

On The Journey

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood



SPRING 2020



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Cover photos:
Foundation in Steinerberg, Switzerland; a photo of the Sisters before they left for America, and a current photo of our Sisters on February 2, 2020.

Editor: Leah Wand
Consulting Editor: Marcia Schmitz
Designer: Debbie Groesch, Groesch Graphics,
314-304-1876

Contact Information:
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon
Leah Wand, Mission Advancement Director
204 North Main Street
O'Fallon, MO 63366-2299
636-240-6010
lwand@cpps-ofallon.org

For more information about the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood and their mission, please visit www.cpps-ofallon.org.

Dear Friends,

ALL IS GIFT! These three words have been a constant refrain in our prayer and our conversations throughout these past months. The theme of our 2019 - 2020 Jubilee year, these words are a reminder to us that our entire history is a gift from our loving God who has been our faithful Companion through times of joy and times of sorrow.

The 2019-2020 year includes several milestone anniversaries for our community.

- the 175th anniversary of our foundation in Steinerberg, Switzerland
- the 150th anniversary of our presence in the United States
- the 80th anniversary of our sisters' service in Finland
- the 60th anniversary of our sisters' service in Bolivia



The 175th anniversary year opened on September 8, 2019, with a Eucharist celebrated by Archbishop Robert Carlson. (See page 5 for photos.) Our Sisters renewed their vows and our Partners in Mission renewed their annual commitment. We welcomed six new Partners in Mission who made their first commitment. We gave thanks for all Sisters and Partners, living and deceased. Each is a gift!



On February 2, 2020, we celebrated the 150th anniversary of our presence in the United States and the Golden Jubilee of Sister María Jesús Montaña Cortadellas. (See page 5 for photos.) We recalled the courage of the nine young German women who emigrated to the U.S. in 1870 and recognized the bravery of Bolivian Sister María Jesús who chose to cast her lot with this primarily North American community in 1970. We give thanks - they are gift!

On July 1, we will celebrate the Feast of the Most Precious Blood and give thanks for the gift of our Sisters who are celebrating their 60th, 70th or 75th anniversary of profession. (See page 8 for photos.) Their years of service brought countless blessings to them personally, to our community, and to those with whom they ministered. We give thanks - they are gift!

On September 6, 2020, we will bring the year of celebration to a close with a "Steinerfest." We will gather at 11:00 a.m. that day for the Eucharist followed by a German meal in honor of our founding sisters. We invite you to join us. We give thanks for you - you are gift! (See page 10 for more details.)

These 175 years include the time of foundation, the time of growth and expansion, and this present time of significant change. Though we may be fewer in number and may no longer have the youthful energy of our founding sisters, our zeal for mission has not diminished. We continue to offer ourselves in prayer and service. As we move into the future, we do not know what it may hold, but we do know Who holds the future. We move forward with deep trust and gratitude knowing that **ALL WILL BE GIFT.**

Gratefully,

Sr. Janice

Sr. Janice Bader
Superior General

Who are Partners in Mission?

CPPS Partners in Mission is a lay associate group of men and women dedicated to carrying on the legacy of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. Their overall mission is to bring Christ's reconciling presence to the world, and, in a more focused way, to their communities, families, and individuals they encounter every day.

Every Partner belongs to one of several Small Faith Communities. These small groups, each with their own individual personality, are the core and the strength of Partners in Mission. Each year a guiding "direction statement" is chosen. To go along with the Sisters' anniversary year theme of, "All Is Gift" this year, the Partners chose as their theme, "Recognizing our gifts, living our mission". And that is exactly what Partners in Mission do.

Within Small Faith Communities deep bonds are formed, faith experiences are shared, and events are attended. Members participate in a broad range of outreach ministries, such as working at local food pantries and giving assistance to the elderly. Some Partners are very active in the causes they support, collecting needed supplies and even travelling to our southern border to work at humanitarian centers. Partners make a difference!

Some activities, like the annual Trivia Night and the summer BBQ, are just plain fun.



Community Day Collection



Trivia Night



Annual St. Agatha's Christmas Party

Partners have also become involved with the Sisters' historic preservation efforts, training as docents and giving tours of St. Joseph Chapel.

The road to becoming a Partner in Mission begins with a conversation and an invitation to attend monthly "Pathways" classes, from May to October. During this period of exploration, candidates learn about Partners in Mission and the Sisters' history, charism, and ministries. They also discover something about themselves and where they are on their journey. After completing Pathways, candidates discern whether to make a one-year commitment to become a Partner and join a Small Faith Community.

Anyone interested in learning more about Partners in Mission is encouraged to contact Director Audrey Jungermann at ajungermann@cpps-ofallon.org, or 636-542-9479.

A Year of Celebrations

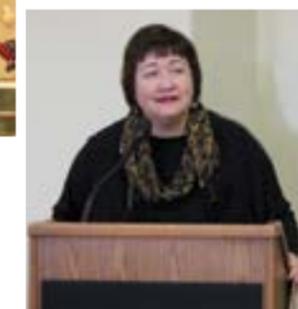
September 8, 2019

On September 8, 2019, we celebrated a special Mass to mark the opening of the 175th anniversary of our foundation in Steinerberg, Switzerland. Archbishop Carlson joined us as we thanked God that "All Is Gift," and three women made their commitment as Partners in Mission. At this Mass, our Sisters took the opportunity to renew their vows, and Partners renewed their commitment to the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood.



February 2, 2020

February 2, 2020, marked the 150th Anniversary of our arrival in the United States. We commemorated this day with a Mass that was made even more special by the renewal of vows of our Sr. María Jesús Montaña Cortadellas on her 50th Jubilee of being a Sister of the Most Precious Blood. Afterward, our guests joined us for a reception where the Mayor of O'Fallon made a proclamation and a donation was given to the International Institute of St. Louis, both in honor of our 175th Anniversary.



CPPS through the years: 1845 – 2020



1845 - On September 8, twelve women along with Rev. Karl Rolfus founded the "Congregation of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament" in Steinerberg, Switzerland.



1870 - The first group of nine Sisters left Gurtweil, Germany, on February 2. They embarked on the ship, Hammonia, bound for America.

1875 - The Sisters arrived in O'Fallon, MO, and established their new convent home in June 1875, where they remain until this day.

1878 - On March 23, 1878, the Community was incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri as a teaching body, with the right of succession, under the title of St. Mary's Institute. In December, the Normal School for Teachers was opened and would later be called St. Mary's College.



1882 - St. Elizabeth Institute, later named St. Elizabeth Academy, opened in St. Louis, MO.



1939 - Sisters Kostka Schnitzmeier, Wenceslas Broz, Claremarie Weaver and Mary Linus Boehmer traveled to Finland, the community's first foreign mission, to open a school. However, the opening of The English School was postponed until 1945 due to the outbreak of the war. During the war, the Sisters took care of children and elderly women.

1957 - It was decided that the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood would expand their ministries to Latin America. Sisters Mary Fulgence Rascher, Agatha Marie Hanneken, and Doris Rechiene were the first Sisters missioned to Lima, Peru.

1859 - Church embroidery was begun in Gurtweil, Germany. It would later be called the Ecclesiastical Art Department. The vestments can be found all over the world.



1959 - A mission in La Paz, Bolivia, was founded in August by Sisters Christine Foeller, Christopher Fiala and John Bosco Sanders.

1962 - St. Mary's Academy in O'Fallon was opened.

1966 - Linda Vista Montessori School started in Chesterfield, MO.



1980 - St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care Center was established.

1990 - Partners in Mission was created and the first "Partners" were received. Currently there are 100 men and women who are committed to this prayerful relationship.

1993 - The Center for Professional and Pastoral Services was created to incorporate the ministries of Sisters who serve in art, counseling, and spiritual direction.

2009 - The renovation of the O'Fallon Motherhouse to senior apartments began on February 2. The first Sisters moved into their apartments in September.



2013 - The Sisters began planning with the Franciscan Sisters of Mary for Collaborative Governance - a new model that will provide for administration when there are no longer Sisters able to serve in leadership.

2017 - The Sisters' 2016 General Chapter called them "to take bold action that transforms us, gives us energy and unites us in working and praying for peace and justice in our suffering world." In 2017 they chose Immigrants and Refugees as the focus of their Bold Action.

2020 - February 2, 2020, the Sisters celebrated the 150th Anniversary of their arrival in the United States. September 8, 2020, marks the 175th Anniversary of their foundation.



Congratulations to Our Jubilarians

75th



Sr. Luanna Brucks



Sr. Mary Joan Dyer

70th



Sr. Alice Falk

60th



Sr. Margaret Bollner



Sr. Marjorie Cordes



Sr. Charlene Grieshaber

50th



Sr. María Jesús Montaña Cortadellas



Sr. Joan Klaas



Sr. Barbara Payne



Sr. Joanne Reuter



Sr. Joyce Schramm



Sr. Michaleen Vomund



Sr. Paulette Weindel

BOLD ACTION!

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.”** We selected Immigrants and Refugees as that Bold Action focus.

One of our goals is to educate and make people more aware of the plight that Immigrants and Refugees face. These are just a few ways we are trying to do this:

Speaker Series:

- ◆ July 13, 2019 – Sr. Mary Venard LeBeau, CPPS, spoke about African Migrants in Finland
- ◆ October 5, 2019 – Partners in Mission, Bob Palombo and Debbie Wilhelm shared their experience volunteering at the McAllen Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, TX; and Susan Bruker and Susan Buerkle shared about their time at the Annunciation House shelter in El Paso, TX.
- ◆ November 23, 2019 – Peter Bell, SJ, who is a Jesuit Scholastic, shared his experiences ministering to migrant families at Oscar Romero House in El Paso, TX.
- ◆ February 15, 2020 – Sisters María Jesús Montaña Cortadellas, Rosa María Ludeña Cordova, and Maria Luz Mejia Vásquez spoke on working with migrants in Bolivia and Peru.



Our South American Sisters who spoke on February 15, 2020.

Sign on our Property:

- ◆ A sign was placed on our property for National Migration Week 2020 to proclaim our commitment to support and stand with Immigrants and Refugees and to promote that others join us in this effort.



www.cpps-ofallon.org

- ◆ Visit our website in the Immigration & Refugee tab to learn more about how you can join us in our Bold Action.

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



Sr. Rose Marie Mersinger
April 3, 1932 -
November 17, 2019



Sr. Janet Voss
September 20, 1941 -
December 11, 2019



Sr. Doris Rechiene
August 9, 1931 -
December 19, 2019

Save The Date

Steinerfest

Sunday, September 6, 2020

11:00 a.m. Mass

Followed by our 175th
Birthday Party on the
O'Fallon grounds.

Invitations coming soon!



SEA Alumnae Luncheon



Thank you to all of our St. Elizabeth Academy Alumnae who joined us for our annual luncheon on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019.



Did You Know?

In 1945, when we celebrated the centennial of our foundation, there were 306 sisters in the community. Seven of them are still alive today: Sr. Mary Brendan Block, Sr. Marie (then Alvita) Loeffler, Sr. Mary Vénard LeBeau, Sr. Mary Lou (then Rosella) Roussin, Sr. Estelle (then Tarcisia) Sullentrup, Sr. Mary Joan Dyer, and Sr. Luanna Brucks. Sr. Mary Joan and Sr. Luanna are celebrating their 75th anniversary of profession this summer on July 1st.



O'Fallon Motherhouse in 1945.

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood

Night at Busch Stadium

St. Louis Cardinals
vs.
Pittsburgh Pirates

Friday, May 29, 2020

Tickets are \$30 - Transportation from O'Fallon is \$16

For more info call 636-240-6010 or visit www.cpps-ofallon.org





Sisters of the Most Precious Blood

204 North Main St.
O'Fallon, MO 63366-2299

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Please join us in praying our 175th Anniversary Prayer

Faithful God,

Your love is precious and we are awestruck that you chose us, a small, simple community to be instruments of healing in our suffering world.

As we celebrate your faithfulness this year, help us to remember, All Is Gift.