

Sisters of the Precious Blood

JANUARY 2019 Volume 4, Issue 1

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:

- Organic Farming 1 & 2
- Prayer Vigil
- Sounds of the Season 3
- Greenhouse effect
- Pauline Theology 4
- Gardens
- Blessing 5

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

Combating Malnutrition in Guatemala with Organic Farming

Guatemala is a beautiful country, with gorgeous mountains and majestic volcanoes, spectacular waterfalls and lush green valleys and rainforests. The beauty, however, can mask the poverty that exists all over the country. According to the World Bank, 59.3 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Among the indigenous people in the rural areas, 79 percent live in poverty, while 40 percent live in extreme poverty. Eight in ten indigenous children suffer from chronic malnutrition, a leading cause of death in children less than five years of age.



Here at Casa Sophia, a house for young women who come from the rural, indigenous areas and study in the universities in and around Guatemala City, Magdalena Pedro Juan, better known to us as Lena, is studying agronomy at the University of San Carlos (USAC). She wants to help farmers in her country learn about organic farming and combat childhood malnutrition in Guatemala. Agronomy is a branch of agriculture dealing with field-crop production and soil management. When asked to write about why she chose this field of studies, Lena wrote:

“The passion and joy that I experience in learning about agriculture is my greatest satisfaction. I would like to convey the importance of organic

agriculture to the greatest number of agricultural Guatemalans. There is a lot to do, and I believe that through sustainable organic agriculture, I can contribute to the solution of malnutrition that affects most



boys and girls in my country. This is a form of production that allows farmers the proper management and conservation of soil free of toxic products, so that healthier products are produced for a healthy diet. For this reason I am involved in activities that provide me with knowledge on sustainable agriculture, to cultivate healthy and sustainable food through a production that does not harm the environment, with the purpose of training me to teach farmers efficiently and effectively.”

During this first year of her studies, Lena delighted in finding a large variety of insects and mounting them for a project in which she identified each insect, learned what crops they infected and studied environmentally safe ways to control them. In addition to planting crops of various vegetables with her classmates in the large farm area at USAC reserved for this program, Lena tried her hand with organic patio farming by planting pots of tomatoes, carrots, onions and peppers on the terrazzo above our garage. Her harvest was small but delicious and healthy! Keep up the good work, Lena!

Submitted: by Joyce Kahle

- **Directive:** Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet’s resources.



Homicide Prayer Vigils

For many years now the Sisters at Salem Heights have been an integral part of the homicide vigil ministry of our Dayton community beginning already in 1993. In 1995 the Sisters received the *People of Peace Prize* for their leadership in holding Prayer Vigils. In addition, while the Sisters were praying at the Vigils on the streets, the Sisters back home at Salem Heights prayed in the chapel either at the same time or during their evening prayer.

The Prayer Vigils slacked off for a bit in 1999. Later, the Dayton Precious Blood Collaborative, an ecumenical group of churches brought together through the Sisters and Missionaries, restarted the vigils in 2006. They now continue under the leadership of Sister Jeanette Buehler as “Community Homicide Prayer Vigils.” In 2018 Sister Margie Zureick discovered the history of Sisters praying in the chapel in solidarity with those Sisters at the Prayer Vigils on site. She invites others to join her in the Adoration Chapel at 12:30 pm on Saturdays to be in solidarity with those who are at the outdoor Prayer Vigil on the street. Sisters, especially those who cannot go to the sites, are joining her in the Prayer Vigils at home in the chapel.

Submitted by: Sr. Margie Zureick

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

“The main point of Christianity was this: that Nature is not our mother: Nature is our sister.”

– G.K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*

Sounds of the Season

This sixth annual program of Advent and Christmas Music was performed Sunday, December 2, 4:00 p.m., at Holy Trinity Parish in Coldwater, OH. Featuring various church choirs, instrumentalists, and musicians, this was an opportunity through music to reflect on the marvelous mystery of God's love, the Birth of Christ, and how God brings new life into our world. It was beautiful!

Sounds of the Season was initiated by Sr. Martha Bertke in December of 2012. She invited Fr. Ralph Verdi, C.P.P.S. and Mr. Ron Johnson to assist her in organizing this musical event which was held at St. Charles Senior Living Community for four years. The large attendance quickly outgrew the seating capacity of the chapel at St. Charles. Thanks to Ron Johnson, at Holy Trinity Parish, this event has now been held in Coldwater for two years and I continue to be involved with it.



Ron Johnson
Organist & Director

Submitted by: Sr. Martha Bertke

Directive: Network with other groups. . .in our current reality.



As St. John Paul II said in 1990, “The ‘greenhouse effect’ [climate change] has now reached crisis proportions as a consequence of industrial growth, massive urban concentrations and vastly increased energy needs. Industrial waste, the burning of fossil fuels, unrestricted deforestation... are known to harm the atmosphere and environment... I wish to repeat that the ecological crisis is a moral issue.”

Leader: Let us pray as Pope Francis taught us in Laudato Si’:

Assembly: Creator God, please guide us.

Help us act in love and courage

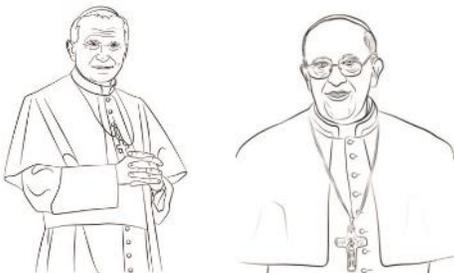
To honor You, O Creator,

And to fulfill our role as protectors of The Earth, our common home.

The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.

Amen.

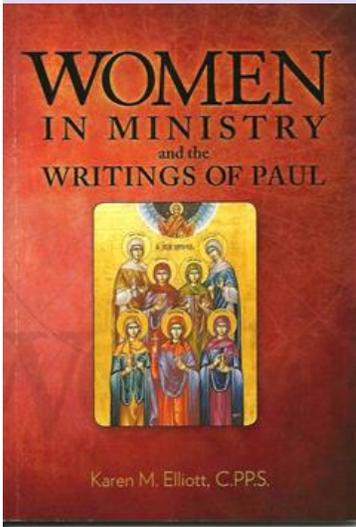
A Prayer for the COP24 Climate Summit (Katowice, 3-14 December)



“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.”

– **John Muir**

Issues in Pauline Theology



Sr. Karen Elliott, C.P.P.S. is the Director of Mission Integration at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati. In addition to her responsibilities as the Mission Officer, she will also be teaching a graduate course on “Issues in Pauline Theology” from January to March.

This course will explore the content and background of the letters of Paul. Particular emphasis will be placed on the women Paul ministered with and wrote to, noting their active engagement in ministry in the early Christian communities. This educator, through her expertise on the subject matter and her dynamic energy, will make this course both informative and interesting.

Her book, which was published in 2010, reflects on historical and contemporary issues of ministry within the Christian community. Through this book you can encounter the witness of women of faith and learn from Paul, a passionate disciple of Jesus Christ.

It is available at: www.anselmacademic.org/product/women-in-ministry-and-the-writings-of-paul/

OR www.amazon.com

Submitted by: *Sr. Martha Bertke*

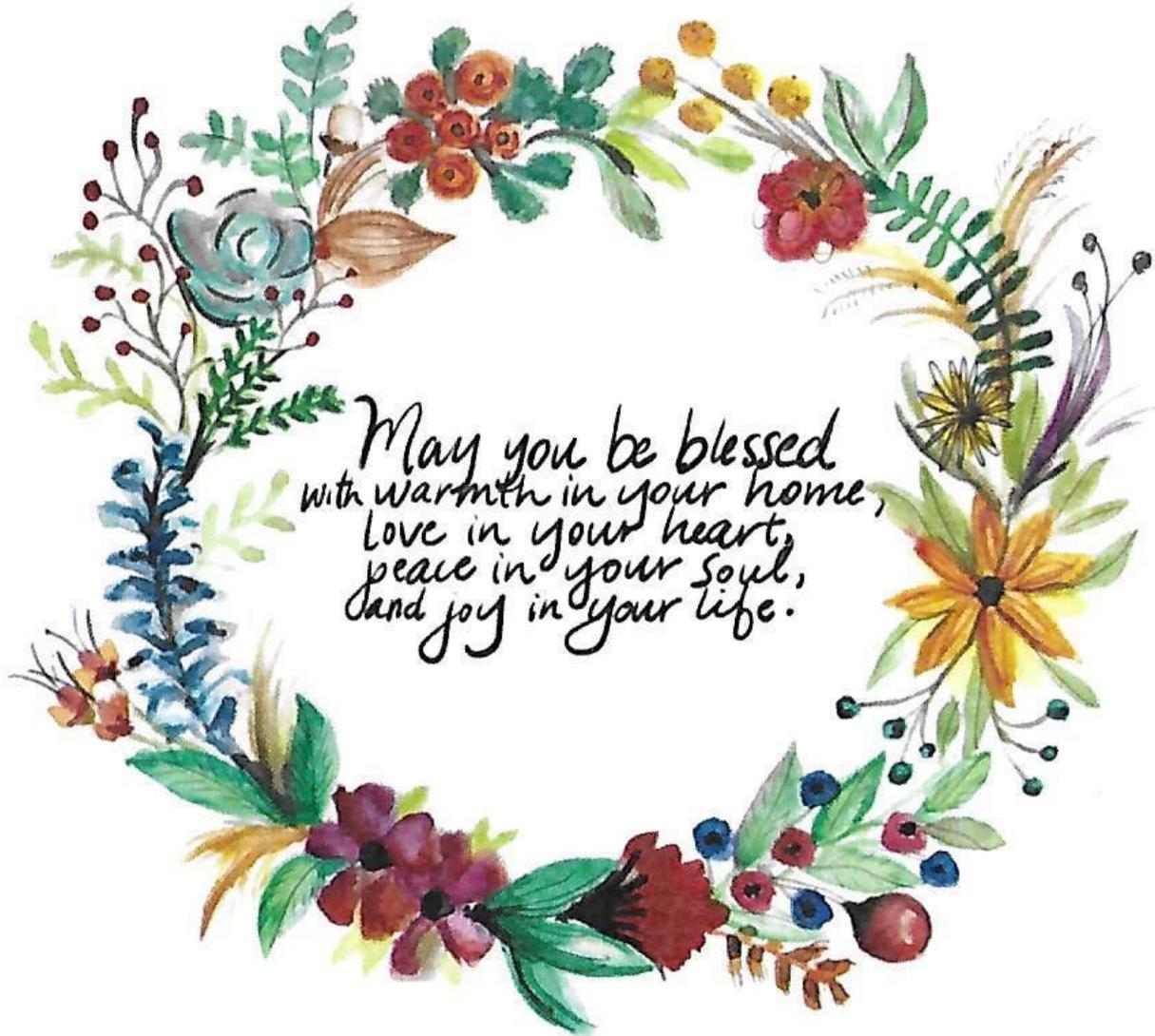
Assembly Directive: *To articulate and integrate our Spirituality*

Within the next several months we will be starting to think about planting gardens—either in pots on the deck or roof-top; in flower groupings next to the house or in ponds or wooded areas; a pollinator garden or edible garden; a rock garden or succulent garden. Here is a description of exploring the world flower by flower. Enjoy! <https://thesouloftheearth.com/journey-adventures/>



“Earth and sky, woods and fields, lakes and rivers, the mountain and the sea, are excellent schoolmasters, and teach some of us more than we can ever learn from books.”

— [John Lubbock](#)



Send us your articles (approximately **125 to 150** words or less) for our next issue. Next issue articles for *Grassroots* are due **January 30** so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **02_05_2019**.

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*