"Reconciliation"

bringing people together
building bridges
healing the broken-hearted
restoring harmony
facing the hurts
respecting different perspectives
making a place for people to bring their suffering

Fall 2011
A Message from Sister Fran Raia, CPPS

The Story of a Child...

Parish Ministry

Did You Know

Development Report

CPPS Night at Busch Stadium

On the Journey

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For more information about the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood and their mission, please visit www.cpps-ofallon.org.

We Remember...
We Celebrate...
We Believe!

Sister Rita Keeven
July 26, 2011

Sister Mary Whited
August 31, 2011

Mission of the Congregation

We, the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O’Fallon, Missouri, form a community that finds its mission in the Church. Rooted in the Eucharist and personal prayer we continue the mission of Jesus by striving to be and to experience Christ’s redeeming presence as we affirm and empower one another and those we serve, especially the poor.
Dear Friends,

What is reconciliation? According to the dictionary conciliate means: “to overcome the distrust of hostility; to placate; to win or gain regard or favor; to make compatible; to bring together, unite.”

So, reconciliation has something to do with bringing together, uniting people, and overcoming distrust. In this issue of our magazine, there are stories of our sisters involved in parish ministries where they are bringing people together. Our sisters who minister around the world told us:

- What it is like to work in Tampere, Finland with ecumenical faith groups;
- In Estonia, how one helps the Russian, Estonian, and Polish people who suffered great oppression under Communism, come to forgiveness, peace and healing;
- Who Juanito from Cochabamba, Bolivia is and how he has found a life of love, support, and joy;
- How cancer survivors and those dealing with cancer find each other in a Missouri parish and how they help one another;
- Who is guiding Hispanic persons needing to navigate a different culture, language and social system;
- What it takes to be an attentive listener in Anchorage, Alaska; to collaborate, affirm, enable and support parishioners including the elderly in Missouri.

Each story in this issue is one of reconciliation, that is, “trying to realize that the ebb and flow of life is filled with Christ’s redeeming presence. It means constantly trying to develop good relationships with each other.” (Sr. Marilyn Schneider, page 8.)

Peace to you as together we start over each day building, bridging, connecting and networking - all tasks of reconciliation.

Gratefully,

Sr. Fran
Several of our Precious Blood Sisters live in Cochabamba, Bolivia, where they work for different houses under the umbrella of Foundation Amanecer. One of these houses is Salomon Klein, an orphanage that receives children who have been abused and/or abandoned, as well as orphans, between the ages of birth and six years. Many of the children who live at Salomon Klein return to their families once family stability is achieved, but others, those who have been legally classified as “abandoned” or “orphaned,” may go through the process of adoption. This is the story of one of these children, Juanito.

Juanito arrived at Salomon Klein when he was just eight months old and was very sick, suffering from malnourishment, anemia and bronchitis. It was obvious from his physical condition that he was neglected, and there were signs of maltreatment. His mother worked at night and left the child alone in the room in which they lived. She had four other children, all of whom were in care: one in an orphanage and the others in foster homes.

Once in the care of the educators and medical staff of Salomon Klein, Juanito began to recover quickly. After three months, Juanito’s parents went to the State Child Care Agency, asking that their son be released back into their care. In order to ensure the well-being of a child in situations where there is evidence of parental neglect and/or abuse, the Agency requires that various evaluations be done before they release a child to the parents’ care. Having been informed of this, the parents never returned to the agency. Juanito continued to grow and became a sociable, communicative and cheerful child.

Seeing some of the other children leaving to live with adoptive families, Juanito started to ask when he would have adoptive parents; but because he was known to have living parents and a birth certificate, all that could be done was to wait for them to reclaim him. Efforts were made to try to locate his parents, but they were never found.

Juanito continued insisting that he wanted an adoptive family, so emancipation processes were started to remove parental authority, a process which took two years. Meanwhile, Juanito attended a Montessori preschool at age three, followed by pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. He learned easily and liked to dance in the festivals and civic activities.

A month ago, Juanito was finally assigned to an adoptive family. He has established a very good emotional relationship with his new family and he and his new sister get along very well. Juanito is very happy.

Unfortunately, not all the children at Salomon Klein are as blessed as Juanito. For many of these children, usually at least 150 at any given time, Amanecer is committed to making their early years as nourishing, both emotionally and physically, as possible. Because of the number and fragility of the children, this requires a vast outlay of both human and economic resources. We count on the support of generous friends to help us continue our service to the children of Salomon Klein. If you would like to support these efforts, you can by making a donation to the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood by designating it to Salomon Klein. We thank you for whatever support you can give for these smallest and most vulnerable of God’s children.
Parish Ministers are people “behind the scenes,” the ones who plan the liturgy, work with parents for Baptism of their children, visit the sick and homebound, organize the RCIA programs, are the parish listener, connect people to the resources they need and so much more.

The following pages will illustrate several of our sisters who minister in parishes across the US, South America, Finland, and Estonia in light of what they find rewarding about Parish Ministry and how reconciliation has made a difference in the lives of their parishioners.

Sr. Rose Marie Dobelman
All Saints Parish, St. Peters, MO
5 years

I mainly work with Maturing Adult Ministry, which was started five years ago. This ministry focuses on the ongoing spiritual development of senior adults. Our goal is to come to see aging not as the beginning of the end, but as a part of God’s eternal plan for human happiness. It is so rewarding to see the tremendous interest and desire of the women and men in their retirement years, to share their faith and continue to grow spiritually.

Reconciliation is a life-long call from God. We are never to cease to forgive. We frequently discuss ways we are challenged to reconcile in today’s broken world.

Sr. Delores Schilli
St. Vincent DePaul Parish, Perryville, MO
13 years

In reflecting on my role in the parish I think of St. Paul’s words in 1Cor 3 (6, 7, 9): “I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. Therefore neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth. We are God’s co-workers.” To assist others in their faith journey is very rewarding and life giving. Their response to the Lord’s invitation is a powerful witness to me and to others in their lives. We are mutually enriched and encouraged.

Over a period of time the stories of those committed to seeking a deeper relationship with God have helped me to appreciate our charism of reconciliation as a vital part of my ministry.
Sr. Anna Marie Himmelberg  
St. John’s Catholic Church, Imperial, MO  
11 years

The opportunity to help people of all ages recognize that they are Christ’s continuing, reconciling presence in the world is the most rewarding part of my work in parish ministry. We network members of our parish with one another: such as women who have had breast cancer minister to women who are currently dealing with breast cancer, parents whose children have died 10-15 years ago are present to parents whose children died recently, people who have been unemployed and found jobs offer what worked for them during those months and years of unemployment to those who are unemployed now.

Sr. Theresa Jezl  
Holy Cross Parish, Tampere, Finland  
35 years

The most rewarding part about working in parish ministry is that I feel I am part of a bigger world-wide church since the parishioners speak over 40 languages and belong to several rites. My ecumenical work helps me see something of God’s immensity and how broad Christianity is.

For the Finns, reconciliation is most often necessary in the relationship with their family and friends who are generally not Catholic. For those from other countries, it is a necessary element in their process of living in another culture and accepting (in some cases) that there is no possibility to go back home. The best tool for reconciliation is really listening to the parishioners to find out their reasons for their opinions and ways of interacting. It is also the best way to find out what the needs of the parish really are.

Sr. Joanne Rataj  
Our Lady of the Lake, Lake Ozark, MO  
6 years

The people are so kind and responsive to what is being done. It makes it all worthwhile.
Sr. Mary Venard Le Beau
Tallinn & Tartu, Estonia
16 years

As an educator, I use every opportunity to teach others, especially children, values that are important in their school life and how to integrate them in their parish life. In this country where Communism stole the Faith from the people, it is heartening to see the parents’ gratitude for anything I do.

Perhaps our greatest need for reconciliation here in Estonia after Communism, 1944-1991, is to forgive. It is very gratifying to see Estonians, Russians and Polish people worshiping together after all they suffered.

Sr. Loretta Luecke
Holy Cross Parish, Anchorage, Alaska
9 years

The most enriching aspect of my ministry is the interaction with people: my staff, our parishioners, and others in the larger community. It begins with my being an attentive listener and develops with collaborating, affirming, enabling and supporting one another in our parish mission: to use the gifts God has given us (individually and collectively) in being a continuing presence of Jesus to others.

I believe a difference in the lives of our parishioners is basically a growth process, which results in readiness at different times in each individual person, family, or group. It is response to, and participation in, various ministries.

Sr. Michaleen Vomund
St. Barnabas Parish, O'Fallon, MO
27 years

The most rewarding thing for me is just being there for the people as they are going through some hard times with family situations and work.
Sr. Julie Wolf  
The parish of San Pedro, SicaSica, Bolivia  
16 years

My ministry includes a little bit of everything and anything! It constantly changes according to arising needs, but there are some things that stay the same. Basically, I try to be available and respond to the present needs of the people.

Hopefully how I relate to people here will let them know how merciful, compassionate and loving God is. When I remember how good God is, I sense myself being more understanding toward people. We are by no means perfect, but as long as Jesus is with us, along with prayer and making honest efforts, we are certainly on the right road.

Sr. Eileen Schieber  
St. Patrick and Sacred Heart Parishes, Sedalia, MO  
12 years

The gift that the people are to my life is most rewarding. Their values and their dedication to their families are outstanding. Their reaching out to others in need is remarkable as they often share what very little they have, including their housing, with others who may have nothing at the moment.

There is a great emphasis on reconciliation because these parishes are “Precious Blood Parishes” and the values of the Precious Blood Family are emphasized. Whenever two or more cultures interact, reconciliation is a necessity. Whenever the different parish cultures, the medical profession and other agencies and the clients, the civil structure, including immigration, landlords, employers, vendors, stores, and the Hispanic person or family can connect in understanding and accord, they experience reconciliation.

Sr. Marilyn Schneider, CPPS  
St. Vincent DePaul Parish, Perryville, MO  
12 years

In my ministry I find it very rewarding to connect with families, pray with and for parishioners, hear about their joys and sorrows, help them in need and share meals with families and organizations. My greatest joy is helping parishioners integrate liturgies with ordinary life, to raise their hearts and voices to God in prayer and song.

Reconciliation means trying to realize that the ebb and flow of life is filled with Christ’s redeeming presence. It means constantly trying to develop good relationships with each other. By doing this, our parishioners are participating in the very life of Jesus and bringing the good news to each other and the poor.

This is a only a sampling of the work that our Sisters do in Parish Ministry, not all CPPS Sisters are represented.
Did you know that the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood are members of the Midwest Coalition for Responsible Investment (MCRI)?

MCRI works to monitor and influence the policies and practices of corporations. Through a variety of shareholder activities, members strive to reverse situations of injustice and to advocate for peace, justice and the integrity of creation. The 14 Members and 6 Associate Members of the Midwest Coalition for Responsible Investment are committed to dialogue and shareholder resolutions as a way to intelligent social change. This year, 2011, marks the second year that they will be focusing on water sustainability.

Here is a summary of the MCRI actions taken in 2010 - 2011 and what they plan to address in 2011 - 2012:

- **AMERENMissouri.** We filed a resolution asking the company to report on its efforts to identify and reduce the health and environmental hazards of Coal Combustion Waste or coal ash.

- **BOEING.** We filed a resolution on Ethical Standards for Military Contracts, an issue MCRI has addressed many times in the past. Boeing does not require non-government subcontractors to follow International Labor Organization rules, nor does Boeing monitor their supply chain beyond present requirements; they are taking steps to review these practices.

- **MONSANTO.** Monsanto will begin to develop a policy that recognizes the human right to water. Monsanto, along with other agricultural companies and trade organizations, remains committed to the Mississippi River Initiative at $5 million a year for the Nature Conservancy to fund efforts to lessen the amounts of fertilizer and herbicides entering the river tributaries.

- **PEABODY ENERGY.** The largest coal company in the world is talking to us twice a year. They have sent us their Surface Water Quality Report and have expanded and improved their water measurements in the Corporate Social Responsibility Report (CSR).

This fall and winter MCRI members will continue to address other issues such as price restraints for pharmaceuticals, fairness in financial and credit card companies, and modern slavery in supply chains. They continue to contemplate, learn the facts, and dialogue. They may not make big changes in corporations, but they do see small changes manifested in their policies, publications, and practices. Companies continue to respect MCRI. For more information, please visit www.midwestcri.com.

**CONGRATULATIONS:**

Sr. Madelene Reiners, CPPS, will be one of 20 older adults that will be recognized at the St. Andrew’s Resources for Seniors System’s ninth annual Ageless – Remarkable Saint Louisans Gala on Nov. 6th at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch. This event recognizes this outstanding group of seniors, for whom retirement has provided an opportunity to continue to make amazing contributions on the job front and in their communities, demonstrating how exciting and fulfilling life after age 75 can be. Tickets are still available by calling Sr. Madelene at 636-542-9481.
My dear friends,
It is with grateful and loving hearts to God that we have been given another year to spread the good news of Jesus’ love and mercy. Much of this is made possible by you, our relatives and friends, who have been a great source of support in enabling us to continue our work in the Church. Perhaps nowhere do you assist us more than that of making it possible for us to care for our elderly and infirm Sisters. Your gracious gifts enable us to give them the love and care they so rightly deserve. We know that over the years these Sisters have touched the lives of many of our faithful supporters.

I am happy to report to you our statement of accountability for the year July 2010 through June 2011.

God bless you.

Sister Madelene Reiners, C.P.P.S.,
Development Director

INCOME

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REGULAR INCOME $545,700

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TOTAL INCOME $640,539

NET INCOME $584,434

EXPENSES

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TOTAL EXPENSES $56,105
Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for our annual Dinner/Dance Auction on Friday, February 17, 2012 at the Columns Banquet Center in St. Charles, MO.

Photos left to right starting at the top:
3. Sisters Carmen Schnyder and Mary Cecile Gunelson, and Becky and Al Hassard.
4. Pat Rankin and Sr. Charlene Grieshaber.
5. Saige Hanes.
6. CPPS was featured on the scoreboard during the game.

Thank you for joining the Sisters for their “Night At Busch Stadium.”

The Cardinals beat the Braves 4 to 3!
Donate Now

Want to give a donation to the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, but don’t have the time to mail it in? Visit our newly redesigned website at www.cpps-ofallon.org and click on the Donate Now button, in the bottom right – hand corner, to give your donation online!

It’s fast, easy and secure!

www.cpps-ofallon.org