

On The Journey

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood



SUMMER 2019

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Cover photos:

Main photo: Sr. John Antonio Miller with a participant from the Cook Center.

Left bottom photo: Sr. Janice Bader, CPPS with Sr. Teresa Maya of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.

Right bottom photo: Employees and a participant from the Florissant Center.

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Summer is a time for celebrations. Graduations, weddings, and family reunions often dot the summer calendar. This issue of *On the Journey* features some of our celebrations as Sisters of the Most Precious Blood.



Toward the beginning of this magazine, you will find featured our Sisters who are celebrating sixty, seventy, seventy-five and eighty years as professed members of our community. We rejoice with them and give thanks for their remarkable, on-going, dedicated service to God's people.

We also share with you other, somewhat bittersweet, celebrations. In January our CPPS community officially entrusted our St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care Centers to the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. In March we celebrated our final dinner gala with our faithful donors. And, over the months since the last issue of *On the Journey*, we have celebrated the lives of three of our Sisters who have gone home to God.

On June 28, we gratefully noted the 80th anniversary of our Sisters' mission in Finland. In 1939, four Sisters departed with the assigned task of opening a school in Helsinki, Finland. After a stormy beginning at the outbreak of World War II, our ministry there flourished and grew. Two Sisters remain in Finland, contributing to the visible Catholic presence in this primarily Lutheran country.

Finally, it is with deep gratitude that we anticipate a year of celebrations: September 2019 to September 2020. This year will mark the 175th anniversary of our community's foundation in 1845 in Steinerberg, Switzerland and the 150th anniversary of our arrival in the United States. This anniversary year is a graced opportunity for us to step back and gratefully recognize God's abundant love and generosity to us. It is also a time for us to embrace the present with tenderness and to plan for our future with generosity of spirit. Please rejoice with us, and know that we are grateful that you accompany us on our journey.

Gratefully,

Sr. Janice

Sr. Janice Bader

Congratulations to our 2019 Jubilarians!

80TH



Sr. Mary Brendan Block

75TH



Sr. Mary Venard LeBeau



Sr. Mary Lou Roussin



Sr. Estelle Sullentrup

70TH



Sr. Josepha Bauer



Sr. Mary William Pezold



Sr. Marcella Scego



Sr. Rose Margaret Wessels

60TH



Sr. Robert Ann Harper



Sr. Helene Rueffer



Sr. Eileen Schieber

Join Us



September 8, 2019 – September 6, 2020 as we celebrate the 175th Anniversary year of the founding of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood.

We will be celebrating with various events so watch for more information coming soon.

Save The Date:

SEA Alumnae Reunion Luncheon



Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.
International Institute Hall of Nations
(former SEA Chapel)

Invitation coming soon!

St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care



Florissant



Arnold



Cook



Ste. Genevieve

When St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care Center (SEADCC) opened its doors in 1981, it was on the leading edge of a significant development in healthcare. A growing number of older adults were facing the prospect of moving into nursing homes, largely because their busy family members could not keep up with their care. Out of this need developed the adult day care concept. When St. Elizabeth's started, there were fewer than 2,000 such centers nationwide and just a handful in the state of Missouri. "St. Elizabeth Adult Daycare is a way to respond to human needs, share love, and help family members to feel secure when they are at work knowing that their loved one is being taken care of," said Sr. John Antonio.

In 1981, St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care opened its first site in a portion of the St. Elizabeth Academy building at 3401 Arsenal Street in St. Louis. It started with two participants. "We did it without knowing a thing about how to go about it," Sr. John said with a smile.

"We had all kinds of criteria, for instance people should provide their own transportation and feed themselves and do this and do that. If we had kept to that, we would have been out of business. On the very first day we had to provide transportation. On the second day, a participant could not feed herself. Every time we found something that didn't fit our criteria, we looked at it and changed our criteria."

Over the years, St. Elizabeth's grew from one site to eight sites, serving around 200 participants daily. Also St. Elizabeth's began welcoming younger people with a wide range of special needs. For some, SEADCC has been their home away from home for twenty or more years. Participants and staff have

become family to one another. As Sr. John says, "This is not a job. This is a ministry. It's a special calling to take care of people."

As we, the Precious Blood Sisters, realized that we would not be able to continue to direct this ministry into the future, we knew we had to identify someone who would continue this care in a similar spirit. We could not abandon the families who counted on SEADCC. Because of her previous contacts with the Incarnate Word Foundation, Sr. John suggested Incarnate Word as a possible new sponsor. After more than a year of conversations and negotiations, the Incarnate Word Sisters graciously accepted the responsibility of shepherding this ministry into the future.

We are deeply grateful to Sr. John Antonio for her initiative in founding this ministry and for her dedicated guidance and growth of this ministry for 37 years. Under her leadership, our community's core values of presence, hospitality, reconciliation and response to human needs were a lived reality.

We also are grateful to the Incarnate Word Sisters for carrying this work forward. They have committed to continuing this ministry with the spirit of service and adaptability that were Sr. John's hallmarks. Our community often speaks of our call to be Christ's continuing presence in the world and of our desire to recognize Christ's presence in others. The Incarnate Word Sisters have as their charism the call to make the love of God as shown in the Incarnation a real and tangible presence in the world. Different words - same spirit. We join them in praying that this ministry will continue to thrive and make Christ's continuing presence real and tangible in the lives of all the participants at SEADCC.



Overland



Lemay



Olivette



St. Charles

We Remember...
We Celebrate...
We Believe...



Sister Marilyn Schneider
1942 - 2018



Sister Bernadette Kleine
1923 - 2018



Sister Rose Marie Dobelman
1933 -2019

Did You Know?

Did you know that June 28, 2019, marks the 80th anniversary of our Sisters' departure for Finland. Their departure ceremony was held on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 28, 1939. The first Pioneer Sisters were: Sr. Wencesla Broz, Sr. Mary Linus Boehmer, Sr. Claremarie Weaver and Sr. Kostka Schnitzmeier. The four Sisters are pictured here with Bishop Coben and children at Stella Maris Camp, in Finland in 1939.



BOLD ACTION FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Our General Chapter in 2016 resulted in a Future Direction Statement which called us, **"to take bold action that transforms us, gives us energy, and unites us in working for peace and justice in our suffering world."**

ACTION UPDATE:

JANUARY

- ✓ Collection of shoelaces/belts for San Antonio. Immigrants and Refugees need these items because they are taken away at the border.
- ✓ Our Sisters wrote stories about families they have worked with and included some reflection questions for Sisters and Partners In Mission (PIM) to pray about.

FEBURARY

- ✓ PIM Winter Assembly Day: Several Sisters gave reports on their work with Spanish-speaking detainees at the Troy, MO jail.

MARCH

- ✓ Community Day: We collected socks for all ages for the Annunciation House in El Paso, TX.

APRIL

- ✓ We wrote letters to government officials with a message of gratitude for the work they do. We asked them to provide a pathway to citizenship for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients and people with Temporary Protected Status. Also, included in the letter was a promise of continued prayer for the officials and their work.

MAY

- ✓ Sent a donation to various Houses of Respite for people who are released by ICE into the southern border states/cities. These Houses of Respite provide food, clothing, shelter, and assistance with bus and airplane travel for sponsors or family members.
- ✓ Held our first Periodic gathering "Crisis Border: An Historical Perspective" by Marilyn Lorenz-Weinkauff addressing why people are coming to our border requesting asylum.



#1 - Members of the Bold Action committee with presenter Marilyn Lorenz-Weinkauff.

#2 - Sr. Rosemary Russell, Sr. Ginny Jaskiewicz, and PIM Susan Buerkle with our sock donations.

#3 - Sisters look at a map marked with pins to show the home countries of Immigrants and Refugees.

Partners In Mission, By Audrey Jungermann



Partners in Mission is a wonderful group of women and men who are brought together by a common love of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. Their mission is to carry on the legacy of the Sisters by deepening their relationship with God, each other, and the community to heal our suffering world.

Although I have been connected with the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood in some way for most of my life, working alongside of them has become a daily source of joy for me. Similarly, the Partners I have had the chance to know and work with pleasantly surprise me every day with their dedication to the Sisters and to their call to carry on this unique legacy. I am honored to serve the Sisters and the Partners in any way I can.

Since I was not already a Partner in Mission when I started my position, I was given the opportunity to complete the Pathways course with four others who are considering joining Partners in Mission. Through this course, candidates learn about the Sisters' history, their charism, and what it means to be a Partner in Mission. Once the course is completed, candidates decide whether to make the one-year commitment and become a Partner.

All Partners in Mission belong to a small faith community that meets once a month, October through May. At these monthly gatherings, Partners and Sisters share with one another, lift each other up in prayer, and participate in outreach activities that support the various ministries.

I am always happy to talk with individuals who are curious about Partners in Mission, and I invite anyone who may be interested to contact me: ajungermann@cpps-ofallon.org or 636-542-9479.

Prayer, Gathering & Giving Opportunities:

- Feb. & Sept Assembly Days
- Spiritual retreats & workshops
- Bold Action collections & event
- Trivia Night
- Summer BBQ
- St. Agatha's Food Pantry Christmas Party

CPPS Last Dinner Auction:

Thank you to everyone who has faithfully and generously supported the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood at one of our Dinner Auctions over the last 26 years. We are especially grateful to all who joined us for our last Auction on Saturday, March 23, 2019. We are so appreciative of those of you who have donated your time, items for the silent and oral auctions, gift cards, sponsored a Sister, contributed to our Fund-a-Need, and bought a ticket over the years. We could not have had these successful events without your help, so THANK YOU!





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PrayerProgram

The Mission Advancement Office of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood has prayer cards for various occasions. Sending one of our cards lets loved ones know that they will be remembered in a Mass offered the following month. We have prayer cards for all occasions including baby, congratulations, memorial, thinking of you, and wedding (*suggested donation of \$5*). For more information or to order some cards, please contact Marcia at 636-240-6010 ext. 273.

