

Sisters of the Precious Blood

AUGUST 2018 Volume 3, Issue 9

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



Bunner Literacy Center 5K 2018

Registration for this year's 5k for Literacy is now open! Register by September 22 to guarantee your BLC 5K T-shirt.

Come join us in Englewood Metropark on Sat., Oct. 6, beginning at 10 a.m., to celebrate the joys of health, literacy and community. Our certified 5K course follows paved park trails and takes you on a lovely tour through the western part of Englewood Metropark. Use the West Park entrance on Route 48 to find the start of the course. Registration also takes place at the Lawwill Shelter starting at 9:00 that morning, and the race begins at 10:00.

You can purchase **raffle tickets**. Prizes include cash awards of \$500, \$300 and \$200. Once again, Sister Margie Zureick is selling tickets at \$5 a ticket and 6 for \$25. Contact her at Salem Heights, 4960 Salem Ave., Dayton, OH 45416 or call her 937-278-0871. Drawing is after the **5K** on Saturday, October 6.

For more information, go to www.brunnerliteracy.org

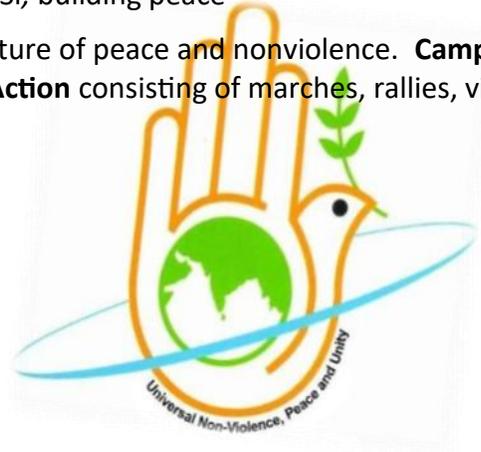
Directive: Stand with the marginalized
Submitted by: Sisters Margie Zureick and Maryann Bremke

Campaign Nonviolence

John Dear, Catholic priest, longtime peace activist and, more recently, a global warming warrior, has recently published a book, *They Will Inherit the Earth: Peace and Nonviolence in a Time of Climate Change*.

He weaves together concepts from the Sermon on the Mount, Laudato Si, building peace and nonviolence. He sees a need for a global movement to create a culture of peace and nonviolence. **Campaign Nonviolence** is such a group. This group launched a **National Week of Action** consisting of marches, rallies, vigils, fasts and festivals across our nation.

2014	Sept. 21-27	238 group actions took place
2015	Sept. 20-27	370 group actions took place
2016	Sept. 18-24	758 group actions took place
2017	Sept. 16-24	1,600 group actions took place
2018	Sept. 15-23	?????



What action can we do to participate in this? The PJE committee meets Friday, August 3, and this will be on the agenda. If you have any suggestions, send them to Colleen Kammer.

Directive: Continue to articulate and integrate our Spirituality
Submitted by: Sister Martha Bertke

PLASTIC POLLUTION

Did you ever notice if you are addicted to the use of plastic? Ending plastic pollution would make a major contribution to the health of our planet.

Please take time to listen to this NCR segment which describes some ways we might take on this effort: <https://play.google.com/music/listen#/ps/lbza6jecvvjbg7rgd5pdyn4tqe> episode 59

Pope Francis encourages us to draw spiritual resilience from a passage in *Laudato Si* when he says: "**There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyle.**" It may take us longer than we had hoped to accomplish even small tasks like eliminating plastic straws, cups and cutlery, but by setting goals and working strategically toward them we'll eventually 'climb the mountain'. What small resilient steps can you take personally or encourage groups you work with to take, that will lessen and eventually eliminate the use of plastic?

"The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth," Pope Francis now famously observed in his 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si, on Care for Our Common Home." Do you contribute to this pile of filth?

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



Sisters of the Precious Blood respond to immigration raid

June 5, 2018, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and Border Patrol agents raided two Corso's Flower and Garden Center locations in Sandusky and Castalia, Ohio and made 114 arrests. Dozens of the workers' children were left stranded at day care centers and with babysitters, the Associated Press reported.

Sister Mary E. Wendeln, a DOJ accredited representative, who works in Cincinnati, sent an article from The Washington Post to Sr. Martha Bertke to inform her of the above-mentioned news. When Sister Martha, who worked at a parish in Sandusky for 17 years, heard of this immigration raid, she immediately took action to see if somehow she could assist with this heart-wrenching situation. After making contacts with people directly involved, she learned that St. Paul's Catholic Church in Norwalk, Ohio, south of Sandusky, is providing assistance and care for the 60-70 children left without parents. Church leaders are coordinating with various organizations, justice groups, lawyers, etc. and accepting donations of all kinds.

Any monetary donations will be placed in their accounts and used as it is needed. Remaining funds will be used to offset attorney fees for costs associated with their pro bono work and also for long-term needs. Long-term needs may include providing financial assistance to families to travel to work, or for rent and/or utilities. Future needs of the children and families who remain in the community are being assessed at this time. Assistance will be coordinated with the St. Vincent de Paul Society and other organizations.

Dialoging with people, listening to national news, reflecting and praying all motivated Sister Martha to contact the leaders of the Sisters of the Precious Blood and request a monetary donation. It was decided to give a donation, and it has been sent to St. Paul's Church and they are very grateful. This is one way we, Sisters of the Precious Blood, can "stand with the marginalized" and share some of our financial resources with those in need. Families affected by ICE detainment and deportation are our neighbors. Let us continue to pray for these individuals and their families affected and for those who provide pastoral care to the people involved. May our country find a better and more moral way of dealing with these issues.

Directive: Stand with the marginalized **Submitted by:** Sister Martha Bertke

Do You Know???

A DOJ (Department of Justice) accredited representative has the legal authority to assist immigrants with information and advice on immigration law and consular processing. Representatives are accredited by the Department of Justice and must be affiliated with an organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice such as Catholic Charities. I have been a DOJ accredited representative for five years even though I worked with the immigration process for many years.

A year ago there was reorganization from the Board of Immigration Appeals to the Department of Justice and thus the initials change from BIA to DOJ. Ever since 2009, or for nine years, I have either worked or volunteered at Su Casa, a program of Catholic Charities in Cincinnati. At present, I volunteer at Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio in their Immigration Legal Services office (ILS). This Immigration Legal Services is a three year-old office made up of the refugee legal department and Su Casa's legal department.

Accredited representatives can appear in front of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officers for asylum, adjustment of status (Green Card) and naturalization interviews. Yet, since I am partially accredited, I cannot appear in front of an immigration judge or the BIA.

Stay tuned for more next month!



Directive: Stand with the marginalized and networking
Submitted by: Sister Mary Wendeln

MUSHROOM MADNESS

In the July/August 2018 issue there is an interesting article, "Michigan's Mushroom Madness," in *Michigan History* magazine. This five page article by Barbara J. Barton features an interview with Sister Marie Kopin describing how her family started out as immigrants from Poland, then settling in Flint, in Genesee County in Michigan. There she and her father Chet Kopcinski/Kopin carried on to become teachers of mycology.

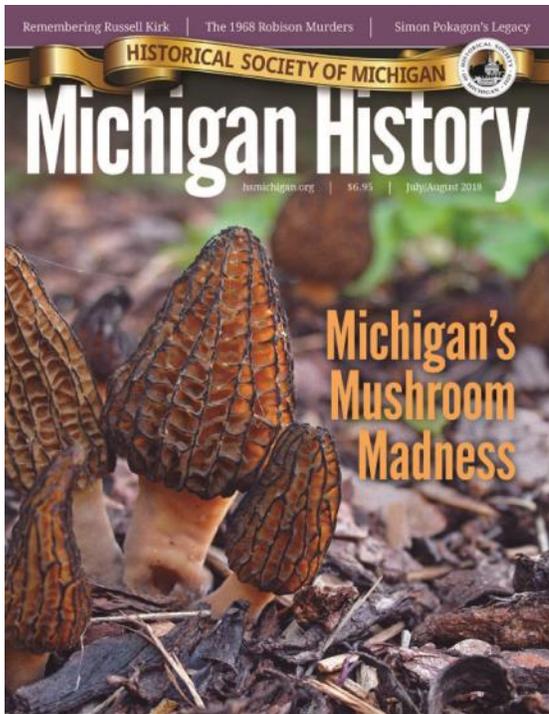
The first part of this article tells of how native tribes used mushrooms for several purposes besides meals and identifies some of their favorite species. The third and last part of the story points out that cultural acceptance and use of Michigan's mushrooms by most settlers and their offspring was ultimately a long project. As various people began to offer classes and training sessions there were fewer deaths from severe toxins found in several species. The first "favorite four" classes were taught because there were no "look alikes" and thus people made almost no mistakes in eating these: sulphur shelves, puffballs, shaggy manes, and, of course, morels. These four species also all grow in abundance in Ohio.

The July/August issue of this magazine can be read in your public library, and later in the CPPS archives. More information can be found at hsmichigan.org.



Young Marie

Marie's father Chet



Sister Marie Kopin was approached by Steve Smith, one of the producers of Public TV station WCMU, to be videotaped at her Educational Spring Mushroom Foray at Deerfield Nature Park in Isabella County. It was to be part of the weekly CMU TV program "Destination Michigan," 9 p.m. on Thursdays and points out many interesting venues to visit here in Michigan and would be played on several other public TV stations. From approximately three hours of filming us maneuver through the woods, listen to a presentation, and interviews with participants, it was included in the middle of the 25-minute program in a part called "Michigan Mushrooms." For five minutes, viewers get to watch Sister Marie orient and teach the participants, watch an interview or two, and see a participant pick a "beefsteak" mushroom while others search the woods, later laying out specimens for naming. Since we did not find any spring morels, the most sought-after species up here, the program moves quickly to an indoor mushroom-growing facility, "Gourmet Mushrooms Michigan," near Scottville, Michigan. Viewers see a large room full of morels, carefully grown inside. Yes, they have the secret which we all want to know! The five minute segment concludes by returning to Sister

Marie's foray group showing the specimens collected and noting that while tasty morels are the "best" and can grow indoors, nothing tops those trips in the wonderful woods filled with surprises, fresh air and all life with God's creatures. To see this five-minute part "Michigan Mushrooms" go to: www.pbs.org/video/michigan-mushrooms-yk3xiv. If you would like to see the full 25-minute program, go to: Destination Michigan: www.pbs.org/video/season-9-episode-6-9dypot. Of special interest to environmentalists is the segment on Burh Becc at Beacon Springs, a certified "living building" made entirely of nontoxic materials: www.pbs.org/video/burh-becc-beacon-springs-sbxxkj.

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

Submitted by: Sister Marie Kopin

Sisters Rally in Dayton to Keep Families Together

Seven sisters and Colleen Kammer joined the rally on Courthouse Square in Dayton on Saturday, June, 30, to show their support for keeping migrant families together at the U.S./Mexican border. This was one of many rallies occurring in cities across the United States. They and many other Sisters who were gathered at Salem Heights for Spirit Days wore white as a statement of love, unity and freedom.

The previous week, our Sisters also called their congressional representatives to help defeat House Bills 4760 and 6136, the Goodlatte and Ryan bills respectively, concerning the treatment of immigrants. Thanks for your action, everyone!



Visit to PBMR

I visited the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation (PBMR) in Chicago the week of July 16 and was moved by the stories of the women and young men that the ministry touches. The old school building that provides a safe place for the people of the violence-torn Back of the Yards neighborhood allows them to build community and to find healing and reconciliation. I was privileged to join in Sister Donna's healing circle for women, to hear their stories and to add my own story to the narrative of our human condition. Emotions of sorrow, relief, joy, determination and hope were heartfelt and shared

among us. We can all be proud of the tireless efforts of many at this Precious Blood ministry, led by Sisters Donna and Carolyn and by Fathers Dave and Denny, as well as their tremendous staff.

SISTERS OF EARTH CONFERENCE

Two of our Dayton CPPS Sisters attended the July 12-15 Sisters of Earth Conference at Mount Saint Joseph in Cincinnati, Ohio. Sisters Marie Kopin and Mary E. Wendeln were accompanied by our CPPS peace and justice coordinator, Colleen Kammer. We were hosted by the Daughters of Charity during our stay there. The theme, "Sharing the Wisdom, Shaping the Dream: Creating the Future We Want" was carried out very well by speakers and by attendees. We found the

A house made out of recycled materials by Sisters at Mount Saint Joe across the



conference for Peace and Justice Sacred Activism and for Active Hope very stimulating. It was a great opportunity to network with our "sisters" from the USA, Canada and even some other countries. Visit the SOE (Sisters of Earth) website www.sisters-of-earth.net and look for postings of photos and videos of the talks. There will be another conference two years from now.

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



Sr. Marie Kopin, Colleen Kammer and Sr.

Submitted by: Sister Marie Kopin

The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein & Montezuma



The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, often referred to as the Retreat House, now has two locations in Mercer County, Ohio. In July 2017 the Spiritual Center purchased a local school that had closed, and worked tirelessly to make it into another retreat house. One is located in Maria Stein and the new one is located in Montezuma, close to Grand Lake.

April 12, 2018, Bishop Joseph Binzer officially dedicated and blessed the chapel, as well as the rest of the building. While they expect the building will have a lot of young people in it because it has a full gym and more dorm accommodations rather than private rooms, they created a place where people of any age are welcome. Hopefully people will come there for many years to strengthen their relationship with Christ.



An open house which was held at Montezuma June 20 and 21 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. gathered many people to see it first hand. The good work of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, when they built the "Retreat House" in Maria Stein in 1961, continues and expands. Thanks be to God!

Directive: Continue to integrate our Spirituality . .

Submitted by: Sister Martha Bertke



Sister Judy Niday's raised gardens with her faithful helpers

Harvest4Hope was a recent recipient of the Heritage Fund. We will now have a house for bathroom needs, meeting and teaching space for cooking, etc.



This pictures a family attending the cookout and checking out the work their older son had accomplished. The produce is given to the neighbors around the garden as well as Food for the Journey, who provides cooked meals for those who come to Our Lady of Grace (formerly Our Lady of Mercy).



Sisters Arlene and Liz ,my guest at a cookout honoring two youth groups from Springfield and Dayton. These two youth groups volunteered a week working 8 to 5 spreading woodchips for pathways, building bench stools to sit and raised beds for herbs.

Send us your articles (approximately 125 to 150 words or less) for our next issue. Next issue articles for *Grassroots* are due **August 25** so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **09_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