



Partners on the Journey

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood Partners in Mission Newsletter

SUMMER 2019

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 13, 2019
Bold Action Committee
Sr. Mary Venard LeBeau
Immigration Work in Finland
St. Joseph's Chapel, West Side

July 31, 2019
Governing Board Member
Nominations Due

August 10, 2019
Partners' Summer Picnic
St. Joseph Parish Hall,
Cottleville, MO

August 27, 2019
Governing Board Meeting

September 8, 2019
Assembly Day and
Opening of 175th
Anniversary Year

September—Date TBA
SFC Leaders Workshop

October 12, 2019
CPPS Fall Community Day
St. Joseph's Chapel, West Side

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Grandparenting as Sanctuary



After sharing these insights with her Small Faith Community Carol was encouraged to write this article.

A challenge presented to us at the February 2 Assembly Day was how we might be a "Sanctuary" to others. Since going to the Southern border to assist is impossible, I pondered this real question for myself. As "Grandma Momo", I now have an almost 14 year-old grandson who is providing many challenges to his parents. He is seeking his independence, confronting peer pressure, and finding friendships and his own identity. At

times he is very strong-willed and frequently upsets the household.

I have also been reading a great book by Parker Palmer, "On the Brink of Everything". One idea put forth by this author is that we do not share honestly our own struggles, failures, or the hard times we faced in our past. Most of us share only the "positive stuff" with our children, hoping to motivate them. Thus, our youth come to know us as always making right choices.

Connecting this idea to becoming a sanctuary has become a workable goal for me. I want my grandson to feel safe

sharing with me and I with him. As I reflect back to my teen years, I find I have a number of real stories to share: Anger at my parents for discipline I received; feeling that I was never popular, pretty enough, or smart enough; trying out for cheerleading, Advanced Chorus, and the play my freshman year and being rejected for all three.

As I attempt to create this honest dialogue with my grandson, I pray for guidance from St. Anne, Grandmother of Jesus. I wonder if she provided him with stories and if she became his mentor.

-Carol Jung

Spread the Good Word!

We want to invite new women and men who wish to formally associate themselves with the CPPS religious community, their mission, and spirituality to join Partners in Mission.

How do we share Partners in Mission and the Pathways program with others? Spread the word! Before you begin, think about what your message is. Pray for the right words to use. When speaking about Partners in Mission, share our Mission Statement:

"We, the CPPS Partners in Mission, 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 suffering world."

I challenge all Partners to start up a conversation about Pathways and our Mission Statement with one new person each week. Describe how Partners in Mission has affected your life. Emphasize the importance of the CPPS Commu-

nity and share the benefits of Small Faith Communities. I personally have experienced spiritual growth, new friendships, greater understanding and love of others, and a much greater sense of community. I now feel called to encourage others as I have been encouraged. Partners in Mission has brought a special form of closeness to my life that I would be lost without.

Explain that being a Partner is part of a much larger calling from God. Motivate others with your excitement! Smiles and enthusiasm are contagious. If you are passionate about Partners, it will shine through in conversation.

If you know someone curious about Partners in Mission, please direct them to: Audrey Jungermann 636-542-9479 or ajungermann@cppsadmin-ofallon.org

-Carol Oldendorf

Getting to Know...

Sr. Marie Fennewald



Sr. Marie Fennewald

I was born and raised in Martinsburg, a small community in the middle of Missouri, with a population of just over 325 people. Our lives centered around two blocks in this small town with the Catholic church as the landmark. I lived across the street from St. Joseph grade school and two blocks from the convent and church. Growing up, I was often at the school helping the sisters with various projects. It was what drew me to become a sister; they always seemed so happy.

I am the oldest of 13 children; three children died as infants. Family gatherings can now have as many as 35 people. Everyone has a good time,

which is what our home was like. My mother was an excellent cook and always had homemade cookies or cake for us after school. Our home was always busy, and because we were close to the school, other children would wander over to our yard to play. My dad built homes, each with his own personal touch, and we often visited them.

I entered the Precious Blood community in 1964 and taught in elementary schools for 47 years. I enjoyed teaching the younger children in grades 1-3 in Wentzville, Florissant, High Ridge, Bridgeton, St. Paul, and Macon, Missouri, and in San Antonio, Texas. I tried to make learning fun

with games and creative activities.

Six years ago, I retired from teaching and worked for four years in the Ecclesiastical Arts Department. Those four years taught me to cherish each moment and to see beauty in new ways.

In 2016 I was elected to the Leadership Team. It is a blessing to be able to serve the community as we move forward as Precious Blood Sisters.

-Sr. Marie Fennewald

Sr. Marie is a member of Sacred Journey Small Faith Community.

A Story of Immigrant Dignity & Assistance



Jeanne & Bob Palombo

As a volunteer van driver, I just dropped off 20 immigrants at the McAllen, Texas bus station to help them continue their journey from the border to their sponsor family in the US. There I encountered a young girl that ICE brought to the bus station who needed to go to the Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley Humanitarian Center. I introduced myself in my very limited Spanish. She was young, tiny, and eight months pregnant. Driving her back to the Humanitarian Center, it hit me: This vulnerable, tiny girl was just apprehended by Border Patrol, interviewed by an Asylum Officer, and was now travelling with a strange man, alone, to an unknown

location after dark. All she could do was trust me. But during our silent trip, a bond formed and upon arrival at the Humanitarian Center she reached out and held my hand. It took a special effort to keep my emotions in check.

As we entered the Center amid the chaos from the arrival of the day's 400 new immigrants, I escorted the young girl to my dear friend, Debbie Wilhelm. With tender nurturing Debbie fed and cared for the girl, and without a word of Spanish she was able to communicate through the universal language of love: Compassion.

Debbie and I shared many similar stories every night.

We decided to volunteer at the Humanitarian Center just to do God's will, to quietly and humbly serve others. The immigrants we encountered were to a person tired, hungry, sick, in need of a shower, and without belongings, yet very grateful and appreciative of the simplest assistance.

This is life-changing work and because of the CPPS Bold Action program I will be returning soon for my third ten-day volunteer session.

-Bob Palombo,
Husband of Partner Jeanne Palombo

Featured Governing Board Member

Mary Reynolds



Mary Reynolds

Governing Board Chair

I was born in St. Louis and raised in suburban North County. I attended St. William Catholic elementary school and Berkeley High. I met my husband while in high school and we married while I was a student at UMSL earning my degree in accounting. 36 years later, we have 4 sons and 4 grandchildren. Spend-

ing time with my large, loud, and loving family is my favorite activity. We enjoy Sunday dinners often and take a vacation together every year. In my job as Director of Finance at Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service, I get to see the gospel lived out every weekday. I am abundantly blessed in both my family and my career.

Mustard Seeds, my Small Faith Community, has been together for 7 years. Our gatherings bring me back to my spiritual center. The time I spend with them fills me with love and hope and reminds me of Christ's reconciling presence. My spirit is also energized each time I meet with my spiritual advisor. I began seeing her a few years ago, and in that time the awareness of my own spirituality has significantly improved. I encourage all Partners to accept the offer to meet with a spiritual advisor provided by the Sisters.

I was one of the original Partners in

Mission Governing Board members, appointed in 2015. When the invitation first went out to consider serving on the Board, I prayed before responding. I had lots of excuses for NOT serving: I was too busy, travelled too much, had too many family responsibilities. In the end, I found I couldn't ignore the calling and I took the leap. In the four years since, I have learned a lot about myself and have developed deep relationships with my fellow Board members, as our group operates as a quasi-Small Faith Community.

My hope as I serve as Chair of the Governing Board is for Partners in Mission to grow and prosper. I consider my relationship with the CPPS Community a rich blessing, and I love to share it with those I encounter in my daily life.

-Mary Reynolds

Small Faith Community in the Spotlight:

Listening Hearts

Meet the Listening Hearts: Sr. Lucy Meissen, Sharon Plankenhorn, Debbie Whited, Tim Whited, Daphne Wieser and Mary Jo Williams.

The retreat facility in Southern Texas, *Lebh Shomea*, Hebrew for "listening heart", provided the inspiration for our name. We have listened to "the cry of the poor" by collecting personal care items each month for St. Agatha and St. Anthony's pantries and by adopting a family at Christmas time.

Listening Hearts lives out our charism of reconciliation by being fully present to one another at our monthly gatherings, taking turns leading our Small Faith Community. When one of our group is missing, we feel the loss of their presence that evening just like any other family misses a member when they

are gone. Prayers always go out to those who are absent, and those prayers are felt even though the person is not physically present.

Through encouragement and sharing, Listening Hearts are better able to be more open to those around us by reaching out to refugees, family, co-workers, and friends with hospitality, encouragement, and deeper listening.

We continue to shape, challenge, and grow as individuals and as a Small Faith Community.

Being Listening Hearts opens us to a greater sense of being a part of The Body of Christ.

-Mary Jo Williams



Front row, left to right: Sharon Plankenhorn, Tim Whited, Mary Jo Williams

Back row, left to right: Debbie Whited, Daphne Weiser, Sr. Lucy Meissen

Governing Board Nominations Due Soon

Reminder: This year, two of the current six members of the Partners in Mission Governing Board will rotate off and two new members will be elected to complete the Board. Partners are invited to prayerfully consider nominating a fellow Partner or themselves for one of these spots. **Susan Buerkle, Nomination Chairperson, will be accepting nominations until July 31, 2019.** Susan can be reached at:

susan.buerkle.cppspim@gmail.com or 314-707-3227 (call or text). Elections will be held at our Annual Assembly Day on Sunday, September 8, 2019.

Governing Board members serve terms of at least 3 years. The board meets a total of five times during the year:

Three evening meetings at the Precious Blood Center in O'Fallon in February, August, and October, and two Saturday retreats (a spiritual retreat in April and a planning retreat in June) at Meadowlark in Warrenton.

Service on the Governing Board offers a wonderful opportunity to help direct the future of Partners in Mission.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to a board member, a sister advisor, or the director:

Mary Reynolds, Dawn Boschert, Susan Buerkle, Carol Oldendorf, Denis Wilhelm, Patti Belmont, Sr. Janice Bader, Sr. Ginny Jaskiewicz, Sr. Doris Rechteine, or Audrey Jungermann.

-Audrey Jungermann

Save Bottlecaps, Save the Planet!

Partners in Mission have been busy collecting bottle caps to be recycled into playground benches. Penny Clay, who taught at St. Mary's Academy and College when Sister Joan Klaas taught at the College, collects the caps for her city, Charleston, IL. Partners are joining the effort to help a fabulous program there at Hawthorne School.

Students at the school have been collecting bottle caps to make a bench for their playground. The school, which serves special education students from 14 to 22 years of age, is enrolled in the Neil

Armstrong Recycling Program. It takes about 1000 pounds of bottle caps to produce a bench. Students have collected 3,625 pounds of plastic!

The students take so much pride in this program! It teaches them what it is like to have a job and the many life lessons that go with that. A bench is tangible and visual and allows students to see results of their efforts. An added bonus: The caps don't end up in landfills!

Let's help support this wonderful program by saving

bottle caps now. When you have a Ziplock bag filled, bring it to Abbey Senior Health for Sister Joan. When Penny comes to visit Sister Joan, she will pick up the caps. Sister Rose Margaret collects many from the folks at St. Agatha's.

-Carol Oldendorf



CPPS History Corner - by Karen Cella

Mother Theresa Weber, baptized Magdalena, was born on July 7, 1822 in Glotterhal, Germany. As a teenager, she attended a parish mission in Blodelsheim on the Rhine where she joined a group of twelve other young women who longed to be religious. They became the nucleus of a new community that arrived in Steinerberg, Switzerland on September 8, 1845.

At age 23, Magdalena was chosen Superior as "Mother Theresa". She is considered the foundress of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. Mother Theresa introduced perpetual adoration of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. She counseled her sisters saying, "Your hearts must be empty when you go to Holy Communion so that Jesus can pour riches into them and you may bring forth the fruit of eternal life". The Sisters felt loved by Mother Theresa who was patient, kind, and considerate with a childlike humility. Mother Theresa guided the community through its initial trials, such as the unexplained illness that took the lives of many of the sisters.

In early June 1848, the Supreme Cantonal Council decreed the secularization of the women's convent in Steinerberg. The Sisters left Steinerberg on August 23, 1848 with Mother Theresa weak and mortally ill. She died that same day at Sattel and was buried in Steinerberg with 26 other sisters. The remaining sisters went into exile in Ottmarsheim, France.

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 suffering 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 Rechteine, Sr. Advisor

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Save The Dates:

Sr. Mary Venard LeBeau Bold Action Lecture, July 13, 2019

Partners' Summer Picnic - August 10, 2019

Assembly Day - Sunday, September 8, 2019

SFC Leaders' Workshop - September, Date TBA

CPPS Fall Community Day - October 12, 2019