

# 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 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 or find details at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/659888784134859/> Participants will have the opportunity to arrive a day early and stay a day later to meet their travel and lodging needs. The theme for the 2018 conference is "Sharing the Wisdom, Shaping the Dream: Creating the Future We Want." This theme is inspired from Joanna Macy's concept of Sacred Activism and Active Hope.

Sisters of Earth is an informal network of 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 U.S. and Canada.

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

### Sisters achieve Laudato Si recognition in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati

The Sisters of the Precious Blood are part of the inaugural group of Laudato Si community recipients in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The CPPS Congregation is among 12 other parishes, congregations and organizations who have demonstrated a commitment to sustainability and to engaging community members in creation care education. The Laudato Si community recipients will be recognized in a prayer service with the Archbishop on June 18<sup>th</sup> 7-8:30PM at Good Shepherd parish(8815 E. Kemper Rd., Cincinnati), Cincinnati.

The service will be followed by a showing of the Archdiocesan Climate Change Task Force's new promotional video and a social, catered by Venice on Vine (Power Inspires Progress). Recipients include: St. Anthony (Madisonville), Bellarmine Chapel, St. Charles Borromeo (Kettering), Church of the Nativity of Our Lord, St. Columban, Community of the Good Shepherd, Glenmary Home Missioners, St. Joseph/ St. Raphael (Springfield), Mercy Montessori Center, St. Monica-St. George Parish Newman Center, Mount St. Joseph University, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, and Sisters of the Precious Blood.

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

## Guatemala —Part 3

During our visit to Guatemala, Sr. Marty Bertke and I had the opportunity to see first-hand the missionary spirit of Sr. Terry Walter and Sr. Joyce Kahle. Responding to God's call to leave their homeland, they were willing to learn a new language, to live in a different culture, and to set up a House where young girls could stay who wished to attend college. Presently, they have six girls who make their home with them. They are students who attended Marife's School and are now taking college classes in the city.



Most of them live six to eight hours away from their families. Some also have a job to help pay for their schooling. Much credit is due to Joyce and Terry who provide a welcoming spirit where all help with responsibilities of cooking, cleaning, and grocery shopping. They also share meals, prayer and some fun times according to their schedules. Marty and I knew little Spanish but we enjoyed the hugs, smiles and hearty laughter of these young women.

Both Joyce and Terry teach classes on Wednesday at the boarding school Marife administers, which means they have to leave home at 6:00 a.m. because the school is an hour and a half out of the city. They also teach Adult Education classes on Sunday in the parish where they attend Mass. Terry took us to see Sangre de Cristo Clinic in LaLabor where she does Psycho-therapy and healing ministry on a weekly basis. Terry does exquisite needle work and you'll see many handmade quilts and hangings throughout their home. Joyce tutors the girls and other clients and continues to sharpen her Spanish. Keeping the gardens and plants in tip-top shape is Joyce's responsibility and also a break from teaching, tutoring, and being House Treasurer.



Terry and Joyce were wonderful Guides for us in this Land of Volcanoes. We saw some of the marvelous sights of Antigua, Panajachel, Santiago Atitlan and the Central Market in Guatemala City. We admired their courageous driving as they negotiated the constant curves, and handled the distracting motorcyles, tuk-tuks, and numerous traffic jams. What an exciting and interesting week it was for us! Marty and I both left Guatemala with gratitude in our hearts for Terry, Joyce and Marife as they continue to sow the seed of Hope, especially for young girls who wish to pursue an education.

- **Assembly Directive:** Stand with the Marginalized
- **Submitted by:** Sister Rosemary Goubeaux



## SISTERS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OPPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY

Recently I received an e-mail from Sr. Helen Prejean and I shared it with the members of the Peace, Justice and Ecology Committee. Sr. Helen is well known for her work to explore alternatives to the death penalty. Here are three important points which she shared.

a) Sr. Helen is finishing her book, **RIVER OF FIRE**. Now it is in the hands of her publisher, *Random House*, and they are working on the final edits. Her book is due to appear on bookshelves early in 2019. It is going to open up a new way to talk to people about their own justice journey. Sister is hoping young people in particular will read it.

b) PBS Miami will start broadcasting Joe Cardona's documentary, **Sister**, in the fall.

c) Regarding executions, even if all the executions scheduled for this year go ahead as planned, it will be the lowest number of executions in any year this century. Looking at the upcoming executions for 2018, only four states are involved – Texas, Ohio, Georgia and Tennessee.

- **Directive:** ...make a collective commitment to promote and witness nonviolence . . .
- **Submitted by:** Sr. Martha Bertke

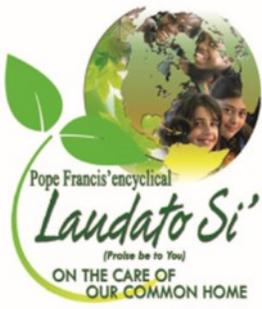
## HAVE YOU HEARD?



“The Catholic Telegraph”, the newspaper of the Cincinnati Archdiocese, is publishing a series of articles on Human Trafficking. The May 2018 issue has a 4<sup>th</sup> article on this topic. According to the article, “Oasis House in Dayton and Stop Slavery Cincinnati are the two agencies in southwestern Ohio dedicated to helping women escape the clutches of sex traffickers.” Oasis House is in its 14<sup>th</sup> year . . . and the Sisters of the Precious Blood are active supporters.

To read the segments printed in the *Telegraph*, while holding down ctrl key, click on links here:

- <https://www.thecatholictelegraph.com/tag/human-trafficking>
- <http://www.thecatholictelegraph.com/human-trafficking-part-i-sex-trafficking-victims/48955>
- <http://www.thecatholictelegraph.com/human-trafficking-labor-victims/49145>
- <http://www.thecatholictelegraph.com/human-trafficking-the-new-face-of-slavery-in-ohio-part-iii/50516>
- <http://www.thecatholictelegraph.com/sex-trafficking-is-rooted-in-structure-of-society-speaker/51290>



## *Laudato Si'* (On Care for Our Common Home) by Pope Francis

As we move into spring and summer, we like to enjoy the outside and perhaps need to ask ourselves, "What am I doing to care for our common home?"

Some quotes from this extraordinary 2015 encyclical come to my mind. First of all, Pope Francis states, "Faced as we are with global environmental deterioration, I wish to address every person living on this planet."

This is a plea for all of humanity (not only Catholics) to wake up and care for creation and end environmental destruction.

- Another strong quote: *"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue. It is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian*

*experience."* If we are to survive, each one of us must do whatever we can to protect all of creation or, in other words, take action to care for our "common home."

- **Assembly Directive:** *Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet's resources.*
- **Submitted by:** Sr. Martha Bertke

**June 8, 2018, is the third anniversary of the release of Laudato Si.** In honor of the anniversary check out the following videos:

- Time for an Energy Change
- Wake to Wonderment: Matins, Lauds, Vespers
- Unless the Seed Dies
- Joy of New Life
- In/sight

<https://ecospiritualityresources.com/2018/05/18/laudato-si-anniversary-and-media-update/>

Jeanette shares this letter from Pax Christi:

What if Catholics were best-known for leading on nonviolence and peacemaking?

What if in times of conflict or crisis, Catholics around the world put into practice their expertise in mediation, conflict resolution, or nonviolent resistance?

And what if, in parishes and schools everywhere, the practice of Gospel nonviolence was central to Catholic teaching?

That vision - of a Church preaching, teaching and practicing Gospel nonviolence - is Pope Francis' challenge to the world's Catholics. It's also the inspiration behind Pax Christi International's Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, a growing movement of religious and lay people working together to return Gospel nonviolence to the center of Catholic life and teaching.

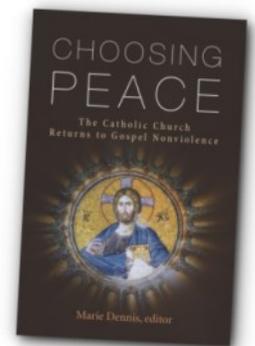
In the newly released book ***Choosing Peace***, longtime activist and Catholic laywoman Marie Dennis (and co-president of Pax Christi International since 2007) explains how this movement started and where it may be headed.

### **"The poor, the planet, and peacemaking"**

Along with global poverty and the crisis of climate change, peacemaking is one of Pope Francis' three priority areas for his papacy.

### **Listening to Catholics living amid violence**

Some of the most compelling stories in *Choosing Peace* are those from church leaders and activists from violent conflict zones.



## BACKYARD MISSION TRIP



On a cool and rainy Saturday, April 28th, St. Michael Parish in Findlay joined the Findlay Ministerial Association comprised of many other area volunteers to do yard work, painting, and modest house repairs to homes in the community. Instead of going afar on a **Mission Trip**, churches in the Findlay area gathered tools, the needed equipment and enthusiasm and began the days projects. Eager to share Fellowship, pray, serve in Christian unity, and Minister to the needs of others and following a community welcome breakfast, teams of adults, teens and younger children scattered throughout the area to tackle their specific projects. Mary Lou joined with 4 other adults to wash windows and cupboards for seniors unable to do so for themselves. By mid-afternoon many of the jobs were finished and new friends were made in the process.



- **Directive:** Network with other individuals, agencies and groups to be effective in our current reality.
- **Submitted by:** Sr Mary Lou Schmersal

### Peace, Justice & Ecology Committee met May 3, 2018.

Members of the committee are the following: Colleen Kammer, Sisters Ceil Taphorn, Jeanette Buehler, Marita Beumer, Mary Lou Schmersal, Mary E. Wendeln, Martha Bertke, Patty Kremer. Their next meeting is set for Friday, August 3 at 1:00 p.m. We invite anyone to submit items of interest/concern for the agenda to Colleen [ckammer@cppsadmin.org](mailto:ckammer@cppsadmin.org)

We want to recognize and acknowledge that members in the broader Congregation are also doing many activities and we need to make continued efforts to learn about and publicize these endeavors. Please let us know even the small efforts you are making toward Peace, Justice & Ecology in your area of the world.

***Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.***

—Dr. Howard Thurman (1899-1981), theologian and civil rights leader [1]

[1] Howard Thurman, occasion unidentified. This often-used quotation is attributed to Reverend Thurman on the history page of the Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground at Boston University, <https://www.bu.edu/thurman/about/history/>.  
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Send us your articles (approximately 125 to 150 words or less) for our next issue. Next issue articles for *Grassroots* are due **June 25th** so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **07\_04\_2018**.

Please submit to Marty Bertke [m.bertke@hometowncable.net](mailto:m.bertke@hometowncable.net)

— or to Mary Lou Schmersal [cppsnews@bright.net](mailto:cppsnews@bright.net)

**Your contributions make all the difference!**

Thank  
you

We're on the Web!

[www.preciousbloodsistersdayton.org](http://www.preciousbloodsistersdayton.org)