The Spirit of the Lord was definitely upon the Hospitality and Latecomer small faith communities on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, as they brought glad tidings and a picnic to nearly 50 Sisters and residents of the skilled care units of Mount Carmel and their guests. For several years the two small faith communities have been grilling hamburgers and hot dogs, preparing potato salad, baked beans, and other picnic favorites, and creating a picnic ambiance in Alpine Heights. The afternoon delight is the brainchild of Partner Rick Heitman. Rick also purchases and grills all the burgers and wieners. The remaining members of the small faith communities provide and serve the other picnic treats including cupcakes for dessert. Following the picnic, bingo is enjoyed by all. “It’s just really so wonderful watching the residents of the Haven enjoying themselves. It makes me feel good about our groups and all that we do,” stated Partner Lorraine Cully. —Debbie Whited

Our Saints in the Making

Our Saints in the Making small faith community made our initial commitment in September 2017 as CPPS Partners in Mission. We are a spiritual book discussion group from All Saints Parish in St. Peters. We formed to expand our communication skills with God by reading, questioning, and sharing our thoughts and opinions without judgment. The nine of us have been together for the last ten years. Our warm bond with Sr. Rose Marie Dobelman has been a gift from God. During this time we have shared our faith through life and death experiences with a strong commitment to God and each other. Sr. Rose has helped us to develop a more intimate relationship with God: the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Our meetings take place two times a month, to discuss a chapter in our latest book. We have read and discussed 15 books in our time together. We just finished reading Having a Mary Spirit by Joanna Weaver. Our next book will be Acts of the Apostles: A Devotional Commentary by Leo Zanchttin. As Partners our next project will be to supply personal hygiene items for the St. Anthony Food Pantry every two months. —Pat Scharr

Small Faith Communities—the of Partners in Mission

Saints in the Making

Like and Follow us on Facebook CPPS Partners in Mission

Pat Scharr (leader), Sr. Rose Marie Dobelman (mentor), Blandine Stanowski, Cathy Cordonier, Alberta Iffrig, Robbi Norcia, Shirley O’Connor, BJ Ellison, Sharon Bollinger
“Our Precious Blood...”
Rosemary Pieper

Born on a farm by the Cuivre River in Josephville, Rosemary was a classmate with some of the CPPS Sisters, and she had Sisters as her teachers in grade school and high school. Rosemary became a Partner in Mission in 2016 after receiving an invitation from her friend Sr. Joanne Reuter.

Rosemary states, “I’ve always been friends with the Sisters and appreciated all they do.”

A member of the Taste and See small faith community, and before meals with their family. They also pledged to help others, especially their parents. The Junior Partners continue to meet in Sica Sica, now under the direction of 17-year-old Partner Daniela.

While in Bolivia, Sr. Julie explained, “I did what needed to be done.” In addition to the Junior Partners, Sr. Julie also worked with many, many more young people, daily meeting with them after the end of the school day in early afternoon always ending with a half hour of prayer.

Sr. Julie misses everything about Bolivia, especially the people of all ages.

Sr. Julie continues to do what needs to be done here in O’Fallon as a community service minister. One of her favorite undertakings is visiting with the sisters in skilled care, taking them bouquets from the grounds or just listening.

Coming from a close-knit family who lived on Hwy K, Sr. Julie has 9 siblings. Her brother Bill has had a huge influence on her.

Sr. Julie sees reconciliation as a part of constant daily living. Thank you, Sr. Julie, for being a beautiful example of living the charism of reconciliation.

—Debbie Whited

Save the Dates

Sisters and Partners Picnic
Saturday, August 4, 2018, 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 9, 2018, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please plan to attend this spirit and information filled day. More information to come.
For Your Spiritual Journey...

Our small faith community, Sacred Journey, started in September 2017 after the lay members went through Pathways and made our initial commitment. The seven members of our small faith community are Carol Oldendorf—leader, Kim Lawry, Anne McNally, Sandy Dennis, Sr. Luella Dames, Sr. Marie Fennwald, and Sr. Doris Rechtien.

We meet monthly and start our meetings with prayer, faith sharing, Lectio Divina, discussion, all the while getting to know one another, and, of course, snacks to wrap up the meeting. Then, one day after hearing about the book: How Big is Your God, I asked the group if they were interested in reading the book and discussing during the months of February, March, April and May. I divided up the book in four sections and we started reading. It is a book about relationships, specifically the relationship each one of us has with God. Author Paul Coutinho is an Indian-born priest. His worldview is greatly influenced by Eastern religions and mysticism. Coutinho’s message is purely Christian, about a God who loves us and wants a personal relationship with each one of us. The book consists of 48 small chapters. We divided the book into four months of reading and discussion.

The book was powerful and led to many wonderful discussions about our own personal relationships with God. The book helped us get to know one another on so many levels that we have really bonded over this book. The book is full of questions and challenges. We all experience God differently and reading this book shows us that. We each took away something different from the book as well.

Sacred Journey would love for everyone to experience this book. It would be an asset to any faith sharing group.

—Carol Oldendorf

Candidates Admire Handiwork of Gifted Craftswomen

As the morning hours of April 22 neared noon, the 2018 Partners in Mission candidates and guests had enjoyed the welcome glow of the Precious Blood Chapel, having celebrated Sunday Eucharist with Sisters and residents. A tour of the St Joseph’s Chapel, Villa Theresa and more was on the agenda after enjoying lunch and camaraderie in Mt. Carmel’s dining room.

The first full stop was the 160 year old Eucharistic Art Dept. (EAD). Yet so much to admire en route, intricate, stylized art hung color along the corridors, striking awe and admiration within the visiting newcomers. Photos of ancestral Sisters in their veils and collars lined a hall of fame in cornice frames alongside a collage of radiant faces of modern day Superiors.

Stepping into the EAD was as if peering into a kaleidoscope tube, creative beauty intersecting at each turn. From sewing studio to artist gallery to a mission of golden, stitched collections, all in a fine fabric shop of threaded and worn machines. All of it the handiwork of gifted craftswomen, talented, inspired and determined holy Sisters who served and graced the Faith Community throughout the ages.

Moving through the Heritage Center and St Joseph’s Chapel, the candidates and guests were immediately struck with reverent admiration and respect. The historical presentations, sprinkled with anecdotal lore were met with a yearning for more. Yet St Joseph’s Chapel, its wings and windows, awaited. Indeed its artistic splendor cannot be adequately described herein. Yet a fine and complete tour sheet awaits the seeking visitor by the Main Street chapel doors. Truly one must take time to sit and soak, pray within the surrounding and abounding heights of beauty that touches all of one’s senses.

A truly memorable day; pages could be written to fully complete. Yet left with genuine appreciation, fond memories, piqued interest and inspiration, the Candidates, Deborah Meyer, Denise Hoehne, Mary Buchanan, Arlene Kowalczyk, Joyce Miller, Mary Jane Matejka and their guests, David Buchanan, Tani Shulte and Partner Chris Shields wish to thank the following Sisters who so graciously accommodated and presented the fascinating tour: Sr. Mary Cecile Gunelson; Sr. Barbara Payne; Sr. Suzanne Besancenetz; Sr. Marie Orf; Sr. Alice Falk; and Sr. Joan Schnorbus (May she rest in peace.). —Chris Shields
Refugees

By Brian Bilston: The Poet of Twitter
They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way
(Now read from bottom to top.)

Sisters and Partners
Taking Bold Action to Support Immigrants and Refugees

Below are just a few of the many, many ways in which Partners and Sisters are living the Bold Action.

Sign supporting Justice for Immigrants campaign next to the Peace Pole in front of the St. Joseph Chapel in O’Fallon. The campaign is sponsored by the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Sisters and Partners learned more about DACA at the Bold Action Committee’s Focus Day in June at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Florissant.

Over 100 beautiful hand-made Mother’s Day and Father’s Day cards were sent to Amnesty International in May and June, respectively. The cards provided encouragement to those in ICE’s Berks County Residential Center in Leesport, Pennsylvania. Home-made Christmas cards were also sent in December.

Sixteen Partners attended the CPPS Community Day in March where they shared and learned more about how Partners and Sisters are living out the Bold Action.

Partners Debbie and Tim Whited participated in the World Refugee Day St. Louis Walk on June 20.