Elaine Pilar has five children, twelve grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Her extended family lives in California, Montana, Wyoming and Missouri. Elaine has lived in Missouri for the last thirty years. She is a widow of almost three years and had been married for fifty years. Her husband was tragically taken from their family as the result of a bicycle accident due to the negligence of an automobile driver.

Elaine became a Partner about three years ago. She spent quite a bit of time with the CPPS Sisters at St. Vincent’s Parish in Perryville where she lives. She was attracted to their charismatic spirit, especially that of hospitality. Elaine was intrigued by the commitment to share the Gospel, as expressed by the early Sisters who traveled here leaving family and homeland that still lives on today. Her challenge in life is to live the charism of reconciliation.

Elaine has two children in the military and therefore; she has had the privilege of traveling globally. She has made three trips to Italy and one to Japan. She has also traveled with a tour group to the Holy Land and the Vincentian “hot spots” in France. In addition to this travel, she spent ten days on a mission trip in Jamaica with Food for the Poor, and also made a couple of business trips to the Young Living Farm and Clinic in Ecuador.

Elaine, we are graced to have you as a Partner in Mission!

by Lori Larkin

You Are Precious in My Eyes and I Love You! (Is 43:4)

by Sr. Ginny Jaskiewicz

Partners in Mission Susan Buerkle, Lorraine Cully and Debbie Whited participated in the Directed Scripture Retreat offered Friday, March 6 through Sunday, March 8, 2015 at Meadowlark in Warrenton, MO. Though the normally serene lake was still quite frozen, participants enjoyed sitting for hours on the warm dockside benches as the temperature rose into the 60s. The flock of geese landing and squatting on the frozen water, the silent ice imperceptively melting, the heat of the sun warming the earth after a cold and snowy winter, the lovely, peaceful indoor surrounding and the sacred Word of God all proclaimed the deep love that God has for each of them. Though the retreat was silent, it was obvious to the participants that over those days a bonding had taken place among them. All anticipate making the next retreat and invite others to join them.
Estonia Small Faith Community
by Dawn Boschert and Sr. Ginny Jaskiewicz

Kersti Nigesen and sister prayer partner, Sr. Mary Venard LeBeau, compose the Estonian small faith community. Kersti is the President of the Vanalinnna Hariduskollegum school and St. Mary Venard ministers there. The school began during Soviet times as an underground school with not only excellence in studies as its goal but also imparting both Christian and former Estonian values to enable every student to live a satisfactory life well beyond their school days.

After fifty years of Soviet rule faith had been stolen from this people and replaced by a completely materialistic view of life. Children as well as parents know very little about spiritual or religious concepts. To reverse this trend has been an uphill endeavor. This goal has involved Kersti well beyond a fulltime job. She interviews every parent that wishes to enroll his/her child into the first class and explains the school’s aim. The intent is not to make converts, but to give the kind of education best suited to the child which will lead to a fulfilling life. It is during these conferences that an understanding of the CPPS charism of reconciliation is of great help.

For Kersti, the above requires the spiritual strength gained through prayer. She is especially appreciative of prayers from others, those of the Sisters and other Partners in Mission. Kersti, Sr. Mary Venard, and other teachers meet weekly and use prayers and readings of the Liturgy of the Word for the coming week to prepare them to live that week with the whole Catholic world. The knowledge of their being part of the larger Church gives them strength day by day.

Sisters and Partners from Finland and the Estonia meet in Finland or Estonia alternately for the Commitment Day. They make that an annual Feast Day!

Partner in Mission Candidates Marvel at Beauty
by Sr. Ginny Jaskiewicz

CPPS Partner in Mission candidates arrived in O’Fallon on Sunday, January 18, for their annual tour of various sites on the O’Fallon campus. Candidates Arline Nallon and Connie McKoskey from the O’Fallon community, a friend of Connie’s, and Robin Dannenmueller from the St. Louis community attended. Nancy Haselhorst from St. Louis was unable to attend. Sr. Ginny Jaskiewicz introduced the group to the splendor of St. Joseph Chapel including the legacy windows, the relic chapel, the medallions depicting our history, and other splendid artwork culminating with our exquisite stained glass windows. The candidates and their guest marveled at the beauty that surrounded them. Sr. Mary Cecile Gunelson then shared the intricate details about what went into creating the magnificent vestments and stoles. She also pointed out the delicate hand embroidered pieces which are proudly displayed in the Ecclesiastical Art Department. Later Sr. Marie Orf presented several of the sisters’ apartments and noted the various configurations and style of each. Sr. Carol Orf ended the information portion of our tour with an explanation about the style and décor of our beautiful Precious Blood Chapel. The tour concluded with a tasty meal in the attractively decorated dining room.
Blessings in Abundance—
God is Good!

by Debbie Whited

The Partners in Mission are quite blessed this year with a large group of faith-filled individuals seeking to learn more about Partners in Mission through Exploration. Under the gentle guidance of Sister Carol Orf and Sister Ginny Jaskiewicz, Janie Harper-Barton, Kristina Jackson, and Chris Lloyd are meeting at the Sanguis Christi Spirituality Center in St. Louis. Because of their abundant number, the “Explorers” in O’Fallon are meeting in two separate groups. Meeting with Sister Marie Orf are Chris Crawford, Karen Grant, Dolores Nallon, Marlaine Wood and Sarah Wood. The other group, facilitated by Rick Heitman and Debbie Whited, includes Rosemary Pieper, Karen Wiese and Brad and Janet Rigdon. The highlight of the initial meetings of the three groups was the 15 minute vignette of Sister Ginny portraying Sister Isabelle Kaercher, the first American sister, and explaining what it was like when the pioneer sisters arrived in Belle Prairie.

In the coming months, these wonderful men and women will learn more about the history, charism, prayer and ministry of the CPPS Sisters of the Most Precious Blood and the Partners in Mission. In May, they will decide whether or not to continue their relationship with the Sisters by entering the formation phase of becoming a Partner in Mission. May God bless their journey with love, laughter, and learning. (Photo for Rick and Debbie’s group will be forthcoming).

Myers-Briggs Inventory

Join us for the Myers-Briggs Inventory at the Sanguis Christi Spirituality Center at 3522 Utah Street, St. Louis, Missouri on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 from 6:00 – 8:30 pm. The presenter is Sr. Janet Dohr, CPPS and the cost is $25.00. The Myers-Briggs Inventory helps one find ways to live out one’s inherent spirituality in a manner that is most authentic and congruent with who one is. Understanding one’s psychological type when combined with concepts of spirituality can become a tool to support one’s spiritual discovery or enrich one’s unique spiritual path. The MBTI inventory is not a psychological test but a personality inventory. With its results, you can more deeply appreciate how God made you as well as see how your weaknesses can actually bring you closer to God. The deadline for registration is Tuesday, April 7, 2015. For more information or to register, call Sr. Ginny Jaskiewicz at 314-223-7508.
The 5th Annual Trivia Night is Saturday, May 16, 2015. The doors open at 6:00 pm and trivia begins at 6:45. The cost is $20 per person or $160 per table. A silent auction featuring beautiful and enticing baskets provided by our Small Faith Communities, along with 50/50 raffles fill the evening with extra excitement. Small Faith Communities—thank you for your participation in this event.

Partners in Mission and sisters, who haven’t been to a Trivia Night, come and join the veterans for a fun filled evening. Put together a table of eight and accept the challenge of trivia; you may win! Another option is to volunteer to help that evening. Either way you will enjoy an evening of fellowship, laughter, and eating! Hope to see you on May 16, 2015. Let’s make this Trivia Night another BIG SUCCESS!

Benefits: The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood & CPPS Partners in Mission

Saturday, May 16, 2015
St Joseph School Cafeteria
1351 Motherhead Road • Cottleville, Missouri 63304
Doors open at 6:00 Trivia begins at 6:45
Beer and Soda provided
50/50 raffle
Basket raffle
Emcee: Greg Damon - KMOX
Cost: Table of 8 - $160.00

To reserve a table please contact
Dawn Boschert @ 314-605-3758
or email at gpatricia@att.net
Sponsored by: CPPS Partners in Mission