Elisa Waugh was born in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. She is one of three children and the only girl. At the age of eleven, her parents divorced. Her oldest brother was sent to the University of Michigan. Her youngest brother stayed in Honduras to complete high school. Elisa was sent to Ursuline Academy in New Orleans, LA. She was brought up by the Ursuline Sisters. After high school, Elisa joined the Ursuline sisters at their Novitiate in Crystal City, MO. Once she made her temporary vows, she was sent to the Ursuline Juniorate in New Rochelle, NY. Elisa left after three years. She has been married to her husband, Larry, for 46 years. They have three children.

Elisa accepted an invitation from Sr. Carol Orf and Sr. Ginny Jaskiewicz to become a Partner In Mission in 2011. She belongs to the small faith community, New Beginnings. New Beginnings supported St. Elizabeth Academy, where she worked, during their financial difficulties. They supplied prayers, needed supplies and toiletries for the students who were struggling financially.

Elisa’s favorite prayer is The Memorare. Her favorite trip was to the Arizona dessert, as there are many prayerful images there. Her dream for the world is Peace on Earth, Good will to ALL! Elisa says her greatest gift from God is God’s personal and enduring love.

Facilitating the community which meets in St. Louis is Sr. Carol Orf. These candidates include Robyn Dannemueller, Nancy Haselhorst, and Cathy Brewer.

Sister Prayer Partner: Sr. Joyce Schram
Sr. Marie Orf facilitates the community which meets in O’Fallon. These candidates are Arline Nallon, Connie Mc Koskey, and Lindsey Reckel.

Sister Prayer Partner: Sr. Viola Marie Spire.

During this formation period candidates learn about the CPPS community and the Partner in Mission relationship. In addition, as they learn about the CPPS charism, history, and traditions, they are afforded an opportunity to reflect on their own spiritual journey and the growth that has occurred within themselves. Because of the depth of sharing during these gatherings, these communities grow in trust and form deeper and longer lasting relationships. We thank God for blessing us with many wonderful candidates and we ask God to continue to bless them on their journey!
Debbie Whited - First Lay Director for Partners in Mission

by Sr. Carol Orf

Congratulations, Debbie!

In 1984 Debbie and Tim Whited with their two daughters, Jessica and Kimberly, moved from Monroe, Michigan to O’Fallon, MO. Today Debbie and Tim have been married 37 years and have added two sons-in-law and six grandchildren to their family.

Because Debbie is a parishioner at All Saints Catholic Church, she met Rick Heitman, former co-director of Partners in Mission, who encouraged her to explore the partners’ relationship. She wanted the love of faith and her enthusiasm to be of service to the sisters. Therefore, September, 2009, marked the beginning of Debbie’s commitment to Partners as a member of the Hospitality Small Faith Community with Sr. Joan Schnorbus as her Sister Prayer Partner.

Presently, Debbie teaches third grade at St. Joseph Elementary School in Cottleville, MO. Over the years building a relationship with the sisters and her third grade classes has been a priority for Debbie. Last year she brought her students to Villa Theresa to tour St. Joseph Chapel. They were intrigued by the beautiful stained glass windows and other amazing artwork. Much to the delight of our sisters, this year they made each one a Christmas stocking and entertained them with Christmas carols.

Debbie, a woman of prayer, acknowledges that one of her gifts is creativity. Therefore, with her deep prayer life, her creativity and other leadership qualities, Debbie has been entrusted with the new position as lay director of Partners in Mission to assure that the spirit and charism of the CPPS Community will continue well into the future.

New Leadership for Partners in Mission

by Sr. Carol Orf

At the Partners in Mission Assembly Day, September 7, 2014, the new structure for the Partner in Mission relationship was explained to the partners and sisters who were present. A time to field questions and comments followed. Sr. Fran Raia and Sr. Lucy Meissen then introduced the process for partners to submit their own name or nominate someone for either the Director and/or the Governing Board. These names were due to Sr. Fran by Tuesday, September 30, 2014, who then sent an application process form to each of those who applied.

Very capable, faith-filled and generous women stepped forth with the desire to create a new path for the future relationship of Partners in Mission with our CPPS Community. Sr. Fran, Sr. Lucy and Sr. Carol conducted the interview with each applicant. After prayer, reflection and sharing, Sisters Fran, Lucy and Carol made their decision. This decision was then submitted to the Leadership Team for approval.

On December 2, 2014, the Director, Board Members and Sister Advisors were announced.

This Board will begin meeting in January 2015 and participate in board development facilitated by Sr. Susan Borgel.

Thank you to all who applied for these positions. Choosing this Board was no easy task when presented with so many women whose gifts, strengths, enthusiasm and faith-lives could have moved this new structure forward. Therefore, with gratitude for each of you and for all our Partners in Mission we move “forward on the road that has brought us to where we are.” (Phil. 3:16)
Wisdom Circle Rounds Out
The Journey

by Maureen McGrath

We gather once a month to gather, greet, eat and pray. Our gatherings are usually centered on a topic we want to explore. Each member takes a turn at leading the discussion, and prepares us for the upcoming discussion having some suggested readings. We also have a retreat at Meadowlark during the year.

We meet at the home of one of our members where conversation flows easily. We catch up on what has happened during the month since our last gathering and the laughter soon begins. We always share a meal in which everyone contributes. The meal is a treat for our body as well as our soul. Homemade goodies are welcomed. We include a lively discussion during which we all share our thoughts and our beliefs as to how this topic is played out for us. We believe that through our explorations we grow in faith and spirituality.

(Sr. Fran Raia, Sharon Stockman, Carol Jung, Maureen McGrath, Sr. Rosemary Oellerman)

Not Pictured: Sherry Smsith and Sr. Janet Dohr

During this past year we have worked on our enneagrams. This process is energizing and revealing. The Sanguis Christi Spirituality Center is offering an Enneagram Workshop on February 7, 2015. We highly recommend it. It has helped us reach new heights and explore new possibilities.

Our retreats bond us in our effort to grow spiritually. The time away from distractions makes a difference in how we approach opportunities and challenges. We focus on a particular area of mutual interest and have plenty of time to explore it without a break for other responsibilities or obligations. Meadowlark is the perfect setting.

All of us give strength to each other by sharing our thoughts and ideas freely. We are ever grateful for the opportunity.
On Saturday, October 18, 2014 fourteen Partners in Mission joined the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood for their Fall Community Day at the Trigg Center in O'Fallon. At the meeting facilitated by Sister Bridget Ehlert, new leadership structures were presented for both the Sisters and the Partners.

In the morning, the Leadership Team presented a future structure for the Sisters as the community continues to move toward completion. In this proposed structure, the Sisters will be collaborating with another religious community in the area to continue with this transition. When the plan is finalized with the other community, it will be made public.

In the afternoon, Dawn Boschert, Maureen McGrath, and Sister Lucy Meissen presented the new governing board structure for the Partners in Mission. Dawn spoke about the current structure that has been in place since the beginning of the Partners. Maureen presented the new governing board structure that was developed by the ad hoc committee of Partners, Sister Fran and Sister Lucy over the last two years. This new structure includes a governing board of six Partners, two Sisters and a lay director.

Both sessions concluded with time for reflection, discussion, questions and answers.

Please continue to pray for the processes as the Sisters and we, as Partners, continue our journey of faith.