

For Michigan CPPS Sister, mushrooms make for ... ministry

HOUGHTON LAKE, Mich. — Experienced mushroom hunters Sister Marie Kopin and Phil Tedeschi (photo at left) point out mushrooms growing on the trunk of a birch tree at a Michigan state park. For Sister Marie, a long-time member of the Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club, this is much more than a “fun” hobby; it’s a form of ministry connected to CPPS commitment to respect the environment.

Sister Marie explained to *Sharing & Caring* that underneath earth’s forests an underground web of threadlike structures called “mycelia” is constantly breaking down decaying matter and transforming it into soil, recycling nutrients and preparing the ground for other forms of life. Many mushrooms (the fruit of mycelia), are not only a nutritious food but also have antibacterial, antiviral and anticancer properties. En-

zymes secreted by mycelia can destroy pathogens, and fungi can be used to treat contaminated water, clean up oil spills and break down toxins in contaminated soil. “The lowly, marvelous mushroom holds the key to Earth’s health and sustainability,” she said — “as long as humans stop destroying the forests where they live.”

Part of Sister Marie’s “mushroom ministry” is teaching courses on mycology for adults and children. A member of the North American Mycology Association, she leads “forays” to help them learn to identify mushrooms and the fungus’s important contribution to our Earth. She has been actively involved in the Michigan State Parks’ two-month Explorer summer educational program, offered at 45 state parks. Below, she explains a particular type of mushroom to a young participant on a foray.



cake (actually three of them!). At left, Sister Consuella blows out the candles on one of her birthday cakes. Giving an assist are Sisters Jean René Hoying and Joyce Lehman.

During the celebration, Sister Consuella was presented with a framed letter of recognition and appreciation from Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis Schnurr and a plaque featuring a proclamation of August 22 as “Sister Consuella Salmon Day” from Trotwood Mayor Joyce Cameron.

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For more news and photos about the Mother Brunner Catholic School dedication and Sister Consuella’s 100th birthday celebration, visit the website and click on News & Events> News.

www.PreciousBloodSistersDayton.Org.