

On The Journey

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon



Earth
is longing
for our LOVE.

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Cover artwork by Sr. Mary Beth Kemper, CPPS

*We Remember...
We Celebrate...
We Believe!*



Sr. Helen Margaret
Schuette,
August 7, 2015



Sr. Jean William
Diepenbrock,
September 14, 2015

*To make a donation in memory of these Sisters please visit
www.cpps-ofallon.org.*

On The Journey

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For more information about the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood and their mission, please visit, www.cpps-ofallon.org.



Dear Friends,

“Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.” These words are from Pope Francis who challenges us in his encyclical (letter) to care for the earth, “our common home.” Caring for the earth includes all living things: plants, animals, rivers, oceans, sky, the people of the earth and the planets in our universe. Pope Francis believes that together we can preserve our planet for future generations: for our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews.

As we Sisters come to the end of our 170th year as a congregation, we commit ourselves to take seriously the call of Pope Francis when he asks us to: “protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.” (See prayer on page 5.) We invite you into that call with us. You may want to take time to read the encyclical: “Laudato Si—On Care for Our Common Home.”

Fall is near and the celebration of Thanksgiving reminds me how grateful our Sisters are for your support, love, interest, generosity and faithfulness to us.

Blessings,

Sr. Fran

“On Care for our Common Home, Laudato Si’”

the Encyclical letter from Pope Francis

In the phrase: “Praise be to you, Laudato Si’”, Pope Francis reminds us that the earth, our common home, “is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.” (1) Pope Francis knows, as we do, that our earth and its people suffer with the extremes of climate change, the tragedy of pollution, destruction of ecosystems, the scarcity of water and many other issues affecting our “sister and mother.”

Pope Francis appeals to all of us when he says: “The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change... Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.: (13)

What do we need to change together? “A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climate system... a number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxides and others) released mainly as a result of human activity.”(23)

How do we act for the common good? Cardinal Peter K.A. Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace says: “The common good comes before serving narrower interests. The goods or resources of the world have a universal destiny. Creation is a gift to the whole of humanity, not just a part. We are called to act in solidarity with those who lack access to these goods—with the large portion of humanity who suffer in the midst of plenty, beginning with those millions who are hungry while so much food is thrown away.”

What do we believe about the earth? Pope Francis tells us that “the environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone. If we make something our own, it is only to administer it for the good of all. If we do not, we burden our consciences with the weight of having denied the existence of others. That is why the New Zealand bishops asked what the commandment ‘Thou shall not kill’ means when ‘twenty percent of the world’s population consumes resources at a rate that robs the poor nations and future generations of what they need to survive.’”(95)

How can we help our earth? Pope Francis talks about persons who will be engaged in systemic issues, political structures, government policies and encourages their actions in the face of complex situations. He also realizes that not everyone can be engaged in political activity. He speaks about St. Therese of Lisieux who “invites us to practice the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship... simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness.”(230-231)

A ray of hope flows through the entire Encyclical: “Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. (13) Men and women are still capable of intervening positively” (58). All is not lost. Human beings... are capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start.” (205)

All is not lost. Human beings...are capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start.”

A Prayer for Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united to every creature as we journey toward your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Pope Francis p. 118-119.

We encourage you to read more of the Encyclical and the insights of Pope Francis.

(The numbers indicate the paragraphs quoted from the Encyclical and the prayer can be found on pg. 118-119)

Ellie's Garden



Ellie with Sisters Esther Hogan and Estelle Sullentrup.

The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood are delighted to be partnering with Assumption Parish on a community garden project, led by a 17-year-old girl living with Rett Syndrome. Called "Ellie's Garden," this 2,000 square foot community garden will grow organic produce, much of which will be used to feed local families in need of food. "This is for the community and the poor, and it's helpful for people not connected to the Church to find a way in," said Sister Ellen Orf. "This garden is the living Church."





CPPS PARTNERS IN MISSION

CPPS Partners in Mission is a relationship with the community of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon. Partnership with the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood community provides an opportunity for lay associates to share in the mission and charism of the Sisters, while at the same time maintaining their own living and working situations.



Some Partners and Sr. Fran Raia who attended the recent Assembly Day.

On September 15, 2015, the CPPS Partners in Mission celebrated their 25th birthday. Approved under the leadership of Sr. Joan Klaas, the Partners, which began with three members, has grown to 74 adult Partners and 35 junior Partners in three countries—Bolivia, Finland and the United States. Four new Partners, Robyn Dannenmueller, Nancy Haselhorst, Connie McKoskey, and Arline Nallon, made their initial commitment during Mass in the St. Joseph Chapel on Sunday, September 13.

Small faith communities are the heart of CPPS Partners in Mission. The small faith communities, comprised of Partners and their Sister Prayer Partners, give the Partners an opportunity to share how God is present in their lives—how He makes His presence known amidst their joys and struggles and even how God may seem distant at times. Their small faith communities encourage and support them as they strive to carry on the charism of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood by answering God's call to bring Christ's reconciling presence to our broken world. As small faith communities and individuals, Partners and

their Sister Prayer Partners embrace and serve in a variety of outreach opportunities throughout the area—St. Anthony's and St. Agatha's Food Pantries, Room at the Inn, St. Charles Outreach Coalition Against Human Trafficking, St. Joachim and Ann Care Service, Mary Queen of Angels, and St. Jude's Children's Hospital, just to name a few of their passions.

In November 2012, an ad hoc committee of nine CPPS

Partners in Mission and two members of the CPPS Leadership team, Sr. Fran Raia and Sr. Lucy Meissen, began looking at a new leadership structure for Partners in Mission with lay leadership. After two years of discussion, research, and discernment, the new structure, along with a new vision and mission, was complete.

In 2014, the first CPPS Partners in Mission Governing Board was appointed by the CPPS Leadership Team, and the first lay director was hired, Debbie Whited. Members of the Governing Board include Dawn Boschert, Susan Buerkle, Lori Larkin, Mary Reynolds, Debbie

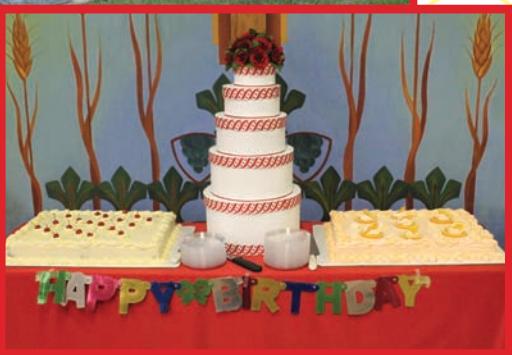
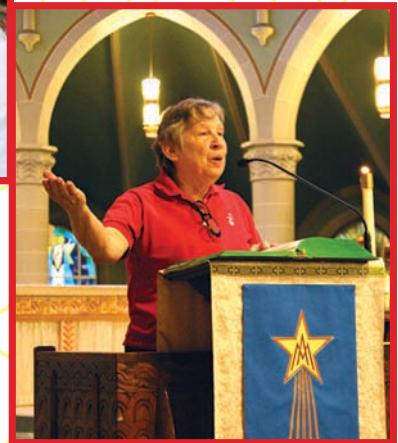
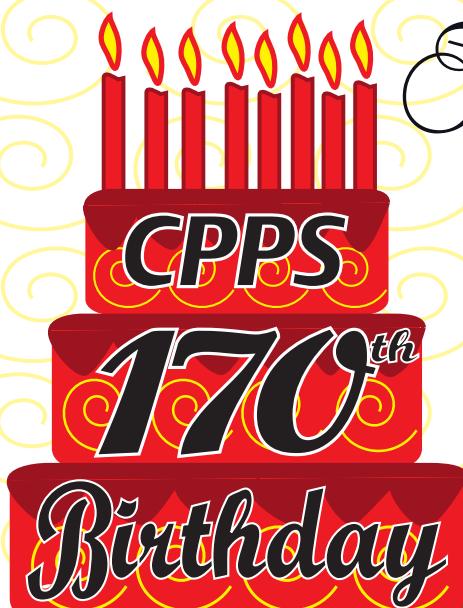
Whited, Sr. Ginny Jaskiewicz, and Sr. Barbara Schlatter. Currently, Sr. Susan Borgel is assisting the group with board development.



New Partners; Robyn Dannenmueller, Connie McKoskey, Arline Nallon, and Nancy Haselhorst.

More information about becoming a CPPS Partner in Mission can be found on the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood website, www.cpps-ofallon.org, or by contacting their new director, Debbie Whited at 636-542-9479 or dwhited@cpps-ofallon.org.

The Celebration Continues

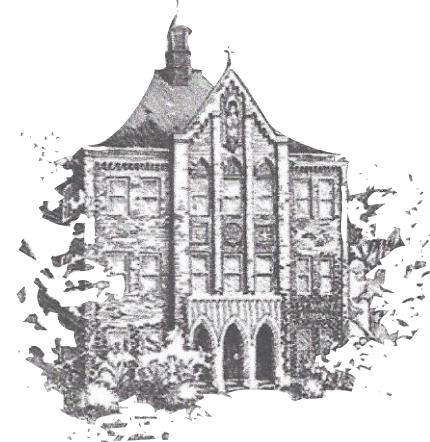


The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood celebrated their 170th Birthday with a week of festivities which included remembering those who came before them and celebrating those that are still living the mission and values that began so long ago. The week started with a chocolate treat in the mailboxes of all the Sisters, residents, staff of Villa Theresa and Congregational Services. On Tuesday, September 8, the actual foundation day of the order, the Sisters had Mass in their chapel, a special lunch, and a prayer service at their cemetery. The cemetery service was extra special because of the red roses at each grave marker, made possible by our generous donors. The Sisters finished celebrating with a movie and refreshments on Thursday, the 10th, and root beer floats and ice cream sundaes on Friday, September 11th.

St. Mary's Academy Class of 1985 Reunion

On Saturday, September 5, 2015, several members of St. Mary's Academy Class of 1985 celebrated their 30th Reunion with a Mass in St. Joseph Chapel and a reception in O'Fallon City Hall, their former class buildings. A few Sisters were able to join them and reminisce about their school days together.

If any Alumni/Alumnae group is interested in having a class reunion and would like to use St. Joseph Chapel, please contact Leah Wand at 636-240-6010 or by email at lwand@cpps-ofallon.org.



Now
Then



SEA Alumnae and Friends
are invited to Mass & Brunch with the Sisters on
The Feast of St. Elizabeth

Sunday, November 15, 2015
11:00 a.m. in St. Joseph Chapel
204 North Main Street
O'Fallon, MO 63366

Cost is \$35.00

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Marcia at 636-542-9481 or mschmitz@cpps-ofallon.org

Make checks payable to: Sisters of the Most Precious Blood
Mail to: 204 North Main Street, O'Fallon, MO 63366
Reservations are required by Nov. 9, 2015.

Congratulations are in order



Sr. Ellen Orf has been appointed to the newly established Peace & Justice Commission of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The commission will address societal issues such as family breakdown, poverty, racial tension, and lack of education.



In honor of her retirement, the St. Louis Chapter and Duchesne Branch of Pastoral musicians honored **Sr. Luella Dames** with an award of \$500 annually to be given to an aspiring musician who would not be able to attend the National Convention.



Partner in Mission, **Kathleen Bolduan**, received an award from the American Organist Guild for her outstanding contribution to the musical life of St. Louis.



Partner in Mission, **Elaine Pinar**, received one of the 2015 Catholic Women's Award from the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The Catholic Women's Award is open annually to one woman from each parish in the archdiocese, nominated by the pastor or parish council.

Did you know?

Did you know that **Sr. Marie Orf** started a ministry called Southern Missouri Project or SOMOPRO in 1993? Over the years Sr Marie, along with many volunteers consisting of sisters, priests, brothers, friends, college and high school students, even some relatives gave up a week out of their summer to roof and paint houses in southern Missouri.

A few statistics: 23 years, 92 houses painted, 92 houses roofed, 290 people participated at least one time, another 12 participated 10 or more times. "This project really made a difference not only to the people we served but to those of us who participated in the project," said Sr. Marie Orf.



soMOPRO
1993-2015



Members of the 2015 volunteer group.

Mission Advancement Office Statement of Accountability



Dear Friends,

One of our Sisters recently remarked that she hoped her ministry work was having a ripple effect similar to that of a pebble thrown into a pond since she is just one person trying to help so many. Your donations, whether large or small, ARE having an effect on the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood and the good that they do in this world.

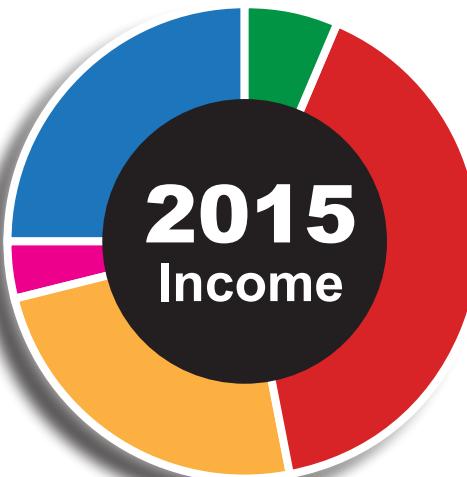
On behalf of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood I want to extend my sincerest gratitude for your contributions during the last fiscal year, July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015.

On this page you will see our statement of accountability to you, our donors. We hope you will consider giving again this year and join us at our events.

Gratefully,

Leah Wand

Leah Wand,
Mission Advancement Director



Income

Bequests	\$ 31,001.10
South American Missions	\$ 193,671.26
Individual Donations	\$ 115,075.96
Retirement	\$ 19,397.00
Annual Events	\$ 118,160.50
Total	\$ 477,305.82

Expenses

Administration	\$ 92,370.36
South American Missions	\$ 193,671.26
Annual Events	\$ 46,331.88
Invested for Future Needs	\$ 144,932.32
Total	\$ 477,305.82

Thank You



Thank you to everyone who participated in our Night at Busch Stadium Fundraiser. We saw the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Chicago Cubs on Friday June 26, 2015. A good time was had by the Sisters and our friends who joined us to cheer on the home team. Many thanks to everyone who sponsored a Sister's ticket or made a donation. Pictured below are just a few of the Sisters' friends who joined us at the game.



*Please save the date and plan on
joining us for our
Dinner Auction on
Saturday, March 19, 2016
at Old Hickory Country Club*

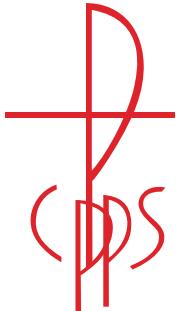


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please call Marcia at 636-240-6010 or email her at
mschmitz@cpps-ofallon.org.

Dinner Auction Wish List:

We hope that you can join us for our **Dinner Auction on Saturday, March 19, 2016**.

This event is the Sisters' main fundraiser and your donations are crucial to its success.

The following is a wish list of items:

- ★ Tickets to sporting events
- ★ Golf gift-certificates
- ★ i-Pad
- ★ Kindle Fire
- ★ Time Share/travel opportunities
- ★ Tickets to the Fox, Muny, or Peabody Opera House
- ★ Restaurant gift certificates
- ★ Wine



If you have any questions or are not sure if what you have fits our needs please call Leah Wand at 636-240-6010. Thank you for your consideration.