



Partners on the Journey

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood Partners in Mission Newsletter

WINTER 2017

IMPORTANT DATES:

February 4
Winter Partner/
Sister Gathering,
St. Pius V

March 11
CPPS Dinner
Auction,
Old Hickory

March 25
CPPS Spring
Community Day,
Mercy Center

April 21-23
CPPS Partners in
Mission Directed
Silent Retreat,
Meadowlark

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CPPS Presence at the Care Service

Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service is the largest comprehensive social service agency in the Tri-county area of St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren counties. With a mission "to serve those in crisis and to prevent homelessness and hunger," the Care Service focuses on long-term recovery and sustainability of fragile families and individuals who are facing homelessness.

Serving more than 5,600 people a year, the Care Service provides food and financial housing assistance, including rent, mortgage, utilities, and home repair. Additional

integrated program services are offered to fill the gaps necessary to return those most vulnerable to self-sufficiency.

These services include intensive case management, weekly food pantry, employment assistance, street outreach for those who are literally, homeless, and Adopt-A-Family, which brings the true spirit of Christmas to those who are in great need of hope.

On any given day, you will find a CPPS Sister or Partner or two among those serving in



Sr. LaVerne Wester, Mary Reynold, Sr. Robert Ann Harper, and Karen Grant

this busy place. Shirley Petrovsky, a former Partner, was among the original founders of the Care Service and volunteered there for many years. Karen Grant (*Taste and See*) is a full time employee and serves as the Director of Development.

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Small Faith Communities--the  of Partners in Mission

NEW BEGINNINGS



*Sr. Joyce Schramm, Sr. Helene Rueffer, Robyn Dannenmueller, Terry Sheinfeld, Sr. Rosemary Russell, Kathleen Bolduan
(Not pictured: Nancy Haselhorst and Claire Vogt)*

Small faith community, New Beginnings meets in various locations in the St. Louis area. Their gatherings consist of members alternating in leading the prayer and providing questions for faith sharing. This way all members are given an opportunity to contribute, and the community is open to the method and content of the participation.

Outreach for New Beginnings takes the form of donating a basket to the annual Trivia Night and adopting a family at Christmastime from the International Institute. A certain affiliation was felt with the Institute because prior to St. Elizabeth's Academy closing, it had been the focus of their outreach. With the Institute now housed in those

buildings, it seemed appropriate for their community. Each member also offers some service independently.

Reconciliation at present has taken the form of deeper sharing in their community. Some changes in the group provided both setbacks and strides in the charism. Key to the success of the community has been listening to each other. Alternate forms of prayer are a goal for this year including Visio Divina, which was introduced by Sr. Joyce. It was a grand success!

New Beginnings continues to find new ways to share their faith.

—Peggy Hoefel

“Our Precious Blood...”

Jean Welker



Jean Welker

Jean Welker was born on September 10, 1940, in Perry County, Missouri. As her mother went into labor, Jean’s grandmother questioned the doctor about the possibility of twins. The doctor said, “Absolutely not,” but sure enough, Jean was born and so was her identical sister!

Jean’s family moved to Perryville so that the children could attend St. Vincent’s schools. She attended both the grade school and high school and thus began a life-

long commitment to the schools. While attending the high school, Jean thought she wanted to be a nun, but her life took a different turn. She married and had 12 children. Now, she has 27 grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren. Not only did Jean raise her 12 children, but she also worked as the secretary at St. Vincent’s High School for 40 years! When she retired about three years ago, she was overwhelmed by all the recognition she received, and

it was hard to say goodbye.

Jean continued to have a longing to be a Sister. When Sr. Delores Schilli approached her about becoming a Partner in Mission, Jean saw it as an opportunity to have that connection to a religious community, the Precious Blood Sisters. She prays each day that she keeps her strong faith in a world that challenges faithful people. She believes that with her prayers each day, she loves God even more.

—Nancy Haselhorst

Sister Estelle Sullentrup

Sr. Estelle is the oldest of four children. When it was time for her baptism, her parents had chosen Ardene, but the priest found that name was not on the Church calendar. With no alternative name picked, he suggested Estelle, and this became her name. For 20 years, she was known as Sister Tarcisia, but when Sisters became eligible for social security, she became Sr. Estelle once again.

Sr. Estelle professed her final vows in 1944. Serving on 15 missions, she was a teacher and principal in the

St. Louis area, Tennessee and New Mexico.

In visiting with Sr. Estelle, one soon realizes that everything in life is a gift to her—being in Rome when Mother Teresa of Calcutta was beatified, serving as a Eucharistic minister (following in the footsteps of St. Tarcisius) at DePaul Health Center for fifteen years, riding on a giant ferris wheel with lively 6th graders, but she proclaims, “the greatest gift is Jesus—God’s abiding love.”

Sr. Estelle has been a Partner for seven years with the *Hospitality* small faith com-

munity. She is gratefully inspired by Partners for their faithfulness, generosity and loving witness to the CPPS charism.

When asked about living reconciliation, Sr. Estelle stated, “I try to remember God loves them. God loves me.”

Sr. Estelle offered the following for our world today, “Pray for enemies trusting in God’s wisdom and merciful love to grant us peace.”

Thank you, Sr. Estelle, for your quiet, peaceful presence and delightful little giggle.

—Tim Whited



Sr. Estelle Sullentrup

CPPS Presence at the Care Service

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Mary Reynolds (*Mustard Seeds*) is also a full time employee, and she serves as the Director of Finance. Sisters LaVerne Wester and Robert Ann Harper (*Latecomers*) both volunteer many hours each month.

Sts. Joachim and Ann Care

Service is a living, breathing example of Christ’s love on earth. They reconcile poverty and the injustice it creates every day for families in our area.

The Care Service is supported by federal, state and local government grants as well as private donations including

generous grants from the CPPS community.

If you have questions about Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service or wish to learn more about their mission, call Karen Grant at 636-441-1302 ext. 263 or visit their website at www.jacares.org.

—Mary Reynolds



For Your Spiritual Journey...



Dawn Boschert

Partner Dawn Boschert enjoys listening to music and frequently uses music as her prayer. There is almost always a phrase that catches her attention that she can use for reflection, or just listening to music can change her attitude for the day.

Two of Dawn's favorite

songs to use for prayer are "I Will Make This Day My Prayer" and "I am a God Nearby." Both of these songs are by David Kauffman. Dawn explains, "In the song 'I Will Make This Day My Prayer,' one of the phrases I particularly like is 'When I see my friends, may they see you in me, and may I see your face in them.'"

Dawn has been a Partner for over 10 years, and she is a member of the TLC small faith community.

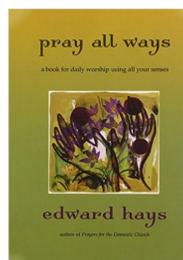


One of the themes Sr. Nadine Flott finds so appealing in *Pray All Ways* by Edward Hays is that of mak-

ing our common and ordinary life experiences our prayer.

One of Sr. Nadine's favorite chapters in the book is entitled, "Praying through the Nose" in which Hays describes using the smells around us to lead us into relationship with God. In describing Hays' writing ability, Sr. Nadine states, "He puts it much more simply than others." She also enjoys Hays' sense of humor.

Sr. Nadine is on her third copy of the book that was first published in 1981. She



frequently used the chapter ending prayers during faculty meetings and when mentoring teachers in her many years as an elementary school principal, but it is a book she continues to pick up time and time again and always finds enlightening.



Sr. Nadine Flott

Greetings from Estonia and Finland

Terveiset Viro ja Suomi

On October 15, the Partners and Sisters from Tallinn, Estonia, and Helsinki, Finland, met in the capital of Estonia for a special day. Due to the distance between groups, gathering is only done yearly, in autumn. This year we were happy to be welcomed to Tallinn. Those of us from Helsinki traveled by boat across the Gulf of Finland, and those of us from Estonia traveled by bus. We met at the harbor and taxied to the Bridgettine cloister.

After the fall of Communism in Estonia, the Sisters purchased land near Tallinn and built their cloister and hotel. The main work of the Sisters now is to provide affordable lodging for guests. The Sisters live in

their section of the hotel and operate like a small family hotel. Their charism is to be a presence to people around the globe by their concern and help for them as guests at the hotel. The hotel also provides financial support to carry out the charism. Friendliness leaps out to greet visitors.

We, then, visited the ruins of the medieval cloister, but icy weather forced us indoors for prayer and a delicious lunch seasoned by love.

Then, we returned to the city to visit a school recognized as one of the top schools in Estonia. Partner Kersti Nigesen serves the school as principal and was instrumental in modernizing the school in post-communist Estonia.

During our time here together, we honored Kersti for her ten year anniversary as a Partner, and she spoke of the many blessings she has received in being a Partner.

Our prayer service was an amalgam of readings from the Bible, wisdom as expressed in the words of Native Americans, the prose of Sr. Joan Chittister, and segments borrowed from this

year's recommitment ceremony. The day was filled with blessings and gratitude to God, the Community, and all the dedicated members of Partners in Mission.

We look forward to another year of working and praying together and meeting next autumn in Helsinki. Any group in the States is welcome to recommit here!

—Inger Honkaranta



Sr. Monica Marie Toenjes, Sr. Renee Brinker, Teresa Regresado, Sr. Mary Vernard LeBeau, and Inger Honkaranta

Pray without Ceasing

The need for peace, justice and equality in our world is ever present. In the 1980's the Sisters formed the Gospel Justice Committee in response to that need. Today, the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood remain passionate about social justice, peace, and equality for all humankind. As "Partners in Mission," we must share that passion.

The Gospel Justice Committee is a group of twelve individuals, both Sisters and Partners, working to improve the lives of those who are marginalized in St. Louis and beyond. Special attention is given to issues concerning women and children, immigrants and refugees, and the environment. While local needs are a primary focus, the group has realized that our entire world is desperate for the freedom from fear. The need for healing and reconciliation is universal.

At the November meeting of the Gospel Justice Committee, the members recognized the need to "pray without ceasing" to heal the divisions experienced in our church, country, and world. As "Agents of Reconciliation" all Sisters and Partners are invited to join in consciously praying for Peace and Justice. We can use the following mantra whenever we turn a light on or off, "Jesus, give peace and justice to our world." We know the power of prayer when we are united. The committee believes that the image of light is a good reminder that through our prayer we can make a difference.

For more information about the Gospel Justice Committee, contact Sister Rosemary Russell at rrussell@cpps-ofallon.org

—Denis Wilhelm

Fall Community Day

Moving Forward with Gratitude and Greater Contemplative Living

Thirteen Partners in Mission enjoyed the opportunity of attending the CPPS Fall Community Day on October 22 at Mercy Center in Kirkwood.

Opening with contemplative silence, the day was one of sacred listening and quiet reflection facilitated by Sr. Barbara Mullen, CSJ. In this first gathering since the Community's General Chapter in the spring, Sr. Janice Bader, CPPS Superior General, followed the opening prayer by leading the Sisters and Partners in beginning to explore the implications and implementation of the Chapter direction statement. A video of Sr. Pat Farrell's, OSF, keynote address at the LCWR conference in Atlanta in the

summer followed.

In the afternoon, time was spent reflecting, followed by sharing among table members. Questions posed by the new leadership team included:

- How have I/our CPPS community personally experienced the in-breaking of the reign of Love (God's blessings) in my life?
- What are the particular gifts that God might be calling us to share now and as we move into the future?

These are questions for us, as Partners, to also reflect upon and to come back to again and again.

—Debbie Whited



Teresa Krausel, Linda Moehrle, Sandy Dennis, Liz Allmeyer, Maureen McGrath, Rosemary Christie, Jean Welker, Karen Block, Carol Jung, Dawn Boschert, and Lorraine Cully

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

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Mary Reynolds, Secretary

Patti Belmont

Dawn Boschert

Susan Buerkle

Sr. Ginny Jaskiewicz, Sr Advisor

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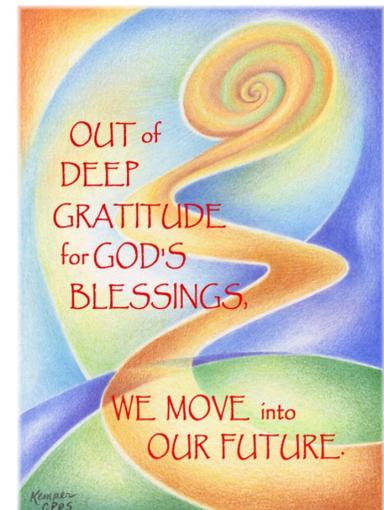
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Partners on the Journey

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The reign of God, the reign of Love, is absolutely central to the message of Jesus...Jesus trembled with joy...to encounter those whose hearts and minds were receptive to the in breaking of the reign of God.

—Sr. Pat Farrell, OSF