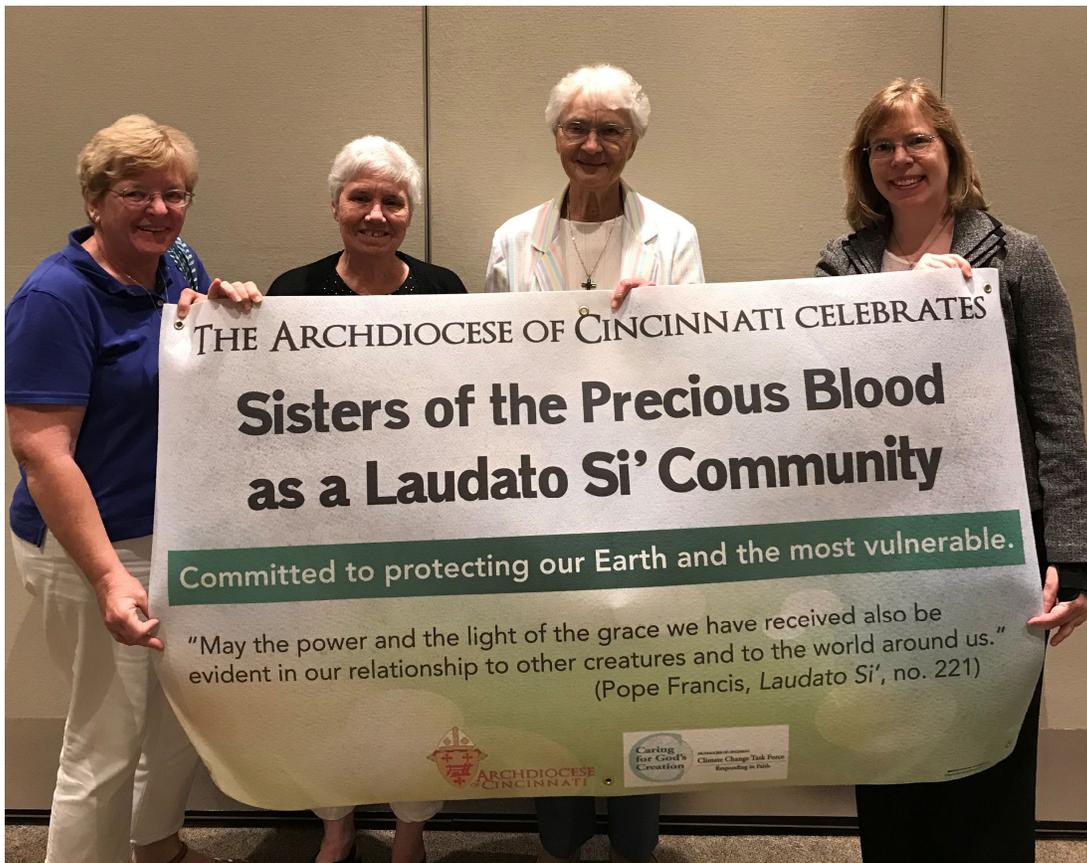
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Enacted in our ASSEMBLY DIRECTIVES 2015 we will remember to...

- 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 non-violence, 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



The Archdiocese of Cincinnati’s first Laudato Si’ Communities recognized 13 agencies because they achieved a certain benchmark score on a facility assessment. Points were earned for everyday practices, such as recycling and using less water in their buildings, as well as for such major investments as installing solar panels. In addition, each community was required to have at least 10 percent of its members fill out their own household assessments, as a means to encourage the faithful to consider their own environmental stewardship. Thirdly, Laudato Si’ Communities must have hosted a program for its members on Catholic teaching on caring for God’s creation. Hence, a Laudato Si’ Community is not just about buildings. It’s about being a community of people

committed to caring for our common home, the Earth.

Sisters of the Precious Blood create positive momentum for the environment through professional and volunteer positions in the sciences and education, as well as by taking active leadership roles that teach responsibility by example. In their service around Dayton and throughout the country, their ecological ministries include recycling, energy conservation, sustainable farming practices, composting, nature education and environmental prayer services. Last year, the Precious Blood Sisters also installed a geothermal system and solar panels on the Orchard House, Farm House and Administrative Office .

AROUND THE TABLE

Last year at this time I shared with you my experience of being at the “longest table” in our neighborhood. This year it’s an encounter “around the table” in our dining room. On Sunday evening, June 10, four seniors and their chaperone from Carroll High School in Dayton joined our Amherst community for a meal. The coordinator of the Service Project for Seniors contacted Sister Mumbi Kigutha regarding this experience during which incoming seniors may sign up for a Service Project Week. Their first experience divides them into groups of four with a parent to have a meal with someone or a family. So, each group had a different experience, such as with refugees, immigrants, homeless, social workers and yes, Catholic Sisters and Brothers.

As we shared our meal and became acquainted with one another,

we shared our experiences and cultures which were from

South Korea, Kenya, Vietnam, rural America, city life,

Catholics and other Christians. Since their objective

was to learn more about Sisters and consecrated life,

we were able to answer their questions and share

with them about our Precious Blood charism as well

as how we live out our mission in the different minis-

tries within our congregational history, as well as some

from our own personal stories. After the enchiladas, ice

cream and animated conversation, we prayed together, shar-

ing God’s word and the message that came to each of us. As they re-

turned to Carroll we hope that they had an enriching and enlightening two-hour visit while we, too, appreciated the

intergenerational and intercultural exchange that was evident during the evening.



- **Assembly Directive:** Network with other individuals, agencies and groups to be effective in our current reality.
- **Submitted by:** Sister Marita Beumer

Sisters Represented on Weavers of Justice, Dayton

Colleen Kammer serves as the representative for the Sisters of the Precious Blood on the Weavers of Justice Committee, a Catholic collaborative of social justice promoters from parishes and organizations in the Dayton area. It is chaired by the Dayton regional director for the Archdiocesan Catholic Social Action Office, Sara Seligmann.

Colleen and a few other Weavers members were invited to speak on May 15 to Brother Ray Fitz’s graduate religion class at the University of Dayton: “Becoming a Church of and for the Poor: A Metropolitan Response.” The Weavers members spoke about their successes and failures in organizing for justice in Dayton and engaging parishioners in this work, and then took part in discussions with the students.

Here are a couple of news stories covering the recent diocesan Laudato Si prayer service so that you may share them through your own social media and networks. (We’ve been told that the more the *Enquirer* story is shared, the more likely it may end up in print and invite future coverage for such efforts!)

- *Cincinnati Enquirer*, “Catholic communities honored for Care of Our Common Home”: <https://cin.ci/2K9pGpG>
 - *Catholic Telegraph*, “Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr recognizes 13 Catholic communities”: <http://www.thecatholictelegraph.com/archbishop-dennis-m-schnurr-to-recognize-13-catholic-communities/52036>



Barbara Jean Backs



SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

Have you seen our patio at Salem Heights? Flowers, flowers, flowers! And we love it that way! Many hands were involved in making it a beautiful, eye-popping, God-loving place. Sisters Patty Kremer and Madonna Ratermann spent hours making the area around the “Woman at the Well” glow with shades of red.

Many other Sisters filled the big rectangular planters with such a variety of annuals: petunias, marigolds, vinca, begonias, and geraniums — whatever their hearts desired. They got dirt on their hands and placed scrawny-looking seedlings into that soil. Then they watched the miracle of creation when water, sun and a little TLC caused them to thrive.

It may seem a small thing, but each plant in that beautiful garden helps to reduce a bit of the pollution that is all around us. And each bit of color and beauty raises our hearts to the God who made it all possible.

- **Assembly Directive:** Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet’s resources.
- **Submitted by:** Sister Barbara Jean Backs Photos by Sister Noreen Jutte

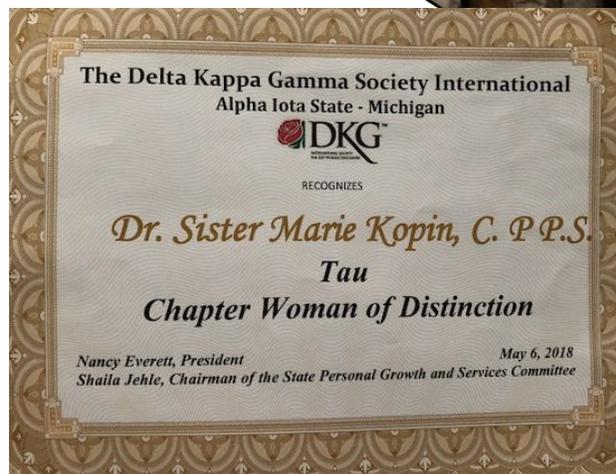


**OLD BONES REALLY APPRECIATE
ELEVATED GARDENS**

What a nice surprise to receive this elevated garden gift just in time to plant spring veggies. Carrots, beans, radishes and red beets are growing nicely and Mary Lou's creaky old bones are happier, too. Perhaps you can find a place where you live to use a container to plant tomatoes, squash or your favorite flower.

- **Assembly Directive:** Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet's resources.
- **Submitted by:** Sister Mary Lou Schmersal

Sister Marie Kopin is now president of the local Mount Pleasant Tau Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. She was recently awarded the Certificate of Distinction from her local chapter for her contributions this past year. This group promotes education of women worldwide. She has been a member since the 1980s and has enjoyed networking at local, state and national levels with teachers of every level and kind of teaching. This society sponsors scholarships for women in developing nations and education concerning trafficking as two of its many international projects. <http://www.dkg.org/>



- **Assembly directive:** Network with other individuals, agencies and groups to be effective in our current reality.
- **Submitted by:** Sister Marie Kopin

GREAT JOY

I had such joy in preparing this young man for his First Communion and Confirmation. He had a great desire to receive the Eucharist. Once he told me he did not like going to Mass because it was hard for him to be there and not receive Jesus. His great day came on Pentecost Sunday!! Some relatives and friends from the area were there to share the joy.

A neighboring pastor was so gracious and helpful. He knew the young man from having seen him at Mass. Though Father speaks no Spanish, he made sure the welcome was felt. His eagerness to get the permission to Confirm was evident.

Knowing some of the geography and cultural background helps me to understand many things. The region this young man grew up in is mountainous, and in his village, they speak a local dialect. Some time ago I helped another young woman who told me she did not want to speak Spanish when she got here because she did not speak it well. When conversing with one priest from that area, I asked him how many parishes he had; he told me he had some 12 towns and 20 small villages. He added that some of those villages do not even have roads to access them; he uses a horse or mule to get there. Getting to know these people gives me joy to be able to fulfill their desire to be touched with the grace of the sacraments and the love of God.



- **Submitted by:** Sister Regina Albers
- **Assembly Directive:** Stand with the marginalized.

Immigrant families What's happening to the children? Are families being torn apart without due process? Much concern and discussion swirls around the rights and treatment of immigrants throughout the country. Do you know what is happening in your area around this critical situation? Do you know how you can help or collaborate with a reputable agency in your area? Find out what the Catholic diocese of your area is suggesting and how you might add to the effort.

In the Toledo area you might consider collaborating with the Sisters of Notre Dame who are already engaged in migrant ministry. If you wish to do something for the situation in Norwalk, here is some information that could be helpful.

St. Paul's Parish

91 E. Main St.

Norwalk, OH 44857

419-668-6044 You will get a recorded message. Then dial 0 for the secretary.

— Here is a name: **Sr. Mary Jo Toll, SND**, works at St. Wendelin Parish in Fostoria. She is also involved in assisting immigrants. Her phone no is 440-313-2618 e-mail is mary.jotto@snd1.org

Mary Jo told me **Sr. Liz Garcia, SND** is also working with the project.

Send us your articles (approximately 125 to 150 words or less) for our next issue. Next issue articles for *Grassroots* are due **July 25th so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **08_03_2018**.**

Please submit to Marty Bertke m.bertke@hometowncable.net

— or to Mary Lou Schmersal cppsnews@bright.net

Your contributions make all the difference!

Thank
you

We're on the Web!

www.preciousbloodsistersdayton.org