



Partners on the Journey

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood Partners in Mission Newsletter

WINTER 2019

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, January 6
Epiphany,
Migration Mass at
St. Pius V at 10:00

Saturday, February 2
CPPS Partners & Sisters
Winter Assembly
DuBourg High School

Friday-Sunday, March 1-3
Partners Retreat

Wednesday, March 6
Ash Wednesday,
Lent Begins

Saturday, March 9
CPPS Partners & Sisters
Spring Community Day

Saturday, April 13
Partners in Mission
Trivia Night

Happy New Year!!

Happy New Year! The Christmas rush is over. All we have to look forward to now is a long, cold winter. But wait! Lent begins in just two short months. There is much to do, especially for our Partners in Mission Governing Board.

The Partners' Governing Board is working hard to support Small Faith Communities as they gather, pray, and serve. Board members meet periodically during the year to plan our large gatherings, support our new director, Audrey Jungermann, support the planning of our annual fundraising

trivia night, recruit and orient new Partners, contribute to the publication of this newsletter, and pray as its own Small Faith Community. Recently, the board voted to add an additional position, Vice-Chairperson, bringing the number of board members to six. Dawn Boschert was elected by the board to fill this role. She will improve the board by providing back-up in case the Chairperson is unable to attend a meeting or event and will assist in the planning of the board meetings.

Two new board members are elected by the Partners at our annual Assembly Day in September and commit to serving for three years. Newly elected board members replace two board members who rotate off the board after their 3-year term. It's not too early to start thinking about nominating yourself or another Partner for the 2019 election. Partners in Mission is a vibrant, growing community and it is exciting and fulfilling to be a part of the team that keeps us all organized and connected to one another.

-Mary Reynolds

Fall 2018 Community Day

On October 13, the Sisters met for a community day. Since this was a follow-up to the Leadership Team's visits with the local communities; this was a "Sisters Only" community meeting. The Leadership Team reported on their learnings from the visits. They explained that, in response to the expressed desire for spiritual and personal development, future March, June, and October community days will be devoted to those topics. Sisters and Partners in Mission are encouraged to attend these community days.

The Leadership Team will hold "business meetings" and "chat circles" at other times to consider topics that need input from

Sisters and/or Partners. Sisters and Partners also are welcome to identify topics of interest and arrange a gathering.

-Sr. Janice Bader



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CPPS Partners in Mission

Getting to Know... *Partner, Chris Shields*



Chris Shields

Hello, my name is Chris Shields. I've been a Partner in Mission since 2017. I'm proud to be in the "Latecomer" Small Faith Community, yet I've been around for a while; a Partner of all sorts for some time.

I was born over six decades ago in St Anthony's hospital in St Louis to Charles & Jeanette Cayce. It was the first of *nine* trips they'd make to various hospital maternity wards over the course of 16 years. After each visit they'd return with yet another noisy bundle of joy, bringing me a grand total

of seven brothers and (finally!) one sister. I share this because I believe that set the groundwork for my path to service. Beginning with babysitting, waitressing, next to the Telephone Company in customer service, then on to family caregiving, 3rd grade PSR, and hosting a social a time or two.

Throughout this journey I relied on my strong Catholic upbringing and parochial school education to navigate the ups and downs along the way. I'm so very grateful for those blessings. Somewhere along the route, because of that

blessed foundation, it became apparent to hold fast to three pillars as guideposts: Faith, Hope and Charity. Leaning on those virtues, I learned, yet perhaps, later than sooner, would bring about solutions, responses, remedies, and peace, in one too many chaotic experiences of "service". While today such a mantra may seem too simplistic, I highly recommend turning to these three pillars daily, they are three forever gifts! 1 Cor.13:13

-Chris Shields

CPPS Sister, Sr. Theresa Jezl



Sr. Theresa Jezl

Remembering Christmas in Finland

The first year that I was in Finland, Christmas seemed rather strange. Of course, there were Christmas trees, but they were decorated with red hearts and flags. We received many gifts of flowers—narcissi and tulips! And few of the Christmas songs sounded at all familiar.

Gradually I began to appreciate and love the sights, sounds, and smells of Finnish Christmas. The snows began to stay and provided a beautiful setting for ice lanterns and white electric lights. The darkness outside prompted the custom of burning candles in many homes.

On Christmas Eve, families brought candles to the graves of their friends and family members. Cemeteries became seas of light reflected in the snow. In the morning, the last minute preparations for Christmas were finished and then Christmas began with the proclamation televised from Turku, the original capital city of Finland. The mayor's admonishment, that Christmas is to be celebrated in peace, and that people disturbing the peace will be punished ac-

ording to law, was followed by the hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is our God".

Families rushed home to take sauna baths and then dress in clean clothes. The Christmas Gospel was read and then began a festive meal of ham, potato, carrot and rutabaga casseroles, a relish made from pickled cucumbers, red beets and herring, and sometimes "lipeäkala", which is made from fish that has been soaked in lye, dried and then rinsed, cooked, and served with white sauce. During the evening "joulupukki", the Finnish version of Santa appeared and delivered gifts to the children.

Of course, the Catholics attended midnight Mass or Mass of Christmas Day if they were in reasonable distance

of a church. There were five parishes in the whole country, so Christmas services began at the parish center and then were held in various places in the parish, usually in Orthodox or Lutheran churches, but sometimes in private homes. Later, three more parishes were added, which eliminated some of the long trips the priests made to their flocks.

I soon realized that Christmas comes and is regardless of the customs and traditions that surround it. The mystery stays with us always even when away from family and familiar customs. Jesus honored us by taking our humanity so that we can participate in His divinity.

-Sr. Theresa Jezl

Featured Governing Board Member

Denis Wilhelm



Born in St. Charles, Missouri, and growing up as a cradle Catholic, my childhood was remarkable in fact that it was completely unremarkable. It was happy, safe, and care-free. I had three Aunts that were

Precious Blood Sisters – Sister Lucida Moellering, Sister Noel Moellering and Sister Gene Marie Moellering. All three were amazing examples of love, service, and devotion to God and others.

My wife and I met while we were in college. She at St. Mary's in O'Fallon and I at Lindenwood. Debbie was taught by one of my cousins – Sister Bernice Moellering. We have three grown children and five amazing grandchildren.

Several years ago, a friend asked me to consider becoming a CPPS Partner in Mission. I have been nourished spiritually and welcomed whole-heartedly by the Sisters and the Partners. I am a member of the Latecomers Small Faith Community. We share our joys and sorrows in a safe, loving, and judgment-free zone.

This year I was elected to serve on the Governing Board. My hope is that in some small way I can carry

on the charism of Reconciliation in our world. My Aunts were strong, intelligent, hardworking, and fun-loving women. The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood have given us an incredible legacy on which to build. Let's honor those traditions and continue to recreate our world in God's image.

-Denis Wilhelm

Small Faith Community in the Spotlight

Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones is the newest Partners in Mission Small Faith Community and is based in O'Fallon. Leader Arlene Kowalczyk shares, "...the Lord provides stepping stones in our lives, whether it is people, bible scripture, nature, meditation etc., as opportunities to be closer to Him and learn of His goodness and love for us".

Although their Small Faith Community is still fairly new, the members of *Stepping Stones* seek to be helpful to the Sisters at Abbey Senior Health in various ways once a month, such as assisting with BINGO or anything else they can do.

This Small Faith Community keeps an open attitude as they look for ways to be reconciled with God and with others. In doing so, the members hope to learn more about themselves and ultimately find their own purpose individually, with each other, and with humanity.

-Audrey Jungermann



Members: Nancy Hebert, Mary Buchanan, Sister Alice Falk, Denise Hoehne, Sister Mary Catherine Feldewert, Deborah Meyer, Arlene Kowalczyk

Director Introduction: *Audrey Jungermann*



Greetings! For those of you who may not know me, I wanted to give a little background about myself: I grew up in Josephville, MO, where, as life would have it, my husband Jerry and I returned some 30 years ago and

where we now live. We have one grown son, Matthew, who lives in Jonesburg, MO with his wife Jennifer and their children Tyler and Abby.

The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood have been an influence in my life for as long as I can remember. As kids growing up, we all loved and looked up to our aunt, Sr. Maura Kersting, a Precious Blood Sister. The Sisters taught me in grade school at Josephville and

high school at St. Mary's Academy--even today, I remember those years at St. Mary's with gratitude. The Sisters never failed to provide the highest examples of how to live. I know that my life would be less without the Sisters.

When I first began conversations with the Governing Board about the Director position, I did not know very much about Partners in Mission. I was so happy to learn

that a framework exists for the Sisters' legacy to continue. The more I learn about the Sisters and about the Partners' mission, the more honored I feel to be part of sharing this rich heritage with others. I look forward to completing my own Pathways journey and fully joining Partners in Mission.

-Audrey Jungermann

"A Visit From St. Nick" St. Agatha's Christmas Party in Verse

*'Twas the Feast of St. Nicholas, December the Sixth,
At St. Agatha's 75 families sent in their wish list.
"St. Nick brings the presents", Sister Clare Ann's voice rang out clear,
"There's plenty to do, show some faith and good cheer!"*

*Eight Precious Blood Sisters, Partner Jill Berry in charge,
Maneuvered Elves carting prizes so large!
By Morning the Seventh, 'Twas a Party 'yond compare,
Seventy-five families chose their presents from there.*

*All guests were kind-spirited, none selfish or greedy;
They all understood "How it was" to be needy.
Smiling and commenting, each volunteer agreed,
Every guest showed their gratitude, for blessings received.*

-Mary Jane Matejka

With the help of Sisters, Partners, and Parishioners, St. Agatha's food pantry serves needy patrons 5 days a week. As an added year-end treat, the annual Christmas party provides those families with presents, entertainment, and a day of Christmas joy. Jill Berry, who organized this wonderful event, invites everyone to show up for next year's fun!



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

Mary Reynolds, Board Chair

Dawn Boschert, Vice Chair

Susan Buerkle, Secretary

Carol Oldendorf

Denis Wilhelm

Patti Belmont

Sr. Ginny Jaskiewicz, Sr. Advisor

Sr. Doris Rechiene, Sr. Advisor

Audrey Jungermann, PIM Director

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Partners on the Journey Newsletter

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Publisher: Audrey Jungermann

Coming Soon

CPPS Partners and Sisters Winter Assembly: Can reconciling help us and others renew and rebuild brokenness? Are you looking forward to hearing stories and learning about new projects that do just that? Please mark your calendars for **FEBRUARY 2nd, DuBourg High School** in St. Louis for celebrating our Winter Assembly. 8:30 a.m. to Noon. Invitations coming soon!

Save The Date

Partners' Retreat Friday, March 1 through Sunday, March 3, 2019.

CPPS Spring Community Day Saturday, March 9, 2019. Partners and Sisters welcome.

PIM Trivia Night Saturday, April 13, 2019, Cottleville, MO.