



Partners on the Journey

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood Partners in Mission Newsletter

SUMMER 2017

IMPORTANT DATES:

July 1
Precious Blood Feast
Day Celebration

July 12
Partner Tour of
International Institute
of St. Louis

August 5
Sisters & Partners
Picnic

September 10
CPPS
Partners in Mission
Assembly Day

September 23
Small Faith Community
Leaders' Meeting

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In Giving We Receive

CPPS Partner Presence at Mount Carmel

As a new employee at Villa Theresa in 2011, Partner Arline Nallon vividly remembers her first experience of being present with the Sisters at Mass in the Precious Blood Chapel. "It took my breath away. There was such an aura of peace."

Invited by Sr. Nadine Flott, Arline has been a Partner for almost 2 years. She is a CNA (Certified Nursing "Angel") helping to care for the Sisters and residents in the skilled care units.

Arline is just one of several Partners who are a regular but special presence at Villa Theresa/Mount Carmel.

A resident of Villa Theresa for many years, Partner Lorraine Cully has been cheerfully bringing Communion to Sisters and residents who are unable to attend daily Mass for several years. Pushing a walker herself, she explains, "This is what I do." But not only this. Lorraine can also be found helping Sisters with writing cards and letters, visiting or just sitting with one of the Sisters.

Prayer and Presence Partner Marilyn Woebecking has been volunteering for several years, too. She can frequently be found creating a craft with



Partner Arline Nallon and Sr. Ann Clare Hendel

the Sisters and residents on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Many afternoons a week, Partner Toni Dressel can be found wearing an apron, hairnet, and beautiful smile as she

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Small Faith Communities--the  of Partners in Mission

Taste and See

In this issue, the Taste & See small faith community is highlighted. Members of the community include Sr. Barbara Payne, Sr. Mary Beth Kemper, Rosemary Pieper, Chris Crawford and Karen Grant. They meet on the last Thursday evening of the month at Villa Theresa.

During their gatherings, their community candle is lit and they begin with a prayer. An open discussion among the members allows them to catch up on events since their last meeting. One member speaks on a topic of their choice regarding faith. A snack is shared by the mem-



Karen Grant, Chris Crawford, Rosemary Pieper, Sr. Mary Beth Kemper, Sr. Barbara Payne

bers and then the gathering is closed with special intention prayers for others. Community outreach for Taste & See is the CPPS Spring Silent Auction.

The members were called to become Partners in Mission as members of a Small Faith Community to continue to be rooted in the CPPS Commu-

nity in Art, Heritage, Connection to Christ and Hospitality. All the Partners are fortunate to have these women participate in the PIM Communities. "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." Psalm 34:8.

—Peggy Hoefel

“Our Precious Blood...”

Mary Mann



Mary Mann

Mary Mann was born in St. Louis. Her parents had four girls then four boys. Mary was educated in Catholic schools in south St. Louis, in elementary grades at Immaculate Heart of Mary then St. Cecilia. She attended high school at St. Anthony's. Because of the influence of a PE teacher there, Mary became a teacher. She attended Harris Teachers College and began teaching in 1974.

Mary's first teaching job was in elementary school. After four years, she went to Bishop DuBourg High School

and is still there 30 years later. Mary has had many great times and memories during her career. She loves seeing students come in as freshman and graduate as mature young men and women. She says, "It's like a mound of clay turning into a beautiful sculpture."

Mary was considering retirement and how she might become involved in ways to help people. When her husband passed away seven years ago, she decided not to retire but was still looking for ways to help people. She

worked at St. Agatha's and loved the Sisters there because of their dedication to people in the area. She had considered becoming an Associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph but when she was invited by a friend to a Partners' meeting, she found a good fit and "the rest is history."

Mary has some advice for all of us. Go where God leads you. Prayers are answered but not always the way you had planned.

—Nancy Haselhorst

Sr. Charlene Grieshaber

Sister Charlene Grieshaber was named Isabel when she was born in St. Louis in 1939. Her involvement in Catholic schools began at St. Paul the Apostle School, and after moving with her family, St. Pius V School. Her high school years were spent at St. Elizabeth Academy where she was influenced by the Sisters who taught her, especially Sister Mary Salome. Even though she enjoyed spending time with her boyfriend, Isabel listened to her

call and became a postulant and professed her first vows in 1960. According to Sister Charlene, "It was a difficult decision, but I have not regretted it."

Sister Charlene attended college and earned an MA in Business Education, then put her skills to work teaching at St. Agnes School in Bloomdale and St. Mary's Academy. She also served as principal of St. Mary's Academy for a few years as well. Most recently, Sister Char-

lene worked as the secretary at Regina Cleri in the Archdiocese of St. Louis before retiring in June 2015.

Although retired from active ministry, Sister Charlene enjoys participating with her small faith community TLC. They meet monthly, sharing meals and their faith. She also enjoys reading, movies, especially musicals, and time with family and friends. All these activities keep her a "happy, joy-filled CPPS woman."

—Mary Reynolds



Sr. Charlene Grieshaber

Save the Dates

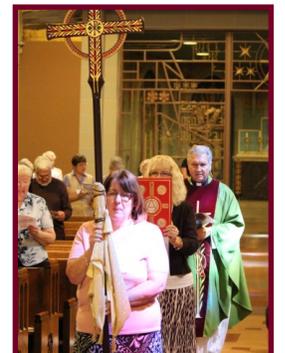
Sisters and Partners Picnic
Saturday, August 5, 2017,
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St. Joseph, Cottleville, sponsored by the TLC small faith community in the cool and comfortable confines of the school cafeteria. The St. Joe Men's Club will provide the BBQ and drinks. Please bring one of your delicious side

dish specialties to share. Spouses or a family member or friend are most welcome to attend.

CPPS Partners in Mission Assembly Day **Sunday September 10, 2017, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Please plan to attend this spirit and information filled day. More information to come.



Srs. LaVerne Wester, Sr. Viola Marie Spire, Connie McKoskey



For Your Spiritual Journey...



Sr. Janet Dohr

The following feature comes from Sr. Janet Dohr. Sr. Janet is a member of the Wisdom Circle.

A typical Catholic school kid of the 50's, my spirituality revolved around Marian devotions, rote prayers and daily Masses in Latin. Our parish was the center of our family's life. I knew I belonged to God, and that my task was to know, love and

serve Him.

In sophomore year at St. Elizabeth's, Sr. Ignatia presented Jesus as a person to befriend and love. On Saturdays she took us to help needy people, always connecting social action with loving God.

I joined O'Fallon in the 60's, when there was upheaval in both our Church and society. We studied the Documents of Vatican II and began to discover ourselves as reconcilers in the world. As teacher, counselor and spiritual director, I have found myself deepen in this charism of Reconciliation.

Mid-life brought humility and gratitude. As I age, scien-

tists and theologians expand my awareness of the immensity of God's universe and our need to care for our Mother Earth.

—Helen Brown

Rick Heitman a Partner for nearly 12 years and a member of the Hospitality Community, shared the following:

Over a period of many years, I've meditated on, and worked to follow St. Paul's admonition to be "unceasing in prayer." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

When my alarm sounds, I thank the Holy Spirit for another day, pray my intentions, ask for personal blessings, ask to BE a blessing to others, and dedicate my day to her service.



Rick Heitman

In my job as a mailman, I often "pray my route" for my customers, and I find that being "in prayer" helps me to be a reconciling presence; to live out more fully our Charism of reconciliation!

I bracket each day with an examination of conscience, and always, ALWAYS, end each day with prayers of thanksgiving!

—Debbie Whited

Candidates' Tours

Inspired, Enlightened...Exhausted!

Because of our bountiful number of candidates, we had not one but four tours of the O'Fallon Campus this year—one in January, March, April, and May. (How exciting—possibly 28 new Partners on September 10!)

After giving a bit of the history of the Ecclesiastical Art Department, Sr. Mary Cecile shared with all three groups the process the Sisters have

used for many year to create the beautiful vestments worn by priests both near and far and also ministers of other Christian denominations. She also showed the group other liturgical works of the Sisters. Looks of astonishment and contemplation flashed across their many faces. Sr. Viola Marie, Sr. Suzanne, Sr. Marcella, and Sr. Rose Margaret were on hand at times to give a demonstration.

Then, it was on to the Heritage Room and Hallway where Sr. Barbara Payne passionately articulated the history of the community using many of the artifacts found in this ever evolving area at the back of the chapel. (Next time you are in O'Fallon,

maybe take a moment or two to peruse the area and be inspired!)

Sr. Joan, Sr. Doris, Sr. Loretta, Sr. Dolores, and Sr. Marilyn all accepted the challenge of encapsulating all of the St. Joseph Chapel, windows, medallions, gate, stations, and sanctuary, into a very finite period of time, and what an awesome job they did.

Sr. Marie Orf and Sr. Viola Marie presented several of the Sisters' apartments and noted the intricacies for the various planned configurations. The days also included Mass in the Precious Blood Chapel, lunch in the



dining room, and a visit to the Precious Blood Center.

Exhausted but inspired, enlightened, and grateful seemed to be the sentiment as the ladies left in the late afternoon.

(If you missed the tour when you were a candidate or perhaps would like to do it again, please let Debbie know, and she will contact you the next time there is a tour.)

—Debbie Whited



CPPS Partner Presence at Mount Carmel

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dishes up delicious evening meals. Toni has been an employee at Villa Theresa/Mount Carmel for about four years.

A couple small faith communities are also present at Villa Theresa/Mount



Lorraine Cully ministering to Sr. Theresa Reichmuth

Carmel on a regular basis. After their small faith community gatherings on the second Monday of each month, the Latecomers journey over to the Haven for a visit. On occasion, Bernie Donnelly has been known to bring smiles to many faces with his furry four-legged friend Duchess.

For several years following the inspiration of Partner Rick Heitman, the Hospitality community along with another small faith community (Hope Communi-

Governing Board Update

Praying and Planning

The CPPS Partners in Mission Governing Board has been busy. On March 18, the Board (Patti Belmont, Dawn Boschert, Lori Larkin, Mary Reynolds, and Susan Buerkle) along with their Sister Advisors and Director Debbie Whited, gathered at Meadowlark in Warrenton for a spiritual retreat. The day was planned to deepen the relationships among the board members and provide a day of shared prayer and



Sr. Ginny and Dawn Boschert relaxing during the planning retreat.

ty, Latecomers) have hosted a BBQ in the spring for the Sisters and residents of the Haven. Rick cooks up hamburgers and hot dogs; others bring a dish to pass; and Alpine Heights is transformed into a Sunday afternoon picnic.

Talk to any one of these or other Partners who have volunteered or worked at Villa Theresa/Mount Carmel, and they will tell you that through their presence in this special place they, too, have felt the reconciling presence of Christ.

—Debbie Whited



Partner Connie McKoskey

faith. It was a welcomed day of spiritual inspiration.

Meeting again at Meadowlark on June 3, the group had a planning retreat. At this gathering, the groundwork was laid for the upcoming PIM year. Discussions about the direction for the year as well as plans related to the annual Assembly Day and February Gathering took place. Elections for the 17/18 PIM year also took place. Lori Larkin will remain as board chair, and Susan Buerkle will be the new secretary. Please keep them and the rest of the governing board in your prayers as they work with Debbie to plan our activities.

—Mary Reynolds

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

Lori Larkin, Board Chair

Mary Reynolds, Secretary

Patti Belmont

Dawn Boschert

Susan Buerkle

Sr. Ginny Jaskiewicz, Sr Advisor

Debbie Whited, Director

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Partners on the Journey

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Reading from Feast Day Mass

So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:17-20