

SISTERS OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD PARTNERS IN MISSION NEWSLETTER



Winter 2014

Important Dates

CPPS Community
Day
Saturday, April 12,
2014

Editor:
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Publisher: Sr. Carol Orf, CPPS

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Maureen McGrath was born in St. Louis, Missouri. Her education consists of St. Dominic Savio Parish School, Ursuline Academy and Fontbonne College.

Maureen is married to Bob Gorecki. They have been married for twenty years. They

dated in college and reunited after many years. They have six nieces and nephews between the two of them.

Maureen became a Partner in Mission through an invitation from her friend, Sr. Barbara Payne. After completing the exploration and formation periods, Maureen made her commitment and has been a Partner in Mission for five years. The joy she has experienced as a partner comes from the friendships she has developed within the partner's community. Maureen expressed that these friendships have enriched her life with inspiration. She feels that one of the challenges of being a Partner in Mission is to juggle her responsibilities of leadership and companionship along with the other aspects of her life. She is setting priorities to accomplish her commitments responsibly. Sometimes that means saying "no" when she wants to say "yes."

Maureen's favorite prayer is the Prayer of St. Francis. It speaks to her as does the mission of being a reconciling presence in the community.

Maureen's dream for the world is to live in mutual respect with others.

Maureen enjoys sharing her thoughts and experiences with her Small Faith Community, Faithful Remnant!

Rest in Peace

by Liz Allmeyer

Sr. Marie Laurent Klein died unexpectedly on Monday, September 30,



2013. Sr. Marie joined the Partners in Mission in 2010 as a prayer partner for her friend, Liz Allmeyer. Liz commented, "Sr. Marie and I were friends for over

ten years before going through the formation process. It was through this process and the next few years that I truly appreciated who she was as a sister and her commitment to the charism of reconciliation. She not only attended every formation meeting but would make time to meet with me on a monthly basis so I could get to know her as a sister and a member of the community."

Sr. Marie was instrumental in the formation of a new Partner in Mission Community and had a voice in naming the community "Hope." As a mentor, she was convinced that when a partner is absent from a gathering, the partner is missed. Sr. Marie would take special care to relay to the absent partner the events she had missed.

Sr. Marie recently offered her services as a Spiritual Director free of charge to any Partner in Mission seeking to further develop his/her spirituality.

Sr. Marie will be missed as a prayer partner and as a mentor for the Hope Community.

by Lori Larkin

Here We Grow Again

by Debbie Whited

We are excited to be **growing** again! Recently, thirteen men and women entered the Partners in Mission Formation phase. Meeting with Sister Carol Orf at the Sangus Christi Center in St. Louis are Pat Belmont, Mary Mann, Julie Schlichting, and Jim Bauer. Under the loving guidance of Sister Marie Orf, Ruth Bassett, Helen Brown, Mary Donnelly, Bernie Donnelly, and Denis Wilhelm began meeting at the Precious Blood Center in O'Fallon. And, down south in Perryville, Kathy Fullmer, Judith (Jean) Welker, Amanda Schumer and Connie Visnack are being led by Sister Delores Schilli.

During formation, these small groups of inquiring individuals meet monthly to learn more about the history, prayer, charism, and ministry of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, as well as, bond as Partners in Mission formation community. Sister Marie experiences these meetings to be inspiring and uplifting. She finds her group eager to learn, willing to share their lives and be attentive to other members of the community. "It is obvious that they really care about each other and love each other. It has been a blessing for me to be able to help guide them on their journey." Through discernment and prayer, they will decide in June if they wish to make a commitment to Partners in Mission at the September Assembly Day.

May God bless them and their facilitators with love, laughter and learning on their journey during this formation phrase!



Perryville: Kathy Ann Fulmer, Jean Walker, Amanda Schumer
Connie Visnack, Sr. Delores Schilli



St. Louis: Sr. Carolyn Pozarich, Mary Mann, Julie Schlichting,
Pat Belmont (Jim Baur not pictured)



O'Fallon:

Back row: Sr. LaVerne Wester, Denis Wilhelm, Sr. Robert Ann Harper

Front row: Ruth Bassett, Mary Donnelly, Bernie Donnelly, Helen Brown

New Opportunity for Fundraising and Expanding our Visibility

by Ellen Jones

- **What:** Van Gogh and Vino—Auctioning off art and wine
- **Where:** TBA
- **When:** 2014
- **Interested in supporting event:** would attend, bring guests, or will contribute art or wine
- **Contact:**
 - Ellen Jones effsma@yahoo.com
 - MaureenMcGrath maureenann48@yahoo.com

Sanguis Christi Award: Presence

by Sr. Carol Orf

On Saturday, October 5, 2013, the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood presented the SanguisChristi Awards centered around the values of Hospitality, Presence, Reconciliation and Response to Human Needs.

The Leadership Team congratulated and thanked the awardees for all they are and do to advance the mission of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood.

Sr. Cecile Gunelson presented Partner in Mission, Barbara Groneck, with the award for Presence.



Barbara's gentle and caring presence at Villa Theresa and among the Partners in Mission is noticed and appreciated. Congratulations, Barbara!

Looking Forward

by Ellen Jones

If anyone missed our Commitment Day on Saturday, October 12, 2013, you will want an update on what has been happening with the Partners in Missions Ad Hoc Planning Committee. The committee members are all volunteers who have been meeting every few months to work on the future recommended structure for the Partners in Mission Relationship. Our most recent meeting took place in

November, and we feel we are very close to being able to make a proposal to the Precious



Blood Leadership. The goal will be to present our proposal to the entire Partners in Mission for feedback. Our individual gifts are what make us special, our mutual focus is what makes us effective. In the Partners in Mission, there is room for all of us!

CPPS Community Day

October 12, 2013

by Dawn Boschert

The October 12, 2013, community day was filled with good discussions on the future of religious life. We had both large and small group sessions. "Letting go and reconciling the past with the present reality," was a focus of the day

After lunch we were privileged to have Sr. Janice Bader share with us her insights about other religious congregations and their visions for the future. Being the director of the National Religious Retirement Office, Janice has access to the broader picture of religious life today.

It was a very good day filled with helpful information, sharing, discussion and time to visit with one another. The large group of Partners in Mission present added a helpful perspective to the conversations.

Financial, Legal and Other Issues

by Maureen McGrath

In October I participated in a NACAR conference on Financial, Legal & Other Issues along with 38 people seeking answers to some of our CPPS ad hoc committee's questions. Many more questions were posed than answers offered. The following topics were among those offered for exploration and discussion:

- Mission - both shared and individually sought
- Stewardship - managing all resources (money, people, effort & time)
- Learning - mentoring, education, development & dispersment of funds
- Structures - complementary between vowed community and partners

Relationship between the vowed community and the partners was the common thread to all aspects of our exploration. Creating a mutually respectful place for an ongoing discussion was paramount to any successful formula.

While mission needed to be the primary focus, and it was, we all noted that "no money, no mission" was a reality to be acknowledged. We these ideas and more we headed home to incorporate our newly found thoughts to ponder in prayer and in action. Our efforts would help create a legacy that would advance what was started so long ago by the courageous men and women who founded the vowed orders we represented in our group of 38. None of these founders could have possibly imagined all the nuances needing attention in the 21st century. Fortunately they did model the tenacity with which to forge ahead.



Bolivia Partners in Mission

By Sr. Carol Orf

Bolivian Partners in Mission, Pocha Mercado Celiz, Rosemary Espejo, Betty Rosario Salcedo Flores, Pastora Jurado de Gutierrez, Dora Lara, and Melfy Escóbar Velásquez continue to grow in faith and service. At their monthly gatherings, facilitated by Sr. Julia Wolf, they share faith profoundly aware of situations in the country and people in their daily encounters. Each of them tries to live out Jesus' reconciling presence by showing concern for one another, their families and the CPPS family.

Service flows from their commitment to be a reconciling presence. Rosario continues to do LOTS of volunteering at Maria Reina parish in La Paz: visits the sick, brings Holy Communion to homes and hospitals, teaches in Sr. Guichy's program of tutoring children of women's group and meets with senior citizens. Pocha (Victoria Mercado) serves in the library in Sica Sica. Her interaction with the students is so compassionate and understanding. Dora Lara continues teaching in the Alto.

The Partners in Mission have experienced the Paschal Mystery as they faithfully follow Jesus. Helping Sr. Julie celebrate her Golden Jubilee was a resurrection experience. Melfy baked a special cake and the partners' gift of a rainbow-colored shawl touched Sr. Julie's heart! The dark side of the Paschal Mystery was experienced when partners grieved the loss of Dora Lara's 21 year old granddaughter, Veronica, who was killed. And Pastora's participation has been at a minimum because of poor health. However, Pastora continues to pray for all CPPS sisters daily and feels united through prayer with the partners and the sisters.

(No pictures available for Pocha Mercado Celiz and Betty Rosario Salcedo Flores)



Pastora Jurado de Gutierrez and Dora Lara



Left to right: Dora Lara, Sr. Julia Wolf, Pastora Jurado de Gutierrez, Rosemary Espejo, Melfy Escobar Velasquez

Blessed New Year 2014!

