

Sisters of the Precious Blood

NOVEMBER 2018 Volume 3, Issue 12

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!



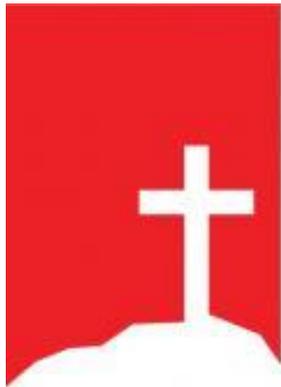
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Enacted in our ASSEMBLY DIRECTIVES 2015 we will remember to...

- 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



CATHOLIC MOBILIZING NETWORK

ENDING THE DEATH PENALTY.
PROMOTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE.

From: NCADP - National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

There is one less state in our country that uses the death penalty. Congratulations to lawyers for this litigation victory which now enables Washington State to join the noble ranks of American states who have abolished the death penalty.

The language the Washington State Supreme Court used to unanimously strike down the death penalty has sent reverberations across the nation. The Washington Supreme Court confirmed something that we in the NCADP movement have known and communicated all along; that the death penalty is arbitrary and racially biased. In her lead opinion, Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst wrote: “The death penalty is unequally applied – sometimes by where the crime took place, or the county of residence, or the available budgetary resources at any given point in time, or the race of the defendant. Our capital punishment law lacks ‘fundamental fairness.’”

The death penalty is legal in **30 states** and illegal in **20 states** (and DC)

SUBMITTED BY: Sr. Martha Bertke
DIRECTIVE: Stand with the marginalized



Why Participate in an Ethical Fair Trade Sale?

The Ethical Fair Trade Sale sponsored by the Catholic Social Action Office of Dayton (Cincinnati Archdiocese) is one of the largest sales of Catholic Relief Services in the US. They make available all the food and gifts from the different parts of the world which was bought from the producers, giving the workers a just wage. That's the "ethical" part about the sale, know-

ing that workers are compensated fairly.

We, Sisters of the Precious Blood, participate by bringing items made by Guatemalans. Besides, any benefit from the sales is given to our mission work in Guatemala, that is the Our Lady of the Precious Blood Center and Sophia House, both engaged in education and formation of Indigenous Guatemalan women.

We will participate

in Troy: St. Patrick Church, Troy, Sunday November 11 after the Masses

In Dayton: University of Dayton River Campus Saturday, December 1, 9:00 am-4:00 pm

1700 South Patterson Blvd

SUBMITTED BY: Sister Marita Beumer, CPPS

DIRECTIVE: Stand with the marginalized

On White Privilege

White Privilege programs/conversations continue to be offered in the Dayton area, most recently at the Wright Library in Oakwood. The process was adapted slightly but still served the purpose of bringing together persons who recognize the need to address racism. Over 50 persons, Black and White, were in attendance. I offer the following quote from Father Bryan N. Massingale's book Racial Justice and the Catholic Church. "White privilege is not an abstraction; it is real. White privilege is the range of unearned (and at times, unwanted) advantages that come simply from possession of an attribute our society prizes, namely, the status of being considered 'white.' ... The individuals may not have chosen it, realized it, or even desired it. They may not have had a prejudiced bone in their bodies. But the advantages are real nonetheless, as is the damage of racial injustice. We will never adequately deal

with the reality of racial injustice, and its generational effects, unless we name its causes and attack its sources." (page 41)

SUBMITTED BY: Sister Jeanette Buehler, CPPS

DIRECTIVES: Stand with the marginalized; Network with other individuals, agencies and groups to be effective in our current reality.

Racial Justice Prayer

O God who created all people in Your Holy Image, Who loves the stranger, Who cares for the downtrodden,
Walk with those who face discrimination, protect them from harm, help them see Christ in our community.

Guide those who fan the fires of discrimination to open their eyes to the beauty of all your creation
and respect the human dignity of all people.

Open our hearts to those who face hatred and injustice because of their race, their background, their ethnicity
that we might better help them belong.

Through Christ Our Lord Amen



RE-TIRED

Have you heard of a re-tired (patched) tire? It can still go! That may be a way to see Sister Jeannine Kloecker. She came to retire to Salem Heights in 2013 with debilitating Parkinson's Disease. The transition was difficult, but did not take the spirit from her. She continues life with enthusiasm in her mechanized wheel chair. She helps her Sisters with transportation needs and graciously finds new drivers when appointments are suddenly changed. Her time praying with the Sisters and spending time with her loving God are most precious. The daily news is most important to her, keeping her in touch with the outside world. Playing Bingo, cards and going to movies are fun and relaxing, but her passions are the Cincinnati Reds and the Cleveland Browns. Conversations at meal time stay animated as she names the players, the foul balls, the home runs and scores. RE-TIRED —SHE IS!!



Sisters Label Soap to Abate Human Trafficking

Eight Sisters graciously labeled 5,000 bars of hotel soap the week of October 22nd! The soap and labels, containing the 1-800 anti-human trafficking hotline number, are from the S.O.A.P. project. The bars will be distributed by Abolition Ohio to area hotels that trafficking victims are likely to frequent. Sisters Ritamary, Joan, Verlina, Claire, Dorothy, Berenice, Laura and Jane Francis worked diligently over the course of three days. Thank you very much, Sisters!



SUBMITTED BY: Colleen Kammer

DIRECTIVE: Stand with the marginalized, make a collective commitment to promote and witness nonviolence, and strive to effect reconciliation among God's people.

MENTORING the NEXT GENERATION

Sister Marie Kopin was invited to assist a graduate student from the University of Michigan studying forestry. She wanted reactions and dialogue about the spirituality of being in a beautiful forest as part of her doctoral study. After our half hour conversation, she went out and measured some of the fantastic large old trees where I took her in the Mount Pleasant area. She has promised to report to me after her dissertation is finished.

I found this was an interesting interview and it made me appreciate God in creation even more. After we talked she went off by herself and studied some of the very old and beautiful trees in the park. Her doctoral study will be a descriptive type of paper. I am eager to see what the results will be.



Below I have a number of photos of her in action. My dog happened to be along with her.



Submitted by: Sister Marie Kopin, CPPS

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



“As stewards of God’s creation we are called to make the earth a beautiful garden for the human family” Pope Francis

Making Mushroom Kits

Sister Marie assisted the West Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club members in their first "Fungus Fest West" at the Hoffmaster State Park. Tim Coddington did a great job organizing this event. One feature was the making of mushroom kits using sterilized straw mixed with a "starter"; this "substrate" was then stuffed into plastic bags which were then tied shut and the plastic was punched so the oyster mushrooms could grow through them later. The event was 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. with 25 attending along with notable guest educator and YouTube producer from Western Pennsylvania, Adam Haritan, leading 3 groups for field experiences and an educational lecture by him. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZbQQMdheec> to watch Adam present. We also had guest Dr. Chris Wright from Michigan State University who first gave a talk and led the fun of making oyster mushroom growing kits to take home.



Sister Marie in blue sweater at middle of table with all registrants



Making kits to take home



a display of mushrooms with names written on the white sheets of paper

“We are not God. The earth was here before us and it has been given to us.... Although it is true that we Christians have at times incorrectly interpreted the Scriptures, nowadays we must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God’s image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures.

The biblical texts are to be read in their context, with an appropriate hermeneutic, recognizing that they tell us to ‘till and keep’ the garden of the world (cf. Gen 2:15). ‘Tilling’ refers to cultivating, ploughing or working, while ‘keeping’ means caring, protecting, overseeing and preserving. This implies a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations” (#67)

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*

Source: Summary Global Catholic Climate Movement

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/whats-the-best-2-page-summary-youve-seen-of-laudato-si/>

Faithful Citizenship

As Catholics and as citizens of the United States, we are called upon to participate in the election of our government officials. Indeed, this duty is rooted in our baptismal call to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all that we do. We are very fortunate to be able to exercise our freedom in this manner even though our country's politics can be discouraging, frustrating and, at many a juncture, unjust. Having just returned from a trip to the New England states, where our country's forefathers and mothers debated about what kind of a land they wanted to live in and what its governance should be, I am reminded of the power that each of us has to influence our government and to bring about positive change in our world.

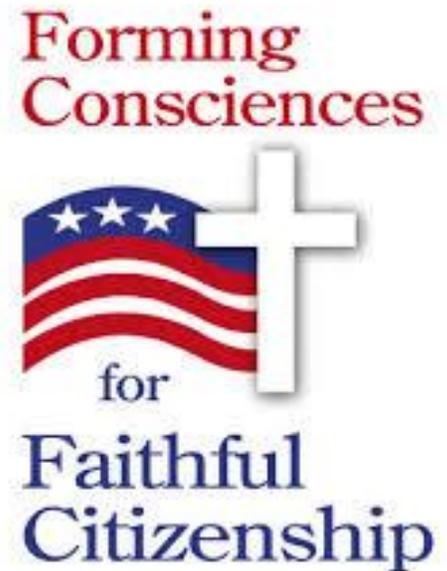
In a prayer he once offered for politicians, Pope Francis stated, "We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern."

It can be difficult to navigate the complex issues that come up for a vote or to decide which candidate will best uphold the values that we Catholics hold dear. Utilizing Catholic teaching to form one's conscience is a life-long task; it is accomplished by understanding Church teaching, prayerful reflection, information gathering, discussion with others, etc.

To aid Catholics in their participation in our democracy, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) offers a guidance document, [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#). It contains a reflection on Catholic teaching and political life, a summary of the bishops' policy positions and Catholic statements on moral issues. I recommend it to further inform, to challenge and to add to the development of your Catholic conscience. You can find it on the bishops' website, usccb.org.

For those registered to vote in Ohio, the Ohio Catholic bishops' Conference web site, [Ohio Catholic Conference](#), can be consulted for election issues and information. Similarly, there are also Catholic conferences in 42 of our nation's states.

Our Church – its people - help to shape the moral character of our society. We act with others and through institutions for the benefit of all. Pope Francis reminds us in *The Joy of the Gospel*, "An authentic faith always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it. The Earth is our common home and all of us are brothers and sisters."



SUBMITTED BY: Colleen Kammer

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

Taco Fiesta

Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation (PBMR)

Taco Fiesta Fall Fundraiser – October 14th

It was a day of community prayer, connections, fun and support!

Although the sunny but chilly temperature precluded having it outdoors, PBMR was able to accommodate scores of enthusiastic attendees in the Precious Blood Center and still highlight its “campus.”



With the acquisition and res-toration of the house across the street we strive to continue our mission of hospitality, healing and hope in this neighborhood struggling with the violence, with lack of resources and lack of emergency housing.

Our supporters/donors joined

with our community in eating tacos and sharing stories. Following lunch our youth and staff gave tours showing the growth of PBMR - job training sites, art gallery, education lab, Mother

Brunner Family Center as well as our newly purchased house for which we were seeking rehabbing funds.



our

So our Fall Fundraiser – Taco Fiesta – was a great success. Not only did it bring in some needed resources, which will go to rehab the house, but it gave us an opportunity to make and renew friendships. We were honored to have so many supporters to the event.

<https://Dl7gKVB/A>

soleilmedia.smugmug.com/Events/Nonprofit-/Precious-Blood-Ministry-Taco-Fiesta/i-



SUBMITTED BY: Sister Donna Liette, CPPS

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



On Saturday, October 6th, the Brunner Literacy Center held its 6th Annual 5k Walk/Run for Literacy in Englewood Metroparks. With the Sisters of the Precious Blood as the headlining sponsor, the event was a fabulous success! A friendly, exciting environment awaited the walkers, runners, sponsors, and volunteers who attended. Energetic music played while people checked in and registered, and a fun Zumba warm-up at 9:30 got everyone ready to hit the trail.

More than 130 participants turned out to run or walk the beautiful 5k course through the park, and some of them even brought their furry, four-legged friends. Over 25 volunteers and Brunner Literacy Center staff members helped plan and host the race, demonstrating strong community support for adult education in Dayton.

This is the second year the Sisters have sponsored the Brunner Literacy Center's race at the highest level, and in both years the Sisters' sponsorship has helped pushed the BLC past its fundraising goal. This year the 5k netted just over \$36,000. Funds raised by the 5k each year are applied to general operating expenses for the Center, which provides free tutoring and materials to adults who want to improve their lives through literacy. For more information about the Brunner Literacy Center, visit www.brunnerliteracy.org or call 937-567-9600.

BLC Contact:

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Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Ottawa, OH

celebrated 150th Anniversary (1868 – 2018)

Sunday, September 23, 2018 the parish held a wonderful celebration with Mass at noon in their lovely Church, followed by dinner at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas, Bishop of Toledo Diocese, was the celebrant and homilist. The pastor, associate and several other priests con-celebrated.

In their 150th Anniversary Prayer, they acknowledge by the grace of God, this parish was established and it has been a place of worship, community, teaching and preaching. It also states, “Many people have come and gone from us over 150 years, and we are thankful for what each one has contributed to our church.”

We Sisters of the Precious Blood contributed generous service to the parish from 1881- 2007, that is for 126 years. During those years, Sisters educated in the Catholic School, taught in the Religious Education Programs, were Eucharistic ministers, served on various committees and in many other ways. The Sisters’ commitment to education, their faithful work, and their many sacrifices helped to build the faith and further God’s Kingdom.

Now many other people continue this good ministry today. Sts. Peter & Paul parish plans to have a major capital campaign, “**Honoring the Tradition by Building for the Future**” in order to build a new addition to the Catholic School. This new school addition will benefit many people. It will enable the parish to continue the good work of preparing children both spiritually and academically for the future. **Congratulations** to Sts. Peter & Paul Parish!



SUBMITTED BY: Sister Martha Bertke
ASSEMBLY DIRECTIVE: Continue to share among ourselves and with others.

Send us your articles (approximately **125 to 150 words or less**) for our next issue. Next issue articles for *Grassroots* are due **NOV. 25** so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **12_05_2018**.

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

— or to Mary Lou Schmersal cppsnews@bright.net

Your contributions make all the difference!

A graphic with the words "Thank You" written in a large, elegant, black cursive script. The text is set against a white background that is part of a larger light green graphic element.