

Sisters of the Precious Blood

June 2019 Volume 4, Issue 6

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



Isabella County Soup Kitchen (ICSK)

I certainly associate with our Isabella County Soup Kitchen (ICSK) and have participated in writing a grant for improvements. The manager just told me this grant project and other funds are tied up awaiting some details, probably like city permits to build, plumbing issues, etc. etc. The staff and handicapped clients are looking forward to new "handicapped style" push-button doors as the required doors are very heavy to open and close. There will also be further expansion of the cafeteria room and possibly the kitchen including a baby changing station in the men's room. We

surely seem to be picking up more homeless and displaced folks in recent years.

This soup kitchen also serves a number of seniors too with soups, main dishes, a large salad bar, fruits, desserts, breads, and great cooking along with offering additionally donated veggies and breads from local restaurants and grocery stores as "take home" items. It is a great facility for a town as small as ours. Central Michigan University College Students often volunteer as all are required to do a certain number of hours of "Community Service" before graduation at listed approved places which include our Isabella County Soup Kitchen.

In addition to this project I've also written grants for a couple of clients of our soup kitchen and hire some for gardening help.

Submitted by: Sister Marie Kopin

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



Sharing with others

We exist to share free meals in a warm, safe environment where all are welcome —sharing a warm meal for a better COMMUNITY

A COMMUNITY SPONSORED PROJECT:

- Operated by volunteers (4-6 daily) who provide approximately 1500 hours monthly
- Volunteers: Community groups, CMU students, Community Service workers, Church groups and service club members
- Supported totally by donations of money, food and volunteer hours
- Employees: Executive Director, Administrative Assistant, 2 kitchen assistants, 1 inventory assistant

VALUES WE LIVE BY: *We are **Guest-Focused**, committed to providing an*

*accessible, reliable service in a positive environment. **Volunteer Driven:** We value our volunteers and their ideas, opinions and work which sustains our operation. **Community Partnerships:** We strive to cultivate relationships and collaborate with community service and business entities to support the nutritional needs of our guests **Compassionate:** We treat our guests, volunteers, and community partners with acceptance, genuineness, empathy and non-judgement. **Accountable:** We act with complete transparency and the utmost integrity to make strategic, fiscally responsible decisions.*

Submitted by: Sister Marie Kopin

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



Thirteen Precious Blood sisters, five Precious Blood priests and Colleen were among the 150 people that attended a presentation at Precious Blood Church titled “**Terrorizing African Americans, Immigrants, Jews: The Past and Present of the KKK and White Supremacy**”, on May 23. Dr. Bill Trollinger, a history professor at the University of Dayton, delivered the presentation. He said that when the Ku Klux Klan, which proclaimed pure American nationalism, was at its peak in the 1920's, Ohio had more klanspeople (women included) than any other state – 400,000. And 20% of the population of Dayton that was eligible to join the Klan, did so. Sister Rosemary Laux remembers the Klan burning a cross on the lawn when she was a postulant. The Klan proclaimed hatred for Catholics as so many of them were immigrants at that time. The evening was sponsored by the social justice committee of Precious Blood Church and the Archdiocesan Catholic Social Action office.

Submitted by: Colleen Kammer

Efforts to counter KKK rally

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood were involved in efforts to counter the effects of a KKK rally which was held in Dayton, Saturday, May 25, 1-3 pm. Fr. Angelo Anthony, C.P.P.S., invited people to lift up prayers for divine mercy. St. Joseph Church in downtown Dayton, where Missionaries are in ministry, and where Fr. Angelo is pastor, held **Eucharistic adoration from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday** while the rally was going on.

20 groups in the city worked together to organize a family outing. It was a peaceful rally of unity and love, held Saturday, May 25, 1:00-3:00 pm at McIntosh Park. Other groups in the city said that was not enough, and they planned a counter protest across the street from Courthouse Square (where the Klan rally took place). All law enforcement officers in the city were on call throughout the weekend to secure the peace.”

On Sunday, May 26 Dayton churches held a service of cleansing at the Courthouse Square. “There were prayers and ritual cleansing so this might once again be a place of peace and unity,” Fr. Angelo said. “So many events happen downtown at Courthouse Square – it is a place where we come together as a community.” The city of Dayton needs prayers for peace.

Information from: Fr. Angelo

Thank you for your prayers for peace in Dayton on Saturday. The KKK rally came and went with no incidents of violence. We're grateful for all your support and for everything Missionaries (and Sisters of the Precious Blood) in the city, did to help spread a message of peace and unity.



Enjoy the Rich, Loving and Compassionate Diversity of Dayton

This was the title of a three day Community Celebration sponsored by the Dayton unit NAACP. NAACP representative stated that its organization is for everybody and anyone can join to help promote equality for all. ITS mission is to “ensure the political, educational, social and economic quality of rights for all persons, and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.”

The intention of these three events was to bring people together to avoid giving attention to the KKK who held a rally on May 25 on Dayton Courthouse Square. The organizers wanted to show the KKK that Dayton unites under the banner of love and compassion. Hate has no place in Dayton and “it can go back to Indiana from where it came.”

The first event was an *Evening Discussion on Race Relations* at the Dayton Art Institute May 23.

The second event on May 25 was held at McIntosh Park - *An Afternoon of Love, Unity, Peace and Inclusion*. Sisters Cecilia Taphorn, Jeanette Buehler and Judy Niday attended. Mayor Nan Whaley stated: “Dayton is still too segregated and still too unequal. This is unacceptable and something we must keep focused on to change every single day.” Later she said that “This ugly chapter is over, but it means we have to get back to the real work - making sure that no matter what you look like, where you come from, or who you love, that you can have a great life here in Dayton. "She was happy to see so many people show up to celebrate love, unity and peace and support love and diversity over the KKK that appeared at the same time at Courthouse Square across the river.

The culminating event was held Sunday afternoon May 26 - *Love Trumps Hate – Cleansing of the Square* at the Courthouse Square Religious leaders from many traditions shared symbols and meaning of cleansing rituals such as water, incense, flowers, smudging, etc. Guy Jones, Native American Indian stated that “we are searching for answers to humanity's issues but we don't know the questions to ask.” Sister Judy Niday and Colleen Kammer attended.

Submitted by: Sister Judy Niday

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



Cleansing of Court House Square following KKK presence. Religious leaders from many traditions shared symbols and meaning of cleansing rituals such as water, incense, flowers, smudging, etc.

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT) invites you to join us in honoring refugees. On **June 20, World Refugee Day**, we commemorate the strength, courage, and resilience of refugees. Today, an unprecedented 68.5 million people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly 25.4 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18. Every 15 minutes a family is forced to flee their homeland.

We know that there is a strong link between forced migration and human trafficking. Men, women, and children are made vulnerable to human trafficking by the mass displacement caused by violence, extreme poverty, humanitarian crises, climate change, natural disasters, and conflict. Impoverished, vulnerable families are targeted by traffickers who promise to provide education and opportunity only to exploit them through forced labor, sexual exploitation, enslavement, or organ theft.

Stand in solidarity #WithRefugees and #StopRefugeeTrafficking on World Refugee Day, **Thursday, June 20, 2019.**

[Join us in calling](#) our Representative and Senators and urging them to support two pro-refugee bills:

[H.R.2146](#) / [S.1088](#) GRACE Act

[H.R. 2214](#) / [S.1123](#) NO BAN Act

Visit our [website](#) to learn about our 2019 World Refugee Campaign and discover more ways that you can support refugees on June 20 and throughout the year. You'll find backgrounders, resources for prayer, stories of trafficked immigrants and asylum seekers, sample social media posts and more.

If you would prefer to download and print the 2019 World Refugee Toolkit, you'll find a PDF file [HERE](#).

Join us and Stand in Solidarity #WithRefugees and #StopRefugeeTrafficking on World Refugee Day, Thursday, June 20.

Finally, please let us know how you are planning to commemorate World Refugee Day, 2019. **Leave us a note** on the [USCSAHT Facebook page](#).



Intention for the Universal Prayer

For all farmers and those who produce food for our tables and other sustainable products; may they be blessed with favorable weather in order to successfully plant their crops and provide for their family's livelihood.

We pray to the Lord.

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.



“If Nuns Ruled the World: Ten Sisters on a Mission” by Jo Piazza

This easy-to-read book has ten chapters, each telling the story of a different religious sister who is changing the world and the souls she encounters. Wall Street contributor and author, Jo Piazza, spent months interviewing and learning about the nuns she wrote about. A self-proclaimed non-religious woman, Piazza sums up her experiences with these religious sisters, *“I may not believe in God but I believe in nuns.”*

Piazza writes about Sr. Megan Rice who broke into a National Security complex to damage nuclear weapons. She details the beginning of Sr. Simone Campbell’s Nuns on the Bus ministry. She met a Sister who keeps her location undisclosed because of her work with victims of human trafficking. She writes of nuns who run Ironman triathlons, use their finances to lobby in shareholders meetings, and who work for equality in the government and the Church.

These ten sisters have a variety of ministries, live in different parts of the country and come from different religious communities. But they all feel called by God to be a Sister and to be doing the work they are doing. They each share how their daily prayer brings them peace in a world of violence.

The stories emphasized the dual role of a nun – to be compassionate and to be an agitator. Each story showed a woman who cared deeply for others and for that reason, was willing to go to extreme lengths to show that compassion. This is who nuns are today. Nuns are the modern-day Jesus in the temple, overturning the tables of corruption and injustice, all for the glory of God!

Honestly, this is who the Sisters of the Precious Blood are too. Chapters could have been written about Sr. Donna and Sr. Carolyn discussing the work they do on the south side of Chicago or Sisters Terry, Marife and Joyce and what they do for the women in Guatemala. Our Sisters volunteer in schools in low income neighborhoods, in prisons and with the poor. As a vocation minister, I found this to be a great book to pass along to someone when they ask “Why would someone want to be a nun today?” This books illustrates the answer: “to change the world.”

Submitted by: Jenna Legg

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

Other helpful resources:

- ◆ Check out this link for really challenging insights: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=318&v=IZC2-qphqFw Radical Incarnation and the Newness of Christ - Conversation with Ilia Delio - December 18, 2018
- ◆ <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

Another Way to See Justice—reflections by Richard Rohr

For the first 300 years after Jesus' death, Christians were the oppressed minority, rebels hiding in catacombs. But by the year 400, Christians had changed places. We moved from the catacombs to the basilicas. That is when we started reading the Bible not as subversive literature but as establishment literature.

Throughout time, the vast majority of people have been poor, vulnerable, or oppressed in some way (i.e., “on the bottom”), experiencing life in terms of a need for change. Those who wrote the books and controlled the social institutions, however, have primarily been the comfortable and privileged people at the top. Much of history has been recorded from the side of the winners, *except* for the unique revelation of the Bible, continuing with the Gospels. The Bible reveals a path of humility and compassion in the face of oppression, culminating in the torture and execution of Jesus.

We see in the Gospels—beginning with Jesus' own story of being an outcast—that it's those on the bottom or outside society who tend to follow Jesus: the lame, poor, blind, prostitutes, drunkards, tax collectors, and foreigners. Those on the inside and at the top crucify him: elders, chief priests, teachers of the Law, scribes, and Roman occupiers. Shouldn't that tell us something important about perspective? As Richard Rohr often says, *every viewpoint is a view from a point*, and we need to critique our own perspective if we are to see and follow truth in all its nuance and respect the truth and perspective of others—even when it conflicts with our own.

When Christians began to gain positions of power and privilege, we then also began to ignore segments of Scriptures, especially the Sermon on the Mount, in order to maintain our empire. But when the Bible is read through the eyes of vulnerability—what we call the “preferential option for the poor” or the “bias from the bottom”—it will always be liberating and transformative, empowering in a completely different way. Read this way, Scripture will not be used to oppress or impress. The question is no longer “How can I maintain my special and secure status?” but “How can we all grow and change together?” When we choose to live in close proximity to the bottom and in solidarity with suffering, we can be used as instruments of transformation and liberation for others.

Send us your articles (approximately 125 to 150 words or less) for our next issue. Next issue articles for *Grassroots* are due June 25 so that we can meet our goal of having it in your hands by 07_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!



Thank
You