



Partners on the Journey

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood Partners in Mission Newsletter

FALL 2018

IMPORTANT DATES:

October 13
CPPS Fall Community Day

December 6
St. Agatha's Christmas Party Set Up

December 7
St. Agatha's Christmas Party

December 17 - 23
Christmas Novena

February 2
Partners & Sisters Winter Gathering

March 9
CPPS Spring Community Day

March 22 - 24
Partners Retreat

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CPPS Partners in Mission

Reconciliation—Deepening our Relationships with God, each other and our broken World



Mary Jane Matejka, Arlene Kowalczyk, Denise Hoehne, Mary Buchanan, Nancy Hebert, Deborah Meyer and Joyce Miller

Following days of rain, Assembly Day brought sunshine and promise. Partners and Sisters shared ways of brightening the brokenness of our world. After each speaker, all were invited to reflect on their words and share with others about their own

Assembly Day '18 Welcome New Partners

faith experiences.

A few items of business were required. Board elections were held and commitment cards were signed. Then, filled with inspiration and a delicious lunch, Sisters and Partners travelled to St. Joseph's Chapel for the beautiful Eucharist and Commitment Ceremony.

Fr. Mitch Doyen celebrated Mass with Fr. John Mayo. New Partners (pictured at left) promised to bring Christ's Reconciling Presence to the lives of those they meet daily along with all

of the other Partners present. Lorraine Cully and Paul Pellegrin were honored for 25 years of service. Also honored for their commitment were Sandy Hosack (20 years) and Mary Martin (10 years). The celebration continued at a reception that followed in the dining room.

New Partner, Mary Jane Matejka and her brothers, Fr. Bill and Mike Wigand, spent a delightful afternoon reminiscing the past with their former teachers, especially Sr. Mary Cecile.

-Mary Jane Matejka

Small Faith Communities--the  of Partners in Mission

In His Footsteps

In His Footsteps small faith community meets the 4th Monday of each month in the Executive Dining Room. Their name is a reflection of their core mission to "do unto others as Jesus would do." Members JoAnn Cheli, Jean Douglas, Cleo Hubert, Margie Johnson, Mary Jo Orlando, Karen Cella (leader) and Sr. Eileen Schieber (Sr. Partner) also gather on the second Monday of the month in Alpine Heights to craft and play games with the residents of Mount Carmel.

During monthly meetings, Partners alternate bringing a prayer. They discuss both old and new business. Currently,

the group is reading *The Women of the Old Testament* between meetings, then they discuss the readings. They gain unique insights from Sr. Eileen who is a wealth of biblical knowledge. They conclude their meeting with fellowship and a nutritious snack.

The Partners of "In His Footsteps" believe they fulfill their mission as they donate their

time and talent, not only at Alpine Heights but also at the annual St. Agatha's Christmas party. The joy and happiness they see on the faces of those they are helping is evidence of their success.

—Nancy Haselhorst



Margie Johnson, Sr. Eileen Schieber, Karen Cella (Leader), JoAnn Cheli, Cleo Hubert, Mary Jo Orlando, Jean Douglas

“Our Precious Blood...”

Kathi Broughton



Kathi Broughton

Kathi Broughton has been a Partner for two years and belongs to Disciples of St. Agatha small faith sharing community. Kathi was born in Pennsylvania and attended Catholic schools until the second half of her senior year of high school. Due to a family move, Kathi transferred to an Atlanta public high school, graduating a few months later. According to Kathi, this change made her “grow up quick”. Kathi earned a degree in Special Education and taught briefly in both a Catholic school and a public special school. She

then moved into a sales position until shortly after starting her family. Kathi and her husband Dave raised 3 children and have 3 grandchildren. They live in Ascension parish in Chesterfield and Kathi enjoys being active in her parish. She especially enjoys her involvement with the CRHP group and welcoming new members to her parish.

Kathi became acquainted with the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood when her children began attending Linda Vista School. Sister Alice Regine was the head of

the school and Kathi loved helping out where she could. She planned the annual auction fundraiser for the school for several years.

Since joining Disciples of St. Agatha, Kathi has been inspired by the Sisters “faith in action”. “The work being done by the Sisters is truly amazing” says Kathi. When asked if there was a book or prayer that means a lot to her, Kathi referred to the Pathways manual. “Even now I like to read it and it helps me understand the goal and purpose of Partners”.

- Mary Reynolds

Advocacy Day

On Aug 30, this group advocated on behalf of the Bold Action Committee urging Senator McCaskill to do all in her power to stop the “Zero Tolerance” immigration policy right now; to reunite ALL of the children with their parents except for suspected trafficking; to use the many more humane alternatives to

family detention centers; to reinstate gang and domestic violence as reasons for requesting asylum and to see to it that our borders are regulated with justice and compassion. We also asked Senator McCaskill to urge the present administration to raise the refugee admissions for FY2019 to at least 75,000 as it was in the past.



Pictured are Anna Marie Himmelberg, Loretto Maes, Carol Boschert, Susan Buerkle, Joyce Schramm, Jessica Beezhold (a staffer for Senator McCaskill), Eileen Schieber, Rosemary Russell and Colleen Curran-Schulte.

Save the Dates

CPPS Christmas Novena Monday, December 17 through Sunday December 23, 2018 7:00 p.m. in the St. Joseph Chapel. Please plan to attend this short prayer service any or every day it is offered. It is a great way to prepare to celebrate our Lord’s birthday.

CPPS Partners and Sisters

Winter Gathering Saturday February 2, 2019 at St. Pius V. The day is certain to brighten the gloomy days of winter.

CPPS Spring Community Day Saturday March 9, 2019 More information to come.

Partners’ Retreat Friday, March 22 through Sunday, March 24.



Winter Gathering 2018

For Your Spiritual Journey...



Sister Marie Orf

Working with the poor and undocumented has impacted us greatly “spiritually”. (Sr. Connie Probst, OSF and I work together, and go two by two, as Jesus suggested). When working with the undocumented, we see how a loving God helps those in great need through building

relationships that will ultimately help heal a broken family, a broken world.

One experience that has helped us deepen our relationship with our loving God, with other children of God and with our broken world occurred a few months ago.

An undocumented Latina woman, named Maria, came to the pantry not needing food, but through an interpreter, Maria told us that her 10 year old daughter was cutting her arm. We asked Maria about her history of arriving in the U.S. and St. Louis. Maria told us that she had arrived with her husband about 12 years ago from Mexico. After several

years, the husband divorced her and he returned to Mexico. Five years ago the company for whom Maria worked was raided by INS. After checking on Maria’s file, they came to her house. INS ripped her oldest daughter at the age of 8 out of her arms, and Maria was quickly deported to Mexico. Maria’s sister cared for Maria’s two daughters while the mother was in Mexico. Returning from Mexico, over a year later, with the help of a “coyote”, Maria was still very nervous. First we got a therapist for the daughter. The therapist explained to the mother that the daughter was cutting her arm because she was fearful of her mother being

deported again. We helped Maria get an immigration lawyer, helped her get to a health clinic, helped her get food stamps and helped her with rent and furniture so she and her two daughters could be a family again. Maria is now working with another lady cleaning houses in Chesterfield.

We were Christ’s reconciling presence as we helped heal a broken family in their broken world, and we were transformed.

- Sister Marie Orf,
Co-Director of St. Anthony Food Pantry and member of both *Outside the Gates* and *Mustard Seeds* small faith sharing community.

In Thanks For Their Service

As the Partners in Mission begin a new year, two devoted leaders will pass the reins.

Debbie Whited, member of Hospitality small faith community has stepped down after 3 years as Director of Partners in Mission. During her time as director, Partners has flourished. Debbie’s amazing gifts of leadership and organization have left a significant mark on us all. She was a tireless example of Christ’s reconciling peace to everyone she worked with. Don’t worry though, she’s not going away. She will remain a Partner while taking on a new position at St. Monica where she will work as the coordinator of religious education and middle school religion teacher.

Lori Larkin, member of the Mustard Seeds small faith community, will step down after serving 3 years as the Chairperson of the PIM Governing Board and the chairperson of the governing board spirituality committee. Her resignation from the Governing Board is the result of the rotation schedule as stated in the by-laws of the board. As the first chair person of the newly formed PIM Governing Board, Lori used her God given talents to plan and execute countless meetings and documents which have resulted in a very well-organized group. Her vision and patience played a key role in the development of the governing structure that exists today. Lori too

will still be around as she remains a member of Mustard Seeds and is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren and parents.

Please join me in wishing Debbie and Lori good luck in their new endeavors and offering a prayer of thanksgiving for the countless blessings that they have brought to Partners in Mission.

- Mary Reynolds



PIM Governing Board Update

The Partners in Mission Governing Board has been very busy lately. Upon the resignation of Director Debbie Whited, the board stepped up to fill in the gaps. Last minute planning for the Assembly Day as well as preparations for a new group of Partner Candidates beginning Pathways this Fall were first on their to-do list.

Two new board members, Carol Oldendorf and Denis Wilhem, were elected at our annual Assembly Day. They will begin their term at the Oct. 9th board meeting. One board member, Lori Larkin, rotated off the board.

The next item of business for the board will be, along with the CPPS Leadership Team, to participate in filling the Director position.

Other responsibilities of the board include assisting the Director with budgeting and recommending the budget to the Leadership Team, chairing committees that raise funds to support the Sisters' projects, publish this newsletter, recruit new Partners, assist the director in the planning and execution of our annual Assembly Day and Winter Gathering and determine policy as needed for the PIM Community.

As a group, the board and Sister Advisors pray and deepen their relationships much like a small faith community. They also attend a one-day spiritual retreat (planned by a board member) annually at Meadowlark in Warrenton.

PIM POTLUCK BAR-B-QUE

Saturday August 4th proved to be your typical sunny, hot, summer day in Cottleville. But the gathering of Sisters, Partners and spouses was anything but typical. Our hosts, TLC small faith sharing community and our chefs, St. Joe's Men's Club, planned and executed a memorable event. Special thanks to TLC members Mary, Sandy, Linda, Dawn, Sr Ginny, Sr Charlene, Allen Serfas and fellow Men's Clubbers as well as everyone who provided the tasty pot-luck dishes—together we created some blessed memories. *Photo courtesy of Allen Serfas.*



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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

Susan Buerkle, Secretary

Patti Belmont

Dawn Boschert

Mary Reynolds

Carol Oldendorf

Denis Wilhelm

Sr. Ginny Jaskiewicz, Sr. Advisor

Sr. Doris Rechiene, Sr. Advisor

Lori Larkin, Interim Director

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Partners on the Journey

Editors: Mary Reynolds and
Sr. Mary Joan Dyer

PEACE PRAYER SERVICE



The evening of September 19 was very peaceful. Gathered in the St. Joseph Chapel were Sisters, Partners, students and community members all praying for peace. Joining

with the "Pace e Bene" (Peace and All Good) Campaign Nonviolence, the CPPS community sang and prayed to end war, violence, poverty, racism and environmental destruction. Honored participants included Assumption 7th grade PSR students and teachers and O'Fallon Police Chief Roy Joachimstaler. Those braving the heat followed the Peace Pole to various locations outside including Ellie's Garden and the Memorial of 9/11. Moments of silence were observed and songs praying for peace on Earth were sung.

- Mary Reynolds