

# Sisters of the Precious Blood

OCTOBER 2018 Volume 3, Issue 11



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!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- BRIGID'S PATH 1
- THE POWER OF PRAYER 2
- ASYLUM STORY 3
- DISTURBING THE PEACE 4
- PASTORAL MUSICIANS 5
- MALKIA 6
- COMMUNITY GARDEN 7

## 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



**Brigid's Path**, an inpatient facility for drug - exposed infants in Kettering, Ohio, has welcomed over 25 little ones since December, 2017. Each baby brings smiles to the staff and volunteers. We rejoice as we see them grow and thrive in every way until the time comes when they return home to a family member. Our family advocates do a fantastic job of working with the Moms and families helping them find a pathway to healing and wholeness.

Many Sisters (of the Precious Blood) who live at Salem (Heights) (4960 Salem Avenue, Dayton) are involved as prayer support for our babies and families. The name of each tiny arrival is given to an individual Sister. This love and prayer support is so appreciated by family and staff. No wonder miracles happen! Brigid's Path Vision Statement motivates everyone involved—"Engaging and improving

families with hope and compassion."

Both Sister Jean Rene Hoying and I are so privileged to be associated with Brigid's Path and its wonderful staff and so appreciate the Sisters' interest in and support for this facility.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Sister Arlene Hirsch

**DIRECTIVE:** Stand with the marginalized



Salem Heights is a powerhouse of prayer! The Sisters who live there have daily Eucharist, Liturgy of the Hours each day, hours of adoration, and opportunity for communal and private prayer.

Very near the chapel, hanging on the wall, is our prayer board – on which we list the prayer requests which come from our C.P.P.S. Sisters, our employees, relatives and friends. Many times people just call in and request our prayers. We are truly recognized to be a place of prayer.

Since I am no longer in the hustle and bustle of active ministry and with the slowing down of life, I experience a desire for a deeper union with God. Such an opportunity presented itself to me here at Salem Heights. A group of Sisters and a couple of former Sisters meet weekly for Centering Prayer in our Blessed Sacrament chapel. I have no training in this form of prayer so I feel this group is nurturing me! We create quiet by listening to soft, instrumental music and lighting a candle before the Blessed Sacrament. When all are gathered, the music is stopped. The leader then shares a short piece of Scripture or some spiritual writer's words on prayer. Sometimes she leads us in a mantra which we sing several times - each repetition quieter than the previous one. We try to just sit in God's presence with no words, but rather being open to listen to God. After fifteen minutes of quiet, we close by praying the Lord's Prayer together.

I especially like doing this type of praying with others. I experience a unique kind of presence of God and others.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Sister Lou Ann Roof

**DIRECTIVE:** To integrate our Spirituality in our sharing among ourselves and others.



## Asylum Story

*It is my privilege to tutor in the Adult Literacy Program here in Redlands, sponsored by our city library and grants it has received. Each year learners are invited to write something, an essay or a letter or a poem. Then a little booklet is published. Today the 2018 booklet "Our Stories" came out. My learner had a little essay in it about a friend of hers. But another essay in the booklet was by "anonymous." Here it is, with a few lines left out to shorten it—the story of an undocumented asylum seeker in our literacy program. Submitted by Mary Garascia, CPPS*

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...I lost my father when I was 19 years old. He got murdered right in front of my house on August 20, 2014. I would say that was the worst feeling that I ever had. I was devastated. I couldn't imagine living without one of the most important people in my life. My father was the most humble, loving and selfless person I knew. It started when he wanted to run for president of his community... He wanted to help people and do the right things. Crime and corruption in Mexico did not allow him to.

August 27<sup>th</sup> 2014 was the day that my family and I decided to move to California. To be honest, I didn't want to leave my country. Because of my family and friends, I've never been interested in moving to the United States but the circumstances make that decision.

We got here without any legal papers and asked for something called political asylum. Emotionally it was too much for my mom, brothers and me, but it was the only way to be safe. My experience was totally different to what I had heard or seen about the United States...I soon saw how hard it is to be in a country that doesn't speak your language and where you'll never have the opportunity as an immigrant of being in a better job or studying for the career that you want...

My family and I got to the border in San Isidro...at 1 pm. At the moment we...asked the immigration officer for asylum, he handcuffed us right away. The officer separated me from my family. He took me to a separate room with all the women. My two brothers were together in another room with the men and my mom and my little sister were in another room full of babies and moms-to-be.

He placed me in a room that was really cold. Others called it "the freezer." It was full of people, I'm not going to lie, there was over a hundred women inside. It was so small and I had to sleep sitting on the floor with no blanket or anything else. I was in that room for 7 days without a shower and not knowing anything about my family. They left you there until the officer decided to transfer you to an immigration facility.

After those 7 days they took me to a jail in Los Angeles to process me. I slept there with two more people in another cold room. I couldn't sleep that night. I swear, I thought I was going to die. The color of my skin was purple because of the cold. I actually knocked on the door and asked the officer for a blanket that I had in my suitcase but he did not give it to me. I was praying. Not because of what I was going through but because I did not want my mom or my sister to suffer the same as I was.

The next day they took me to a facility in Irvine, California, called "James A. Musick." When I got there, everything seemed better. I could take a shower whenever I wanted. I got a uniform and my own small bed but I still had to be there during the process. I didn't know how long it would take. I was kind of calm during the day but at night I was afraid to sleep because I couldn't. I got scared. My mom tried to visit me but the officers didn't let her because they said she didn't have a California ID.

I was there for two months. It made me think about how valuable freedom is and that how, without committing any crime, I could be there locked up just for asking for help. I couldn't understand...I was trying to think positively all the time but there were days that I could no longer. The depression of losing my father plus being in that place was making me crazy...I know that the president or whoever makes those rules in the United States for people like me don't know what the people go through. I always think that my father and God helped me...People who have no faith could not endure something like that...

**(continued next page )**

But here I am, trying to do my best to make my father proud of me. I always ask myself what life would be like if I didn't come to the United States. Would I be alive? I believe in God and that everything has a purpose in our lives. Not because my mom or society is telling me that, but because I lived it... My father and my family never wanted any of this. I always think he sacrificed himself to give us a better life and I'm not going to waste it.



## DISTURBING THE PEACE

A collaborative group of Dayton churches/organizations called [Peace/Dayton](#) held over 50 peace activities in September recognizing International Peace Day, September 21<sup>st</sup>. One of these events, the documentary *Disturbing the Peace*, was sponsored by CPPS along with the Ahmadiyya Muslim community and St. Margaret Episcopal Church. It was hosted by Sisters Ann Clark and Jeanette Buehler at Salem Heights. The film was followed by group discussion. The film recounts the history of the Israeli and Palestinian conflict and efforts to bring about peace. It does not take sides, nor does it present a solution. Rather it tells of individuals from both sides coming together out of a desire for peace, wanting that above all for their families and the future. They formed an alliance known as "Combatants for Peace." *The peace they are determined to disturb is the peace of the status quo!* The purpose is to build bridges of trust, to re-humanize each other, to lay a foundation of peace built on dignity, security and empathy for both Israelis and Palestinians. It is a film of hope for all willing to take the risk of being peace builders.

The DVD is available at Salem Heights. Contact Sr. Jeanette or, for further information, visit the website: [disturbingthepeacefilm@reconsider.org/DTPfilm](mailto:disturbingthepeacefilm@reconsider.org/DTPfilm)

**DIRECTIVES:** Stand with ... promote and witness nonviolence..

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** Sister Angeline Hoffman



## NOTES FROM COLLEEN

### Gem City Market

This summer, the Sisters supported the Gem City Market (GCM) with a generous donation. The worker-owned, cooperative food market, will break ground at the end of this year on lower Salem Ave. Lela Klein of Dayton Co-op and Kenya Baker from GCM gave the Sisters a presentation on September 19. Ambassador Tony Hall of the Hall Hunger Initiative and former U.S. Congressman from Dayton, also came to thank the sisters in person for their support. Check this link to learn more details: <https://gemcitymarket.com>

### Opposition to Affordable Clean Energy Rule (ACE)

In August, the CPPS Sisters approved an opposition statement to the Trump Administration's Affordable Clean Energy Rule (ACE). It is posted on the website and on Facebook. Click here to read it: [opposition to new energy rule](#). In addition, the Sisters added their signature to the [U.S. Catholic Climate Declaration](#), the Catholic solidarity group of the "We Are Still In (WASI)" consortium. WASI is comprised of companies, government organizations and institutions across the county that pledge to reduce carbon dioxide emissions despite President Trump pulling the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Treaty in 2017.

## Motherhouse Community Neighborhood

Colleen serves on the Weavers of Justice task force on Northwest Dayton food insecurity. The task force is looking at ways to increase awareness in Dayton parishes about the lives of people living in poverty, and to garner support for the Gem City Market.

Colleen is also working on getting the Precious Blood community included in discussions that are taking place about west Dayton issues with the University of Dayton and other community leaders.

Sister Jeanette Buehler serves on the Weavers of Justice Anti-Racism task force. The task force has presented very successful white privilege workshops in the area. They will continue this education and will be working with other partners on a large white privilege conference in Dayton in 2022.

**National Association of Pastoral Musicians** may seem like a lofty title, but their annual conventions bring together a couple thousand musicians to learn, share and praise God. We are helped to grow spiritually, musically and liturgically to assist us in reaching the hearts of our congregations. This year, we traveled to Baltimore, Maryland, where the excellent keynote address “Encountering Jesus – A Heritage of Touch, Gaze, Communion” was given by our own Sr. Joyce Ann Zimmerman, CPPS.



Seeing so many well-known church music composers on a daily basis is very impressive. They may be presenting the workshop or just sitting in one as we are. If they, too, felt they need the help of some of these topics, it was encouraging. This year’s award for Pastoral Musician of the Year went to Fr. Ricky Manalo, a humble young Paulist Father. Many of his composer friends gathered for a celebration of his best-loved works, many of which we use here at Salem Heights. Such events tend to make us careful about listing and reporting the copyrighted material to OneLicense.Net. A new three-track series, *The Essentials of Catholic Liturgy*, initiated this summer is designed for beginners in pastoral music as well as a refresher course.

In 2016, we saw Cardinal DiNardo almost daily in Houston, Texas. His presentations were very inspiring and he was very friendly, having time to pose for a photo with us. While archbishop of Galveston/Houston, he was also an advisor for the NPM organization until his appointment as president of the USCCB.

Steve Petrunak is currently the president and CEO of the NPM organization. He and his leadership team are initiating a new five-year strategic plan, a new website with premium content area, a new focus to assist members and help the association better serve its 41-year old mission: *to foster the art of musical liturgy*. We look forward to attending the 42nd annual convention in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 2019.



**DIRECTIVE:** Continue to articulate and integrate our Spirituality in our sharing among ourselves and with others.

**SUBMITTED BY:** John Buehler and Sister Pat Will, CPPS

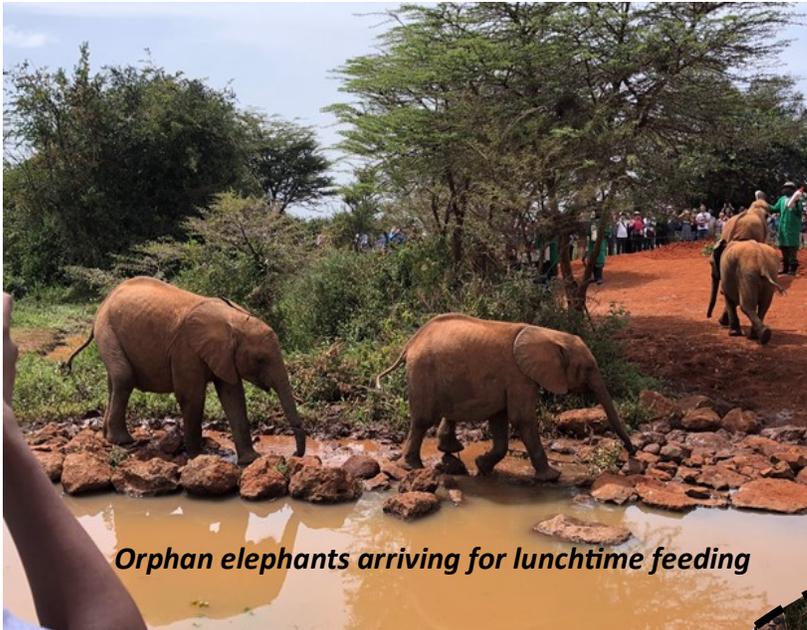
## Mumbi's Sharing

While in Kenya, I thought often of my various Sisters and how much they would enjoy different things about my country and culture. I also quickly realized that no matter how much I desired it, it would be impossible to bring back a souvenir for everyone. So while visiting the David Sheldrick Trust, a facility that takes in orphaned baby elephants, I was presented with the opportunity to foster one as a gift, which I did for the Sisters of the Precious Blood.

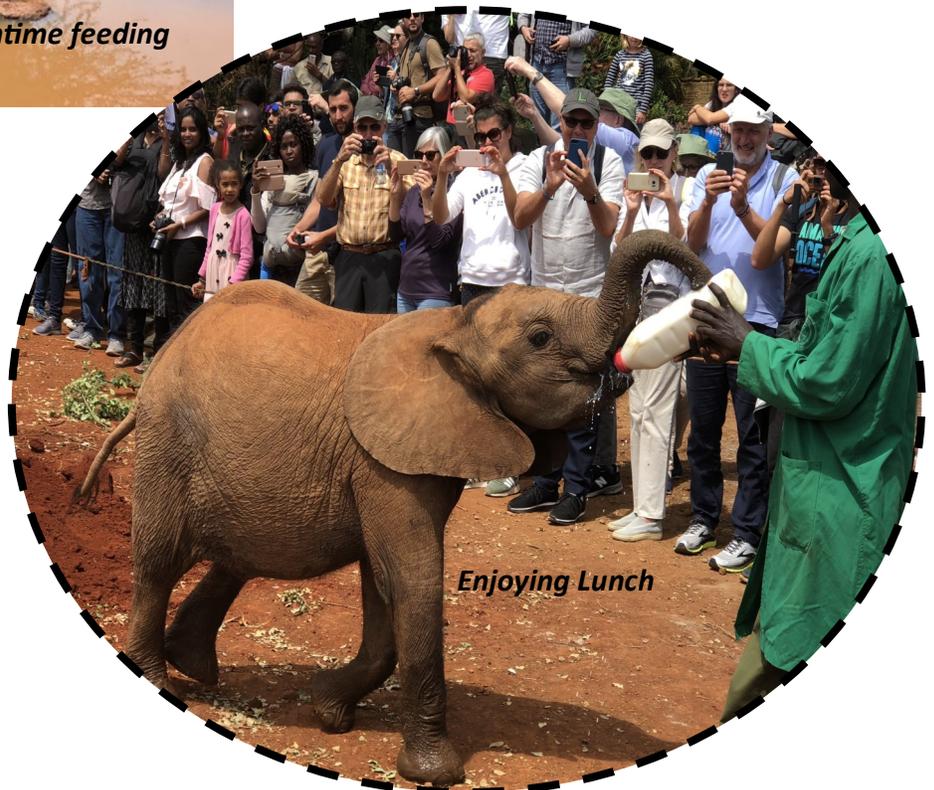
Malkia means queen in Swahili, and here is a picture of her. We shall be receiving continuous updates on her until she reaches an age at which she can be released

back into the wild to fend for herself. Please use the link below to visit a page to learn a little bit more regarding the circumstances of Malkia's life. And you're also all invited to Kenya for some time with Malkia during her evening feeding times, as a foster parent.

[http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/asp/orphan\\_profile.asp?N=361](http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/asp/orphan_profile.asp?N=361)



*Orphan elephants arriving for lunchtime feeding*



*Enjoying Lunch*

## Community Garden



This marked the second year of the community garden with New Daytonians. God was truly kind to us; as we experienced abundant rain, greatly minimizing the resources needed to water by hand. With the help of the North Dayton Garden Center, who germinated the

seeds for us; we planted the African eggplant (garden egg), tomatoes, beans, different varieties of pepper, onions and some experimental maize. The abundance of the harvest is evidenced by the pictures below and we look forward to the third run next year with even more best practices learnt in this year.



Our run-ins with different critters saw a change from rabbits and deer of the past year, to a groundhog that was rather annoying in its attempts to uproot as fast as we planted.

Thank you to Sisters Patty, Linda, Judy Kroger and Judy Niday, and Colleen for all their support in this initiative.

**DIRECTIVE:** 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.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Sister Mumbi Kigutha



Send us your articles (approximately **125 to 150 words or less**) for our next issue. Next issue articles for *Grassroots* are due **Oct. 25** so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **11\_05\_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