The Year Ahead: “All is Gift”

The CPPS 175th Anniversary Year Planning Committee chose a beautiful theme for this milestone year: “All is Gift”. It defines perfectly the Sisters’ openness to accept all with a grateful heart.

This past June, with the new theme in mind, Mary Reynolds led the Governing Board to contemplate Partners in Mission’s own Direction Statement for the year. After no small amount of brainstorming, we ended up with a lot of great ideas, but no Statement. So, we did the only reasonable thing we could do: We took lunch.

When we came back to the table, the right words seemed to jump off the page: “Recognizing our Gifts, Living our Mission”, with Presence, Action, Gratitude, and Stewardship as guiding principles. Patti Belmont quickly sketched a design, and our 2019-2020 Direction Statement was born!

This year, we Partners are encouraged to reflect on our unique, God-given gifts and how they can be used in living out our mission. This will be a true journey of self-discovery and one that I am excited to be taking with you!

-Audrey Jungermann
Featured Partner in Mission:

Anne McNally

I was born in St. Louis, Mo. and was baptized and made my First Communion at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish.

I have an older sister, Barb, who has two children: Laura is a high school chemistry and physics teacher at Parkway North and Luke is in college at Mizzou. Laura has three children: Harper five, Natalie three, and Tate, who was just born this last May. The other half of my family consists of my cats and my significant other, Warren. My parents now do their extensive socializing with their parents and friends in heaven.

I was involved in Partners in Mission years ago and Debbie Whited reintroduced me to it in 2016; I officially became a member in September of 2017. I enjoy spending my time with my Small Faith Community, Sacred Journey. I love sharing my own faith journey and being part of my fellow Partners’ journeys, as well. I also enjoy being with the Sisters in my group--Sisters Doris, Luella, and Marie--and hearing about their experiences.

My God-given talents are patience, compassion, and listening. My hobbies include reading, swimming, cooking, walking, gardening, exploring new places, and being with my family and friends.

-Anne McNally
God gave me the gift of life on January 24, 1933. I was born three and a half miles from Assumption Parish in O’Fallon, MO and I attended Assumption Parish for grades 1-5. My parents then bought my Grandpa’s farm and moved us to what is now Hwy P and placed us in St. Paul Parish and School. My family grew during those years and I became the third of ten children living through the Depression.

After 8th grade, I entered the Aspirancy of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood in O’Fallon; the school was closed after my Sophomore year. I returned at age 22 and became a Sister of the Most Precious Blood. Besides religious training, I was prepared to become a teacher and spent many happy years with 7th and 8th graders. I spent two years at St. Elizabeth Academy as a Guidance Counselor. This was followed by ten years of Vocation Recruitment and then teaching at St. Mary’s College for two years. At that time, I was also an organist at our Motherhouse.

With the changes of Vatican II, I felt called to parish work and became Director of Liturgy and Music at Incarnate Word Parish in Chesterfield for six years. With pastor changes, I then served at St. Charles Borromeo and spent several years there. Finally, in March 1992, I was asked to replace one of our Sisters as full-time organist and choir director, responsible for all liturgies at our Motherhouse. 1992-2015 were special times at the Motherhouse. We had a very good choir and for at least five of those years gave an Epiphany Concert for the public. Many of our Sisters teaching in St. Louis came to O’Fallon to practice for these concerts. Besides the choir, we also had handbells and liturgical dancers. I retired from this position on February 8, 2015.

After Vatican II, many musicians were eager to help one another and our parishes respond to the changes in the liturgy. The National Pastoral Musicians organization was in progress in St. Louis and I was a member. After I moved to O’Fallon, I sent a note in 1991 to musicians in this area and we began the Duchesne Branch of Pastoral Musicians. This group is still very active today.

I enjoy being a retiree and am in the Sacred Journey Small Faith Community with the Partners in Mission

Sr. Luella Dames.

Getting to Know Sr. Luella Dames

The members of our Outside the Gate Small Faith Community—Sr. Ruth Kertz, Sr. Esther Hogan, Sr. Marie Orf, Arline Nallon, Toni Dressel and Sandy Hosack—meet in O’Fallon on the first Thursday of each month.

Monthly gatherings begin with meditation, then sharing of our lives and prayer. Last year, we studied the Book of Ruth—we read scripture and shared our personal thoughts and interpretations of the message for application to our daily lives. This year we are studying the Book of Esther.

We conclude meetings with prayer requests from each attendee and then enjoy refreshments related to the month’s special events. On St. Pat’s Day we had Bailey’s Irish Cream and sweets, on Halloween, it was apple cider and candied apples.

The members of Outside the Gate are dedicated to each other and to our community. We share God’s word through our actions and our sincere love of each other. We dedicate ourselves to numerous charities and community service organizations and events.

Some examples of our outreach efforts are: St. Anthony’s Food Pantry, USO, Alzheimer’s Walk, MO Veteran’s Home, Salvation Army Bell Ringers, St. Louis Diaper Bank, Bakhtia Spiritual Companions of Survivors of Human Trafficking, St. Jude’s Research Hospital, Memphis Marathon, and Rho Chi auction and Dream Home.

- Sandy Hosack

Small Faith Community in the Spotlight:

Outside the Gate
New Partner in Mission Testimony

Linda Tonnies, one of the five new Partners in Mission to make their initial commitments this year, was unable to attend Assembly Day on September 8. While she did not get a chance to meet everyone in person, she shares the following testimony:

The Precious Blood Sisters have been a part of my life since I attended first grade at St. Clement School in Des Peres, MO. I am also a proud alum of St. Mary’s Academy and Junior College.

Last year a good friend invited me to think about becoming a Partner in Mission, so I joined Pathways. Kathi Flowers, Kasey Navratil, Mary Ann Zerr, and I met with Patti Belmont, Audrey, and Sr. Mary Cecile to begin our journey. Each week we met more of the Sisters who shared their stories and prayed with us.

The experience felt like a retreat and homecoming rolled into one. Thank you, Sisters!

It is truly a gift to become a Partner with you. I am looking forward to learning more from you and sharing in your spirituality of compassion, hope and hospitality.

-Linda Tonnies

Our Newsletter

It has been so much fun to publish this newsletter each quarter—one of the very best parts of my job! Part of what makes it so fun, is receiving your news and ideas—and getting to know you better in the process.

I want to encourage you to continue submitting material for publication. Both the Sisters and your fellow Partners enjoy reading about your accomplishments, what your Small Faith Community is involved in, how Partners in Mission has impacted your life, etc. Don’t be afraid to toot your own horn! Your experiences and activities may very well serve as an inspiration for someone else.

If you do not feel comfortable writing an article yourself, Carol Oldendorf and I are happy to help with that. If you have the idea, we will supply the words!

Remember, the Newsletter is ours; it belongs to all of us. With your great input, it will continue to be something we can all be proud of!

Thank you!

-Audrey Jungermann

Save The Dates / Event Reminders:
October 5—Bold Action Periodic Gathering*
October 12—CPPS Community Day
October 15—PIM Governing Board Meeting

November 3—Welcome Neighbor STL Fundraising Dinner
November 23—Bold Action Periodic Gathering*
December (Date TBD)—Christmas Cards to Detention Centers*

*Check the PB Updates for details from the Bold Action Committee