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Sisters of the Precious Blood Celebrate 100 Years in Dayton, Ohio

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Over 200 people attended Mass at Precious Blood Church in Dayton.

On October 1, 2023, the Sisters of the Precious Blood (CPPS) celebrated their 100th anniversary in Dayton, Ohio, at a Mass and reception attended by over 200 people, including missionaries of the Precious Blood, diocesan priests, City of Trotwood Mayor and Commissioners, representatives,



Trotwood Mayor Mary McDonald giving a Proclamation celebrating the Congregation's centennial to CPPS President, Sr. Joyce Lehman

family and friends from Congregation ministries and sisters from other congregations. Trotwood Mayor Mary McDonald gave the proclamation to celebrate the event.

Founded in 1834 in Switzerland by Maria Anna Brunner, three SPB arrived in northern Ohio in 1844 to minister to German Catholic immigrants. During the next 12 years, the religious community established convents throughout areas of northern Ohio and Indiana. By the early 1920s, after nearly 80 years at Motherhouse Maria Stein in Mercer County, Mother General Emma Nunlist determined that the Congregation needed to relocate in closer proximity to health care, education, and other amenities located in Dayton. For this purpose, Mother Nunlist oversaw the purchase of seventy-five acres of farmland two miles north of Dayton for the new Motherhouse. Importantly, the new location closer to the city would enable the appeal for volunteers to assist with perpetual adoration of the Eucharist, a hallmark of the sisters' lived vocation since their founding.

The Community's historical records note, "The feast of St. Augustine, August 28, 1923, will go down in the annals as a memorable day for the community, since it marks the departure of the Sisters from the old motherhouse to the new." Further detailed in the history, the "Knights of Columbus of Dayton offered to transport the Sisters to Salem Heights, where they were welcomed with the pealing of bells and the greetings of the Sisters who had arrived earlier." Today, the motherhouse on Salem Avenue houses the Maria-Joseph Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. The sisters' central house next door known as Salem Heights, comprises a retirement center, chapel and gathering space for the community.

During the past century, the sisters have been active in numerous ministries in education, health care, social justice, food, and domestic service, and in parishes in the Dayton area. Today, the sisters continue their strong collaboration with city and local agencies in their commitment to the fabric of the community, and the dedication to serve where and when needed.