Looking to the Future with Faith, Trust, and Gratitude

On June 29 and 30 during their Summer 2015 Community Days at the Mercy Center, the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood began preparing for the CPPS General Chapter 2016. The chapter will be held on March 30 through April 9 at the Pallotine Retreat Center in Florissant.

The Chapter Steering Committee introduced the Chapter theme,logo, and prayer, defined the ways of participation, and started initial discussion for setting concise and simple future directions.

The logo was designed by Sister Mary Beth Kemper.

The three ways of participation are prayer: flowing prayer carrying the congregation in life and mission; delegate: transforming through decision making leading us into the future. Partners are encouraged to participate as prayerers and participants. Only Sisters may participate as delegates and vote for the future leadership team.

After the steering committee shared demographic information and those in attendance participated in activities to help deepen the current sense of reality, the Sisters and Partners answered the question “Given our current reality, what do I want to do to move forward the life and mission of the congregation for the next six years?” Answers were shared with tablemates and then with the larger group.

Preparation for the Chapter will continue during the Fall Community Day on November 7. Partners will, again, be invited to attend.

—Debbie Whited

CHAPTER PRAYER, 2016

Creator God, whose power flows through the waters of life, we celebrate Your faithfulness. All nature evolves around us bearing Your gifts in abundance.

Jesus, at the well, You invite us to drink of the living water that strengthens us and gives us hope, compassion and joy.

Transforming Spirit, our life and mission flow from You. Complete in us what You have begun and help us to harvest the fruits of who we have been and who we are, so that those fruits can nourish the future of the world.

—Debbie Whited

Partners on the Journey

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood Partners in Mission Newsletter

FALL 2015

Assembly Day 2015

Partners in Mission strive to bring Christ’s reconciling presence to those we encounter in our daily lives. We seek to carry on the legacy of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood by deepening our relationship with God, each other, and the Community to heal our broken world.

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Partners on the Journey

Editors: Mary Reynolds and Sr. Mary Joan Dyer
Publisher: Debbie Whited

Assembly Day 2015

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—Debbie Whited
“Our Precious Blood…”

Sherry Smith

Sherry Smith was born in Vinton, Iowa. She has been married to her husband, Jim, for 51 years. They have three children, Jeff, Brad and Nicole and five grandchildren.

Sherry was introduced to the CPPS Partner in Mission program through a friend. She was excited about the experience, as she knew a lot about the Sisters. She has been a partner for five years and is part of the Small Faith Community, Wisdom Circle. She has enjoyed getting to know the Sisters on a more personal level. Her spiritual life has grown and continues to grow every day. Sherry loves her small faith community and feels that they are growing together.

Sherry has traveled to the Grand Canyon. She hiked to the bottom, spent the night and hiked back to the top.

Sherry’s dream for the world is that we can live in peace, with no homeless or hungry people. Sherry lives reconciliation in her life by serving others and working in the community.

—Lori Larkin

Sister Rose Marie Mersinger

Sister Rose Marie Mersinger grew up in St. Louis, 9th in a family of 10 children. In high school at SEA, she was introduced to the Sisters through a friend. She knew about the Sisters. She was excited about the experience, as she knew a lot about the Sisters. She has been a partner for five years and immediately began college.

Sr. Rose Marie began her life as a Sister teaching in Martinsburg, MO. After that, she moved to other US cities and then to South America where she taught and served the community in Bolivia and Peru, spending a total of almost 20 years in South America. During her time in Bolivia, Rose Marie recalls the oppressive government and strict curfews. Sr. Rose Marie is the leader of Faithful Remnants. She feels their biggest challenge is remaining true to their vocation as a group and the members age. Their faith and commitment to being a reconciling presence is strong, but they find it difficult to gather as regularly as they would like. Besides leading Faithful Remnants, Sr. Rose Marie enjoys playing cards and rooting for the St. Louis Cardinals.

—Mary Reynolds

A Cornucopia of Foods

“A good time was had by all” is a cliché but is an apt expression for our Potluck Barbecue. A cornucopia of sumptuous foods graced our serving table while a cacophony of electrifying energy, laughter and talking filled the cafeteria as all enjoyed the tasty foods, drinks and each other.

We were again gifted by the generosity of the St. Joseph Cottville Men’s Club who graciously provided us with an assortment of cold drinks, mouthwatering barbecue meats and a place to gather. We appreciated their generosity and assistance.

With a growing number of Partners and Sisters participating each year the TLC Small Faith Community believes they are achieving their purpose of helping Partners and Sisters get to know each other a little better. Stay tuned for the ninth annual Partners in Mission Potluck Barbecue next summer.

—Sr. Ginny Jaskelewicz

Nine New Candidates Begin Pathways

Two communities of PIM Explorers will continue their journeys beginning Pathways this fall. What drives them forward? Both communities identified their desire to share their life experiences, find common ground in the midst of disparate backgrounds, together deepen their relationships with God, and to live out the Charism of Reconciliation.

Members of the O’Fallon Pathways group meeting at Villa Theresa include Chris Crawford, Karen Grant, Dolores Nallon, Rosemary Pieper, Karen Wiese, and Marlane Wood. The Sister Prayer Partner for the group is Sr. Mary Beth Kemper. Members of the St. Louis Pathways group meeting at Sanguis Christi include Kris Jackson, Chris Lloyd, and Janie Barton-Harper. The Sister Prayer Partner for the group is Sr. Susan Borgel. Both groups are being facilitated by Lori Larkin and Debbie Whited.

Developed by Partners Carol Jung and Sherry Smith, Pathways, formerly referred to as formation, includes eight gatherings, concluding with a discernment gathering. Included in the gatherings are opportunities for current Partners and Sisters to share their experiences related to gathering topics. The topics include The Call—The Relationship, Small Faith Community, Charism and Core Values, Community Story—Our Story, Images of God, Prayer and Prayer Styles, Spirituality of the Sisters—Our Own Spirituality, and Ministries of the Sisters—Our Own Ministries.

If you are interested in sharing your experience on one of the topics during one of the gatherings, please contact Debbie Whited.

—Susan Buerkle

Quiet, cheerful, caring witness—
PADDY LAMBERT 1938-2015

PADDY LAMBERT 1938-2015

Dedicated, loving, faith-filled teacher for over 40 years

Paddy was the loving mother of three daughters, Georgi-na, Deborah, and Rebeca, her great grandmother of three, and great grandmother of two. Paddy and her husband, Nor-man, moved to the United States in 1962. Paddy was a long time resident of Webster Groves. Paddy was a Montessori teacher for over forty years. She taught at St. Louis Montessori Academy and Linda Vista.

Paddy retired from Linda Vista in 2007. Of her years at Linda Vista, Paddy was described as a dedicated, caring, loving, faith-filled teacher. After retirement, her love for children soon led to three, and great grandmother of two. Paddy and her husband, Nor-man, moved to the United States in 1962. Paddy was a long time resident of Webster Groves.

Paddy was a Montessori teacher for over forty years. She taught at St. Louis Montes-sori Academy and Linda Vista.

Paddy will be very much missed by her family, friends, neighbors, and fellow Partners. One neighbor describes Paddy as beautiful inside and out and tells of spending many good times visiting with Paddy on her big porch.

—Debbie Whited

A member of the Faithful Remnant
Small Faith Community
Paddy became a CPPS Partner in Mission in 1995.