

Sisters of the Precious Blood

MAY 2019 Volume 4, Issue 5

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:

- Good Friday walk 1
- Ken Marcellus —mission fund award 2
- Volunteer power 3 & 4
- Intercultural Living as Mission 5
- Book reviews— & other resources 6

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

Eleven Sisters and Colleen participated in "A Walk for Justice and Peace" on Good Friday, April 19, in Dayton. Along the route, participants reflected on 14 justice issues corresponding to the 14 Stations of the Cross. Sister Jeanette Buehler wrote the second station on racism. The ecumenical walk was sponsored by 30 churches, faith communities, and social justice organizations.

Several sisters attended a lecture at the University of Dayton on April 25 entitled, "Catholics, the Church and the Social Sin of Racism", given by Brother Ray Fitz, SM. The lecture examined racial injustice in metropolitan areas, what the Church's role is in racial injustice and what it can do to be a catalyst for change.



For Your Information

There will be a KKK rally in downtown Dayton Saturday, May 25. On that same day, "An Afternoon of Love, Unity, Peace & Inclusion" will be held from 1:00-3:00 pm at McIntosh Park. Please attend and/or pray with us for peace.

Congratulations!

Kenneth Marcellus is a member of the Board of Directors of the C.P.P.S. Heritage Mission Fund. He is selected to receive the Cardinal Bernardin Award from his home parish, St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church, in Dayton. This is an award given to “unsung heroes” for their community service work.

Congratulations, Ken on receiving this well deserved award. The banquet will be held Sunday, June 9th from 4 - 6 p.m. at the Mandalay Banquet Center.

Ken shares our Precious Blood Spirituality.

Submitted by: Sister Marty Bertke

Assembly Directive: Network with other groups to be effective in our current reality



Mission Statement—Heritage Mission Fund

The CPPS Heritage Mission Fund, imbued with the gospel message and the mission and charism of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, responds to requests for financial support for programs and projects that promote the values of Precious Blood Spirituality, dignity of all life, healing and reconciliation, solidarity with the poor, the common good and meeting the unmet needs of the time.

For more details, <http://cppsheritagemissionfund.org/>

VOLUNTEERS: AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF THE PUZZLE

Volunteer Recognition at Miami Valley Hospital took on a special significance this year since many of those involved had worked at Good Samaritan Hospital before it closed last July. It seemed fitting that the Volunteers from the 3 Premier Hospitals were invited to the Main Hospital for this Program. That totaled over one thousand invitees although not everyone was able to attend.

As we entered Magnolia Place, a beautiful Dining Area on the sixth floor of Miami Valley Hospital, we were asked to choose a piece of a picture puzzle and to find its place in the large puzzle on the table. Seeing how it all fit together so perfectly helped us realize that the picture isn't complete without each one of us. The Volunteer Board and Advisory Staff spoke of their appreciation for the ministry of each participant. While we were served a delicious lunch, we had the opportunity to interact with Volunteers from the other Premier Health Hospitals.



The Awards Ceremony followed the meal in which it was very evident that there were thousands of hours of donated services. A booklet printed for the occasion listed each Volunteer's Name and her/his hours of service. Those who accumulated 200 hours received a Certificate of Recognition while those who had 500 hours through 3000 hours received a pendant at each 500 hour interval. And those who reached 3000 hours of service received a gold key signifying a Lifetime Membership and their names will be inscribed on the Legacy Wall. I was grateful to have reached the 1000 hour mark, whereas Sister Anna Maria Sanders had 13,924 hours and Sister Virgine Elking had 19,495 hours. Regardless of the number of hours, I think we all felt an important and an appreciated "piece of the large puzzle". I also felt that I received much more than just giving of time and talent. Volunteering in the Cancer Center at Miami Valley Hospital North as a Chaplain is so enriching, and I trust I can continue to minister there for many more hours.

Submitted by: Sister Rosemary Goubeaux

Assembly Directive: Network with other groups to be effective in our current reality

Volunteers are Appreciated

Mercer Health Hospital in Coldwater held their annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet Monday, April 15, 6:00 pm, at Romer's Banquet Hall in St. Henry. The Leadership Team of the Hospital; the Volunteer Association Board; and especially the Director of Volunteer Services were delighted with the great turn out of people. The Hospital has over 200 volunteers. Because I serve as a Volunteer Chaplain, I was invited, attended this lovely event, and led the prayer before our meal.

In appreciation, besides the delicious meal and enjoyable camaraderie, those who donated 1,000 or more hours were each given a special pin and certificate. Every person was given a program with the names of all volunteers and the number of hours each person contributed, a gift certificate of \$10.00, and a small wooden box planter, which contained soil and seeds, so each person can grow a plant. The outside of my box has this message, "Thank you for your Thyme!" How nice!

Sharing time with others is an opportunity to also share our Precious Blood Spirituality, as well as our service for the good of others.

Submitted by: Sister Martha Bertke

Directive: Network with others . . . to be effective in our current reality.

They call her The Mathemagician. Her real name is Angie, but to tutors and students, she's the go-to person when math literacy is at stake. Basic math skills, Pre-algebra, Algebra, Geometry, You name it, Angie can teach it. "I just try and show them that [math is] not a scary thing, that it's a very logical, step by step process," Angie says as a huge smile breaks across her face, her eyes twinkling. "Once you show them that they can succeed in this, it kind of opens their eyes to, 'maybe I can reach for more.'"

Lifting adults from poverty by giving them literacy tools is exactly what Sr. Helen Weber and Sr. Maryann Bremke, the two founders of the Brunner Literacy Center, hoped to achieve when they established the center in 2011. But literacy involves more than the awareness of sounds and print letters, more than just reading. True literacy involves recognizing numbers and number sense, being able to analyze information, and having the ability to problem solve. With the help of tutors like Angie, the BLC is working to remove the barrier of reading and math illiteracy and helping students achieve their dreams.

Last year was one of our most memorable: An average of 110 active students per month were provided with literacy services. Over 50 new tutors attended volunteer orientations and received training, and almost 11,000 hours of instruction were provided by staff and volunteers.

In 2019, we'd like to continue that forward momentum so that we can continue to do what we do best: provide flexible and individualized literacy services for adult students.

Submitted by : Celine O'Neill, Executive Director of the Brunner Literacy Center

Directive: Network with others . . . to be effective in our current reality.



— *another way to volunteer*

Sharing with others

Spring is often a time to take notice of items and clothing we can share with others. Sister Marie Kopin called Habitat ReStore to repurpose an extra office chair which they were more than happy to accept and pass along to someone in need.



At other times Marie helps Patricia, the "dog" lady. You can see they are holding two recent rescue dogs and Patricia is receiving a folding dog crate and a floor sweeper. She collects things and passes them on if she cannot use them herself so Marie supports her in this. Donating things does leave one feeling a lot better as I see how welcome they are to people who cannot afford much.

Submitted by: Sister Marie Kopin

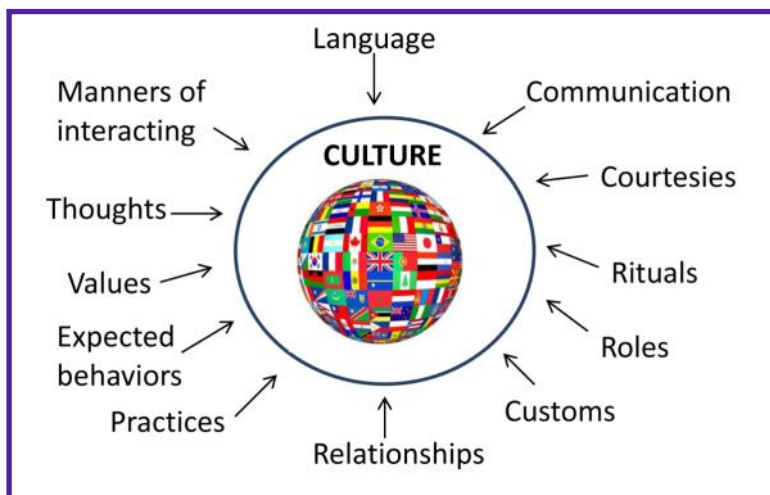
Directive: Act responsibly in the use and care of our planet's resources

Intercultural Living as Mission

A Reflection on the Workshop on “Intercultural Mission”

As a part of my formation program, I attended “Intercultural Mission” on April 5-7, 2019 given by Fr. Anthony Gittins. I would share a simple reflection from the perspective of a Korean woman living in a dominant culture of White American women’s religious community.

Fr. Gittins began with the difference between multicultural/international living (a sociological term) and intercultural/cross-cultural living (a theological term) for the community life. To start, it was important to know the difference because many people think that multicultural living is same as intercultural



living. Multicultural and international living just describes a kind of life style, while intercultural and cross-cultural living illustrates a conscious living in following the life of Jesus Christ. In a simpler description, multicultural living is like a “hotel” with people of many different cultures living in a building and share the common space in it. Intercultural living is like an “organic home.” In a hotel living, people don’t bother, don’t disturb each other. They live their own peaceful life in their own room with a certain rule by the hotel management when they interact and use common space together. But at home as a community, there are moments which go beyond their boundaries that create times of surprise and joy, or times of disturbance and trouble. There is birth and death with joy and pain. Through all these, individual members learn from each other and from the events, change thoughts and attitudes, and grow in love and trust as one family.

I have no doubt that we are all called to build this kind of organic and “radically welcoming community” of God. Thus, intercultural living of the Sisters of the Precious Blood is recognized as a mission. I have entered the white American dominated culture of this congregation as an Asian woman. Entering into the Sisters of the Precious Blood has layers of cross-cultural aspects. I can’t be just identified with a woman of “Korean” culture who entered into an American religious community. Korean culture is a major element but not all. I entered this community as a *Korean, independent, lay, Gen X* with certain experiences, a woman whose life totally differs from the *184 years old Swiss woman who originated American C.P.P.S religious* life. Being a Korean could inform most dominant culture of me to the Americans. However, intercultural living in the Sisters of the Precious Blood for me is about more than culture of food, clothing, fine arts and language. It is about “who I am” to enter into “what the Sisters of the Precious Blood is.” The goal of intercultural living is building the Home together in *communion*. How do I live out this challenge of intercultural living on my part?

First, *by asking questions* to sisters and myself, I would live intercultural living. What are the vision, the mission, and the charism of C.P.P.S? How do the sisters express them? Then, how could they be understood and conceptualized in me as a Korean? ...

Second, during the answering process to integrate them, I would do the *critical and analogical thinking* rather than feeling marginalized.

Third, through the process of learning and thinking, I would stand myself *at the edge of my boundary to explore differences*.

Submitted by: Candidate MikYoung Hwang

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

Grassroots welcomes Book Reviews

Reading books improves your brain, imagination, and memory. You can gain knowledge, reduce stress, and improve your vocabulary. Books can take you to another different world, where you can relax, be enriched and challenged.

Through book reviews you can become familiar with books, authors, publishers and your thinking skills become sharper. We welcome **book reviews** that relate to the "Emergent Future Directives". Good books you have read should be shared with others. Please consider submitting a Book Review any time; don't wait to be asked.



Other helpful resources:

- ♦ <http://www.couragere renewal.org/723/> —standing in the tragic gap by Parker Palmer
- ♦ <https://www.cnn.com/shows/united-shades-of-america> United Shades of America' follows comedian and political provocateur W. Kamau Bell as he explores communities across America to understand the unique challenges they face. Watch on CNN on Sundays @ 10:00 p.m. Previous segments can be found on the internet at the link above.
- ♦ Through the DeChristopher Family Trust the following videos are available for Community use. These videos were authored by Henry Louis, Gates Jr. for PBS. Each set contains 2 DVDs with a total viewing time of four to six hours. Please contact Sister Jeanette if you are interested in any of these sets.
 - * AFRICA'S GREAT CIVILIZATIONS
 - * THE AFRICAN AMERICANS: MANY RIVERS TO CROSS
 - * BLACK AMERICA SINCE MLK: AND STILL I RISE

Send us your articles (approximately **125 to 150 words or less**) for our next issue. Next issue articles for *Grassroots* are due **May 25** so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by **06_01_2019**.

Please submit to Marty Bertke m.bertke@hometowncable.net
— or to Mary Lou Schmersal cppsnews@bright.net

Your contributions make all the difference!

