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CINCINNATI C.P.P.S. NEWSLETTER

*In Christ, through the
shedding of his blood,
we have redemption and
forgiveness of our sins.*

Ephesians 1: 7a

A New Year's Message from the Provincial Director

A Year When Dreams Will Grow

Jeffrey Kirch, C.P.P.S.

Many of us are happy that 2021 has come to a close. We can get a glimpse of what 2021 was like by watching the evening news with reports on the COVID pandemic, toxic politics, crime, civil unrest and natural disasters. It definitely has not been the best of years.

Within the life of the Congregation, 2021 has presented challenges. The inability to gather together in person throughout much of the year strained our community life and our progress towards becoming a new province in the United States. It is tempting to dwell on negatives and see only the pain of the past year.

As people motivated by Precious Blood spirituality, we are charged with hearing the

Cry of the Blood in our world. And so we do need to be aware of how our world is hurting in so many ways. At the same time, however, our charisma calls us to be hope-filled people. In the midst of the darkness we know of the power of the Precious Blood of Christ. Our world is made new in the Precious Blood.

Though the past year has not been the easiest, there were glimmers of hope. And as we look to this new year, we are ever more hopeful that God will continue to bless us and our endeavors.

We have much to look forward to in 2022, when we hope that seeds planted in 2021 will begin to bear fruit. Our collaboration with the Adorers of the Blood of Christ and the Sisters of the Precious Blood in the creation of the Precious Blood Spirituality Institute promises to be an important part of deepening our appreciation of our spirituality and sharing our spirituality with the wider world.

In conjunction with the Precious Blood Spirituality Institute, the Robert J. Schreiter, C.P.P.S., Institute at CTU will ensure that Fr. Schreiter's work in Precious Blood spirituality



**behold,
new things
have come** 2 Cor 5:17b

and reconciliation continues well into the future.

This new year will be a time for us to continue to explore new ways of ministering not only in the Church, but also reaching out to those who for a variety of reasons may be far from the Church. Through our parochial ministry, educational apostolate, St. Charles Center, Sorrow Mother Shrine and PBMR ministries, we continue to bring spiritual nourishment to those who need it the most. (Continued on page two)

**Precious Blood
Congregations
Found the
Precious Blood
Spirituality Institute**

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Sr. Martha Bertke Retires

Sr. Martha Bertke, CPPS, announces that she has retired and, as of December 10, makes her home at Salem Heights, the motherhouse of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, in Dayton. She was the last CPPS sister to live and minister in Mercer County, Ohio.

A native of Maria Stein, Ohio, Sr. Martha has been a sister for 60 years. She served in various parishes for 40 years and as the first manager of the apartments for seniors at Saint Charles Senior Living Community, in Carthage, Ohio, for 10 years.



Sr. Martha

After her years of formation in religious life, she lived in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. In 2005, Sr. Martha returned to her roots in Mercer County to work at Saint Charles and moved into an apartment in nearby Coldwater. After living away from the area, it was an adjustment for her to once again

live in Mercer County among family and friends and become acquainted with many people.

Sisters of the Precious Blood first came to Mercer County and settled at Maria Stein, Ohio, in 1846. CPPS sisters served in Mercer County in many schools, parishes, at the former seminary, in the hospital, at the Maria Stein Shrine and the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein. CPPS sisters touched the lives of many people.

"It was an honor and a privilege to work at St. Charles Center for 10 years as the first manager of the apartments for seniors," Sr. Martha said. "I am very grateful for the opportunity to

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Community Notes

Business

The IRS has established a mileage rate of 58.5 cents per mile, as of January 1, 2022.

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work with the Precious Blood priests and brothers. It was an awesome experience to invite people to visit St. Charles, to decide to live there and to contribute to the wonderful community spirit that exists in that beautiful historical building."

While working at St. Charles, Sr. Martha also established *Artistry Under the Dome*, the first premier juried art fair in Mercer County. The art fair has been held for seven years, drawing over 1,000 people each time. Sr. Martha was a true friend and patron of the arts during her time at St. Charles.

In recent years, Sr. Martha served as a volunteer chaplain at Mercer Health in Coldwater, where she said she valued being involved in the health care of body, mind and spirit of many patients. She also served on committees and boards.

Now a new chapter of her life awaits her and her community. "Life continues to evolve for me and for my community," Sr. Martha said. "I give praise and thanks to God for many blessings."



Condolences from the C.P.P.S.

The prayers and sympathy of the Precious Blood family are extended to:

The family of **Companion Marilyn Robnett** (Albia, Iowa), who died on November 12.

The family of **Companion Joe Mahoney** (Albia, Iowa),

who died on November 22. Joe was the husband of Companion Colette Mahoney.

The Sisters of the Precious Blood of Dayton and the family of **Sr. Kathleen Kelly, CPPS**, who died on November 26.