



Partners on the Journey

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood Partners in Mission Newsletter

SUMMER 2016

IMPORTANT DATES:

July 1

Feast Day Celebration
Installation of New
Leadership Team

July 9

Second Saturday Mass
St. Joseph Chapel
followed by video in
Alpine Heights

July 23

Fourth Saturday Mass
St. Gerald Majella

August 13

Second Saturday Mass
St. Joseph Chapel

August 20

Partners & Sisters BBQ
St. Joseph, Cottleville

September 11

Partners in Mission
Assembly Day

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Jeanne Palombo 2

Sr. Mary Venard 2

Save the Dates
TLC Picnic &
Assembly Day 2

For Your
Spiritual Journey 3

Tour of
Motherhouse 3

PIM Invitation
Gatherings 4

Jubilees 4

CPPS Partners in Mission Trivia Night “FUN”draiser

The Annual PIM Trivia Night held Saturday, April 16, 2016, was a huge success. Not only was a significant amount of money raised, but everyone had a very good time.

The event took place at St. Joseph School Cafeteria in Cottleville, and their Men’s Club once again provided drinks and an emcee for the games. The questions were tough, but that didn’t stop us from having a great time. Along with the very challenging questions, was a most exotic variety of food and beverages.

Besides the usual trivia contest, the evening offered a silent

auction, and several silly games of chance, all of which were received with lots of laughter.

The organizers would like to thank everyone who attended, provided beverages, offered baskets for auction, donated time and money, set up or cleaned up, especially the St. Joseph Men’s Club. Rest assured, the \$3,400 raised will go a long way to support the many missions and agencies served by the Sisters

through small grants that will be awarded later this summer.

Keep in mind, that this is the one and only fundraiser the Partners in Mission have. It will certainly return again next year, and it is hoped that it will be an even bigger success in 2017.

—Mary Reynolds



Small Faith Communities--the  of Partners in Mission

Hospitality Community



Back row: Suzanne Everett, Sr. Joan Schnorbus, Barbara Groneck, Lorraine Cully, Gladys Kullman, Rick Heitman. Middle row: Sr. Doris Rechiene, Sr. Estelle Sullentrup, Sr. Rose Margaret Wessels Front row: Tim and Debbie Whited Not pictured: Karen Block

The Hospitality small faith community, whose name re-

flects one of the CPPS four core values, finds their joy in being a welcoming community for each other and in extending their hospitality to the Sisters at Villa Theresa, both in the Haven and in the apartments, and in their parishes. Throughout their many years together, they have spread their joy by distributing poinsettias on the first Sunday of Advent to all the Sisters and residents at Villa Theresa, sponsoring a spring picnic, either at Gladys Kullman’s property in Foristell or in Alpine Heights, and many other activities at Villa Theresa. They have

also adopted a family for Christmas through Sr. Marie Orf and provided meals for families at Thanksgiving.

Gathering monthly in different homes in the O’Fallon area and at Villa Theresa, the Hospitality group is blessed to have several Sisters as part of their community. Their leader Tim Whited especially delights in the peaceful, gentle, nature of Sr. Estelle and her quiet, small giggling response to his humor. The experiences and depth of faith of Sr. Joan, Sr. Doris, and Sr. Rose Margaret make for lively discussions and help members to see the loving, guiding presence of God in their lives.

—Debbie Whited

“Our Precious Blood...”

Jeanne Palombo



Jeanne Palombo

Jeanne Palombo was raised in O’Fallon, Missouri, the eldest of four daughters born to Ollie and Pat Tochtrop. Jeanne attended Assumption grade school and St. Dominic High School. Her parents set a great example for Jeanne and her sisters. Faith, family and friendships were very important in the Tochtrop home. This is a tradition Jeanne and her husband Bob have carried on with their grown children Trish and Tony, as well as son-in-law Nate and daughter-in-law Me-

gan and especially their two grandsons, Oliver and Sam.

For the past 18 years Jeanne has worked in the Development Office at United Services for Children, an organization that provides learning and therapy services to children of all abilities.

Jeanne has been a Partner for 3 years, but she already had a connection to the Sisters by virtue of being the niece of Sister Mary Clement and Sister Miriam Joseph. She was inspired by her aunts’

devotion to their vocations.

As a member of the Mustard Seeds, she has found great joy in serving others at Mary Queen of Angels and Our Lady’s Inn. Jeanne and Bob are also very active RCIA and CRHP in their parish, St. Joseph Cottleville.

With her joyfulness, compassion and respect for others, Jeanne lives the charism of reconciliation each day. She makes the world a better place.

—Denis Wilhelm

Sister Mary Venard LeBeau

Born Georgina LeBeau in 1923 in a small town on the prairie of Kansas to immigrant parents from Canada, Sr. Mary Venard describes her life as “God has always written straight with crooked lines.” Sr. Mary originally aspired to be a nurse when she first applied to St. Elizabeth Academy, but after hearing Mother Wilhelmine’s wish to send four Sisters to Finland to be witnesses and teach English, she found herself joining the postulancy after only one year at SEA

with a new desire for a “good adventure” in Finland. Eight years later, Sr. Mary was on a train and then a boat bound for Helsinki.

Arriving on the feast of the Blessed Mother’s birthday, Sr. Mary soon found herself teaching 50 youngsters in the morning and another 56 in the afternoon. In speaking of needing God’s help, there and then, the *Veni Creator Spiritus* became her favorite and first prayer each morning .

Over the years, Sr. Mary has delighted in the wonderful op-

portunities to educate others, but also to educate herself to the beauty and charm of Finland and Estonia. Today, Sr. Mary continues to work with children, teachers, and administrators in both Finland and Estonia, especially Partner Kersti Nigesen, the principal of a large school in Estonia.

God bless you, Sr. Mary Venard, for being such a trusting, loving witness and allowing God to use you to write straight with crooked lines.

—Debbie Whited



Sr. Mary Venard LeBeau

Bob and Liz Allmeyer and Sr. Lucy Meissen at the 2015 Picnic.



Events Right Around the Corner

Some very important and enjoyable events are right around the corner. This can be a very busy time of year, so please get these dates on your calendar so you don’t have to miss out.

Saturday, August 20, 11:00 -2:00—TLC Sister / Partner Picnic at St. Joseph Cottleville School Cafeteria. This



will again be a pot luck lunch in the cool and comfortable confines of the school. There will be plenty of bar-be-que and liquid refreshments provided by our friends in the Men’s Club as well as a variety of

interesting sides brought by us!

Sunday, September 11, 2016, 9:00-4:00—CPPS Partners in Mission Assembly Day. This is the only official gathering of ALL small faith communities this year. Please make sure you attend this spirit and information filled day. Details will follow.

—Mary Reynolds

For Your Spiritual Journey...

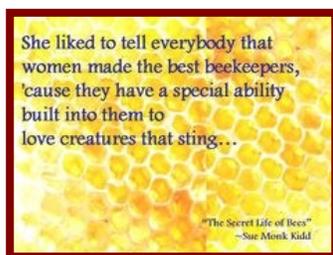


Sr. Fran Raia

At the end of her term as President, Sr. Fran offers a book recommendation: Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees*. The story is narrated by a young girl who is very unhappy with her life. Her mother was accidentally killed when she was little and she now lives with her father who is very hard on her. The story high-

lights the 1960's reality of racism, sexism, classism, and how the women in the story survive and thrive relying on their faith, rituals and the love they have for one another. Lily, the young girl, learns from these women, as the reader does, how to cope, how to pray and how to be faithful. Get ready for some surprises! (Note: the book is much better than the movie!)

—Peggy Donnelly Hoefel



After reading an article about John O'Leary in the St.

Louis Post-Dispatch, Partner Lorraine Cully wanted to learn



Lorraine Cully

more about his story, so she picked up his book *On Fire: The 7 Choices to Ignite a Radically Inspired Life*.

When he was 9 years old, O'Leary suffered third-degree burns over 100 percent of his body as the result of playing with gasoline and matches in his garage. In his book,

O'Leary, a St. Louisan, tells of the many fellow St. Louisans he credits with saving his life including former Blues player Gino Cavallini, Jack Buck, and many of the Cardinal players. Given a one percent chance of survival, O'Leary was visited frequently in his hospital room by Buck and others.

"The most powerful weapons on earth is the human soul on fire."

—John O'Leary

But, the book isn't just a story about O'Leary overcoming the odds to survive, it is a book about helping others to use his story to ignite passion and possibilities in their own lives.

—Debbie Whited

Candidates Tour Villa Theresa

The Splendor and Beauty of the "Motherhouse"

On the bright, brilliant morning of the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity, Sunday, May 22, five Partners in Mission candidates and guests began their tour of the "motherhouse" by celebrating Mass in the Precious Blood Chapel with the Sisters and residents of Villa Theresa. After Mass, candidates Janie Harper-Barton and her friend Joseph Pullen, Chris Crawford, Karen Grant and her daughter Alex, Kris Jackson, and Chris Lloyd and her son Oliver joined

their tour guides Sr. Marie Orf, Sr. Barbara Payne, Sr. Joan Schnorbus, and Sr. Viola Marie Spire in the dining room for a delicious lunch.

Following lunch, the tour began in the Heritage Room with Sr. Barbara explaining the story behind many of the Precious Blood artifacts, Sr. Mary Beth Kemper's Cosmic Christ, the statue of St. Faustas, and the many relics in the relic room. Sr. Joan continued the tour using the medallions to tell a brief history of the com-

munity, the sanctuary to tell the story of God's presence with us, and the windows to tell the story of

salvation history. Next, we went up to the Ecclesiastical Art Department where Sr. Viola Marie shared and even demonstrated the process used by the Sisters to create the beautiful and intricate vestments. Sr. Marie completed the tour by leading the group on visits to a



couple of the Sisters' apartments to illustrate the different floor plans, styles, and locations before stopping at the second floor Precious Blood Chapel to explain the design and some of the beautiful artwork found in the chapel.

—Debbie Whited

A beautiful day with beautiful people in a truly beautiful environment learning more about the incredible lives, history, and dwelling place of many, many beautiful women.

Many Respond to Partner Invitation

Thanks to many Sisters and Partners, especially Sr. Robert Ann Harper, Sr. Rose Marie Dobelman, and Partner Patti Belmont, thirty-five people responded to the CPPS Partners in Mission invitation and attended one of our many information gatherings to find out more about our relationship with the Sisters. These women and men have been invited to continue to explore the Sister/Partner relationship by attending the feast day celebration, Saturday Mass, the TLC Picnic and other gathering opportunities over the summer.

Patti, recruitment committee chairperson, and other Partners will come back together with our explorers at the

end of August (At Sanguis Christi on August 21 from 1:00-3:00 and at Villa Theresa on August 28 from 1:00-3:00) to answer questions and discuss what they have learned about the relationship. If you see an unfamiliar face at a Saturday Mass, the August picnic or another event, please introduce yourself. It may be one of our explorers. And, please pray for them as they discern if a relationship with the Sisters as a CPPS Partner in Mission is right for them at this time in their lives. Also, if you know of someone you think may be interested in becoming a Partner, please invite them to one of the August gatherings.

—Debbie Whited

2016 Jubilees

Partners Included in Celebrations

The Jubilee celebrations on May 15 and June 12 sparkled with the joy of gratitude from the honored Sisters. Several Partners in Mission were asked to be liturgy participants. Thank you for allowing us to be



a part of your celebrations. Below is the Sequence from the Feast of Pentecost, as proclaimed by Partners Peggy Donnelly Hoefel and Maureen McGrath.

—Peggy Donnelly Hoefel

Veni, Sancte Spiritus

*Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.*

*You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul's most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;
In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.*

*O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill!
Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
Nothing free from taint of ill.*

*Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away;
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.*

*On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold gift descend;
Give them virtue's sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end. Amen.
Alleluia.*



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.

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