



Partners on the Journey

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood Partners in Mission Newsletter

SPRING 2017

IMPORTANT DATES:

April 21-23

Partners Directed
Silent Retreat
Meadowlark

April 23 & 27

Information Gatherings
Villa Theresa

April 23

Julian of Norwich
Villa Theresa

May 7 & 11

Information Gatherings
Sanguis Christi

June 4

70th Jubilee Celebration
St. Joseph Chapel

June 23

CPPS Night at
Busch Stadium

September 10

CPPS Partners in Mission
Assembly Day

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Feeding Bodies and Souls

CPPS Presence at the St. Anthony's Food Pantry

St. Anthony's Food Pantry strives to systemically end hunger in South St. Louis. People who seek assistance are



Volunteer—Partner
Janie Harper-Barton

treated with dignity, compassion, and respect. In 2011, Sr. Marie Orf, CP

PPS, and Sr. Connie Probst, OSF, became co-directors of the Pantry. Since that time, they have served everyone in need from zip codes 63111, 63116, and 63118.

The primary focus is provid-

ing fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, and high protein foods. Families can attend monthly and take enough food for one week. In 2016, eight hundred and sixteen families were served. Because the Food Pantry's goal is to make families self-sufficient, there is also a greenhouse where they teach container gardening. In 2016, they provided families with 1,400 vegetable plants.

In addition to food, many other services are provided. A social worker is available to assist with health insurance. There are self-improvement



Volunteers—Partners Toni Dressel
and Rosemary Christie

classes teaching how to manage utility bills, be involved in their child's education, cooking, stress management, anger management, and how to make their own cleaning supplies. There is also a service that supplies diapers.

The Pantry also provides clothing, furniture, and house-

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Small Faith Communities--the  of Partners in Mission

TLC

TLC small faith sharing community serves the entire CPPS community by organizing both the annual Partners BBQ as well as the fundraising Trivia Night. Both have been great social events bringing Sisters and Partners together to share food and fun. The funds raised at the Trivia Night are donated to the various missions sponsored by the community. **Be sure to save the date—October 7 for the next Trivia Night to be held at St. Joseph, Cottleville.**

TLC is co-led by Dawn Boschert and Sr. Ginny Jaskiewicz. Other members are Sandy Meyer, Mary Martin

and Sr. Charlene Grieshaber.

They have been sharing their faith over nine years. Their meetings include sharing faith, prayers, personal news and, usually, dinner. Catching up with one another is essential to their gatherings.

When asked, "What is the most important fact you would like us to know about TLC", Dawn replied "Our faith sharing has bonded us together because we truly trust and care for one another".



Sr. Dawn Boschert, Sr. Ginny Jaskiewicz, Sandy Meyer,
Sr. Charlene Grieshaber, and Mary Martin

So, make plans now to attend the Partners BBQ later this summer and the October 7th Trivia Night, both at St. Joe's. If history repeats itself, you are guaranteed to have a wonderful time and leave knowing we have helped the great agencies served by the CPPS community.

—Mary Reynolds

“Our Precious Blood...”

Peggy and Kurt Hoefel



Kurt and Peggy Hoefel

This quarter's featured Partners are Kurt and Peggy Hoefel. Peggy is a St. Mary's Academy alum who married Kurt in 1989. They have 2 twenty-something sons, who are getting the knack of adulting slowly. An SMA reunion prompted Peggy to become reacquainted with the Sisters. When she was invited to join the Partners, Kurt came along. Kurt works for Schnucks in Webster Groves as the liquor manager; Peggy

is a nurse who works for a life-care planning company. Peggy is the daughter of Partners Bernie and Mary Donnelly.

Their small faith community, the Gurtweilers, has been a faith-filled light through some difficult life transitions. “Having a place to discuss the spiritual aspect of our trials added a dimension that was missing in our lives.” There are also many joys to share. They are cur-

rently renovating a 107-year old house in Washington, Missouri, to become a bed & breakfast! It has been a dream of Kurt's with most of his adult life spent in the food service industry. Peggy thinks her inexhaustible penchant for organizing will be a beneficial skill (and love of buying antiques!). They hope to be ready for guests by this fall!

—Peggy Hoefel

Sr. Rosemary Russell

Sr. Rosemary Russell was born in St. Louis, the eldest of eight children. She attended St. Edwards Elementary and Rosati-Kain High School. She received her BA in Elementary/Special Education at Fontbonne College and her MA in Administration at UMSL.

Sr. Rosemary considered entering the religious life in 7th grade but circumstances prevented her from doing so. She worked at Union Electric for seven years before receiving an invitation from the Sisters at Our Lady of Fatima to teach. The Sisters also began inviting her to join the

Community, and by December she was making new plans!

Sr. Rosemary has had numerous assignments. She has served the Archdiocese as teacher, administrator and Director of Elementary Schools. The ministry she most identifies with is her work in Bolivia.

“Learning a new language, living in a different country and getting to know people of a different culture opened my mind and heart to a whole new world.”

Everything in her life is now judged, measured and enjoyed in comparison to that

experience.

Most recently, Sr. Rosemary has taught children in the English Tutoring Program for Immigrant and Refugee Children and served as the program administrator until she retired in 2015. Sr. Rosemary joined the Partners because she believes it is important to learn from and share with others the mission of reconciliation.

Sr. Rosemary has found herself in unanticipated places in life, but has always believed that God speaks to her in the Scripture verse “I am with you always...”

—Nancy Haselhorst



Sr. Rosemary Russell

Words of wisdom from Sr. Rosemary,

“God is with us always, even if we are unaware of God's presence.”

CPPS Presence at the St. Anthony's Food Pantry

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hold items. There is a Foot Clinic sponsored by SLU for the many clients whose main mode of transport is walking. The list of services and referrals that the St. Anthony Pantry provides could fill this newsletter.

Of course, none of this important work could hap-

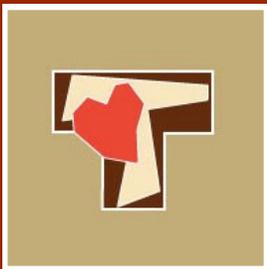
pen without a dedicated staff and numerous volunteers, including Srs. Barbara Rose Koch and Ruth Kertz, and Partners Rosemary Christie, Toni Dressel, Janie Harper-Barton, Sherry Smith and her husband, Jim.

Sr. Marie Orf told me that she has always loved working for and with the poor. The

love she has for those she serves, reminds me that as Catholics we are obligated to have a “preference for the poor.”

And while feeding bodies, Sister Marie and Sister Connie and their teams are feeding souls. Perhaps none more than their own.

—Denis Wilhelm



For Your Spiritual Journey...



Sr. Barbara Payne

The following feature comes from Sr. Barbara Payne. Sr. Barbara is a member of two small faith communities—Faithful Remnant and Taste and See. She is the Archivist for the CPPS Community. Much of her work can be found in the Archive Newsletter—Past Still Present and the Heritage area behind the St. Joseph Chapel in O'Fallon.

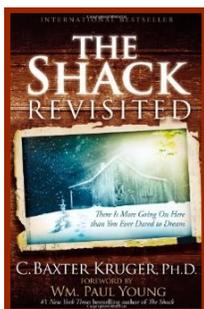
If you read William P. Young's *The Shack* and/or saw the movie (I recommend both.), I suggest that you follow it [them] up with *The Shack Revisited: There Is More Going on Here than You Ever Dared to Dream* by

C. Baxter Kruger. Kruger is a Trinitarian scholar who writes a very readable theological reflection on the truths that Young's Mackenzie discovered when he encountered the Triune God.

Kruger can't explain the Trinity; no one can. But after reading his book I have a deeper awareness of the always-present and unshakable love of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And now, I am reading the book for the third time.

Teresa Krausel, a Partner for nearly four years and a member of the Gurtweilers Small Faith Community, shared the following:

"At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the mo-



ment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy ... In this hour I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion." (*Diary* 1320).

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain
mercy.
Matthew 5:7*

The 3 o'clock hour is my most favorite hour of prayer. When the weather is nice I like to be outside walking and praying this chapel. Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet to start the hour gives me reassurance of His unfathomable love and mercy. Realizing His mercy given to me enables me to be merciful to others and ask God's mercy on us and on the whole world. The Chaplet is prayed using the beads of the Rosary.

There is a Novena of Divine Mercy which begins on Good Friday and goes to Easter Saturday. The next day has been declared Divine Mercy Sunday by Pope St.



Teresa Krausel

John Paul II.

Some churches in the St. Louis area have special devotional prayers and services at a gathering in the afternoon of Divine Mercy Sunday.

The Chaplet and more can be found at

<https://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy> and
<http://www.marian.org/>



Partners and Sisters' Winter Gathering

A Day of Tasting and Seeing

Saturday, February 4 was damp and chilly outside, but inside St. Pius V's Singler Hall, it was cozy and fragrant. CPPS Sisters and Partners gathered to share ideas, faith and food at our first Partners Winter Gathering. After enjoying breakfast, everyone was invited to partake in some wonderful pastries prepared by Partner Patti Belmont, as she told us of

the history of each one. The stories were as flavorful as the goodies themselves.

Sr. Joann Fischer and Partner Kris Jackson each spoke about their lives and how the CPPS community has transformed them. The room was energized by their amazing stories.

Best practices for our small faith sharing groups were provided so groups can

ensure that all Partners get the most out of their gatherings.

The day was meant as a follow up to the September Partners Assembly day and, as it turned out, all those attending were

blessed to see wonderful friends and taste the goodness of our shared faith. The event was so well received, it



is expected that a winter gathering will be an annual event.

—Mary Reynolds

Thank you, Sisters, for the love you poured into our lives!

Recently, I had the privilege of representing the Partners in Mission at the 8th Annual Catholic Women for Christ Conference at the Touhill Performing Arts.

The conference is a spiritual opportunity for Catholic women to hear great speakers, take advantage of joining a healing prayer experience, and meet like-minded spirit-filled women. The day was an opportunity to introduce our Partners relationship to prospective members.

The 800+ guests that attended had several opportunities to walk the hall ways and purchase items or sign up for various retreat weekends. Debbie Whited and I were eager to talk to the passersby and give them information on our program. The reason I'm sharing this story is what we found on our quest. Many women who took the time to read our banner would slowly transform their facial expression from a furrowed brow to a smile and then a peaceful grin. Their reply was..."I had Precious Blood Sisters teach me, I had Precious Blood Sisters care for me at an orphanage, I lived in a boarding situation with the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood!" And then they would

pause... "It was some of the most wonderful days of my life!"

So a day that was to be our sharing our experiences to entice women to an info meeting about the Partners, turned into something so much richer. The gift of hearing how many lives and how many generations have been blessed by the incredible religious women that we have the privilege of being with on a daily basis. From all the people we met... thank you, Sisters, for all the love you poured into our lives!

—Pat Belmont, Recruitment Liaison

Information Gatherings

Several upcoming informational gatherings are scheduled. If you know of someone who might be interested in becoming a Partner, please share the dates with her/him. If you would like to share a little about your experience as a Partner, please come to one of the gatherings.

Gatherings at Villa Theresa
Sunday, April 23 1:00 –3:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 27, 6:00 –8:00 p.m.
Gatherings at Sanguis Christi
Sunday, May 7, 1:00 –3:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 11, 6:00 –8:00 p.m.

CPPS Partners in Mission

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.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

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Patti Belmont

Dawn Boschert

Susan Buerkle

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Partners on the Journey

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"Allow yourselves to be surprised by God. Don't be afraid of surprises. They shake the ground beneath our feet and make us insecure, but they move us forward in the right direction."

Pope Francis – January 18, 2015

Spring Community Day

God of Surprises, Open Our Eyes!

"God of Surprises, Open Our Eyes!" was the prayer sung by 58 sisters and 10 partners at Community Day on March 25 at Mercy Center.

Moderated by Ruby Cribben of New Jersey, the day centered on the 2016 Chapter Statement "We commit ourselves as a community to take bold action that transforms us, gives us energy, and unites us in working and praying for peace and justice in our suffering world."

We recalled when Sisters took bold action in the past. Entering contempla-

tion, we were asked to choose a prayer posture: standing, for "something hard to face", kneeling for "forgiveness", sitting for "letting go", or walking for "vision". Contemplation enabled us to "open our inner landscapes... and become more vulnerable to seeing that which hurts in the world around us and to seeing in ourselves what we wish were better." (Interview with Krista Tippett, Annmarie Sanders, IHM, LCWR Occasional Papers, Winter 2017)

We were then moved toward the work of building communion, one rela-

tionship at a time, in order to choose our direction for "bold action." Such a valuable lesson to be taught at this polarized and divisive time in our history!

At the end of the day, three paths were selected, and three committees were formed: Immigrants and Refugees (convener, Sr. Rosemary Russell), Water (Sr. Sandra Barton), and use of CPPS land (Sr. Fran Raia). Sisters and Partners were invited to become engaged.

—Susan Buerkle