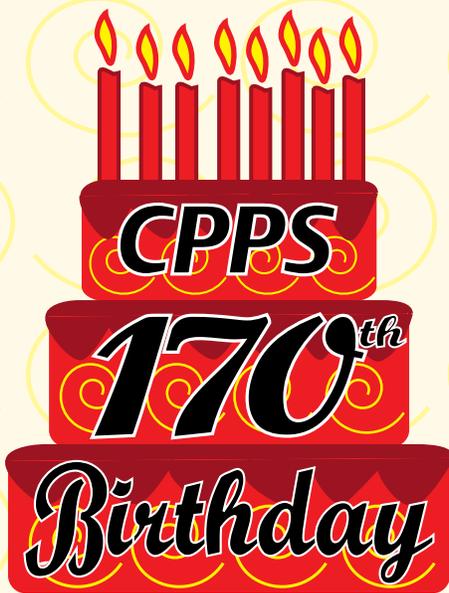


On The **Journey**

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon

Celebrating



Summer 2015

Table of CONTENTS

3 A Message from Sister Fran Raia, CPPS

4 International Institute



5 Seder



6 CPPS Through the Years 1845-2015

8 Jubilarians



9 Congratulations



10 Auction



11 Baseball Game



*We Remember...
We Celebrate...
We Believe!*



Sr. Annikki Rauhamaki
January 5, 2015

*To make a donation in memory of this Sister please visit
www.cpps-ofallon.org.*

Cover Photos

Top Left: SEA Alumnae Kathleen Lordo and Jane Keuss

Top Right: Jan Peirick and Bob Brewer

Center Left: Sisters Charlene Grieshaber & Luella Dames

Center: Wayne and Alan Faust

Center Right: Sr. Geraldine Vogel

Bottom Left: SEA Alumnae Class of 77: Erin Donovan, Patty Nieters, Peggy Cribbin, Karen Murphy, Teresa Kelly, Sandy Hayes, Diane Hadler, Jane Cole, and Anna Rice

Bottom Right: Hubert and Bonnie Molitor with Sr. Esther Hogan

On The **Journey**

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



Dear Friends,

What a wonderful birthday party we had at our auction on March 28! It was more like a family reunion with seeing people who have been “related” to our Sisters for many years as well as new friends that came to celebrate our 170 years as a congregation.

In 1845 a few young German women gathered in Steinerberg, Switzerland, in response to God’s call to pray for a country in turmoil. Today, our Sisters with many dedicated lay persons, continue the mission of reconciliation and service to God’s people. Each participant in the birthday party had a story about their experience of being with our Sisters in a school, a parish, in a small town or in the city. It would be great to hear those stories.

As you read this letter and browse the magazine, know that you are a part of our mission. Through your prayer for and with us; through your support and donations, we can reach out to those persons forgotten by our society; we can reach out to the poor, the stressed, and the lonely.

Our Sisters send you our Blessing prayer as our thanks and appreciation:
May the Blessing of the Lord be upon you, we bless you in the name of the Lord.
Gratefully,

Sr. Fran Raia, Superior General

Did you know?

Did you know that the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood had their highest membership in 1967 with 612 members.

Pictured left to right: Sr. Barb Schlatter, Sr. Aurea Meierholtz†, Sr. Robert Ann Harper, former member Nancy Ledermann, Sr. Imelda Henke†, and Sr. Carmen Schnyder



Reflection: International Institute of St. Louis

By, Sr. Susan Borgel

The day I was scheduled to go to the International Institute of St. Louis to be interviewed as a tutor I was ambivalent about entering the building where our Sisters had educated young women for 131 years. St. Elizabeth Academy (SEA) had been a significant ministry both for our community and for me. However, when SEA's enrollment decreased to the point that there was no longer a sufficient number of students to sustain the school, the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood closed the school and sold the property to the International Institute.

As I drove to the scheduled interview, poignant memories of the many young women, dedicated parents, and faithful alumnae who graced my life during my years of ministry at SEA flowed through my heart and mind. I gave thanks for them and for the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood who, sustained by God's love, had poured forth their prayers, sweat, and tears to create a school that developed the successful woman inside each girl.

Walking up the front steps of the Arsenal Street entrance, I noticed that the SEA name had been removed and a ramp had been added for handicap access. Once inside the building, I saw that the honored SEA seal was replaced with a hardwood floor. As sadness began to swell in my heart, I looked up and saw the people, the clients of the International Institute. It seemed to me that there were women and men from every nation under heaven, each speaking in her/his own language.

I thought, "This is a Pentecost! God has used us to provide a place for refugees and immigrants to get the assistance they need to live in freedom in the United States." Just then one of the employees of the Institute welcomed me and said how happy the clients are with this new space. She said, "This new space is so good for us. The refugees and immigrants who come here say that they feel very special to be able to meet in such a beautiful place."

I now know in my heart that the spirit of the Sisters and those women and men who served with us to affirm and empower the SEA family still lives here.



Bleh Htoo, Sr. Susan Borgel, Dahaba Libab, and Abbey Semme during a tutoring session.



The Seder

On Tuesday, April 7, 2015, Villa Theresa residents including many Sisters of the Most Precious Blood attended a Jewish Seder Ritual commemorating the feast of Passover, led by Michael and Diane Packman and their daughter Amanda. This year, Jewish Passover began on the evening of April 4, 2015, which was also Holy Saturday for Christians.

What is Passover? Remember the story of Moses leading the Jewish people out of slavery to freedom? Moses pleaded with Pharaoh to “let my people go.” He refused and the people experienced the “Ten Plagues.” Pharaoh finally said “Yes” and the Israelites fled quickly. God was with the Jewish people and is still with them to this day. The Seder “meal” commemorates this deliverance of the Jewish people through prayers, scripture, Jewish songs and special foods that have meaning to the story.

CPPS through the years: 1845 – 2015



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.

1859 – Church embroidery was begun in Gurtweil, Germany. It would later be called the Ecclesiastical Art Department. It is still in operation today; having made vestments for all over the world.



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, to claim their new convent home in June, 1875, where they remain till 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. In 1957, Sisters Mary Fulgence Rascher, Agatha Marie Hanneken, and Doris Rechtiene were the first Sisters missioned to Lima, Peru.



1959 – A mission in La Paz, Bolivia, was founded in August of 1959 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.



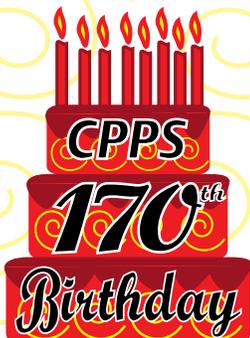
1980 – St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care Center was established. It is still in operation today with eight locations.

1990 – The Partners in Mission Program was created and the first “Partners” were received. Currently there are 74 men and women who are committed to this prayerful relationship.

1993 - The Center for Professional and Pastoral Services was created to incorporate several Sisters who minister in art, counseling, and spiritual direction into this sponsored institution.

2007 – St. Mary’s Institute was officially entered into the National Registry of Historic Places.

2009 - A ground breaking ceremony was held for the Village of St. Mary’s on February 2, and the first Sisters moved into their renovated apartments at Villa Theresa in September.



2015 – On September 8, the community will celebrate its 170th anniversary of its foundation.

Jubilarians 2015

75th



Sr. Ann Hipp

70th



Sr. Luanna Brucks



Sr. Mary Joan Dyer

60th



Sr. Joan Oberle



Sr. Loretta Luecke



Sr. M. Frances Therese
Hansman



Sr. Mary Ann Averbeck

50th



Sr. Carol Boschert



Sr. Ellen Orf



Sr. JoAnn Faust



Sr. Mary Beth Kemper



Sr. Rosemary Russell

Congratulations



Congratulations to Sr. Barb Schlatter on winning First Prize and \$500 from the Wednesday Club of Saint Louis for her poem "Picking the Beans". Here is the award winning poem:



Congratulations to Debbie Whited on being selected as the first lay Director of the CPPS Partners In Mission Program.

Picking The Beans

Returning to our yard
just after dawn,
I see the beans.

I need to pick beans daily
or the task overwhelms,
making any position—

bent over, kneeling, sitting—
too much of a strain.
I didn't pick the beans yesterday
or the days before.

Now,
I bow to these green beans

hanging full on each bush
like fingers, long, cool, smooth,
alive on their stems.

They surprise my hands,
that, only hours before,
let go of my father.



A continuum-of-care retirement
community located on the Sisters of the
Most Precious Blood's campus.

For a brochure or to
make an appointment
for a tour, please contact
Julie Wiltse at
636-240-5754.
www.villatheresa.org





Many Thanks!

The Dinner Auction celebrating the Sisters 170th Birthday on Saturday, March 28, 2015, was a great success. Everything from the venue, to the weather, to the energy in the room was wonderful. “It felt like a reunion of old friends,” said Sr. Fran Raia, Superior. Thank you to everyone who contributed in some way to this event. Your support is greatly appreciated.



1. Sr. Carol Orf, portraying the foundress of the community Mother Theresa Weber. 2. Balloon and Wine & Dine Raffles. 3. Jim Wand, Shannon Volkmer, and John Harrell stop to pose for a photo. 4. Cardinal Baseball Silent Auction item. 5. Sr. Joanne Reuter, Barb Hummel and Sr. Michaleen Vomund 6. Jeanne and Bob Palombo and Sr. Lucy Meissen stop chatting to smile for a photo. 7. Our auctioneer Don Parr and his wife Sandra look at silent auction items. 8. Juanita Kunzler, Sr. Robert Ann Harper, Sr. LaVerne Wester, and Mary Wankum catch up at the event.

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us next year on Saturday, March 19, 2016, at Old Hickory Golf Club.

Night at Busch Stadium Fundraiser

**Sisters of the Most Precious Blood Night at Busch Stadium
Cardinals VS Cubs - Friday, June 26 at 7:15
Tickets are \$40 - Transportation from O'Fallon is \$15.
For more information call Marcia at:
636-240-6010 or visit www.cpps-ofallon.org**

In honor of the Sisters 170th Birthday we are collecting notes of thanks, memories, or recollections about the impact the Sisters have had on your life.

Please send these into the Mission Advancement Office to be used in the future.

Email them to lwand@cpps-ofallon.org or mail to Attn: Leah Wand, 204 North Main Street, O'Fallon, MO 63366 and please include your name.

Here is an example of a note we have received:

*Congratulations on your 170th Birthday! I am so proud to admit I've known the Community since I was 5 years old and I am now 77! You have given me many blessings during the years!
Love in Christ - Arline Long*

On The **Journey**

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon

204 North Main

O'Fallon, MO 63366-2299

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*If you no longer wish to receive this publication,
please call Marcia at 636-240-6010 or email her at
mschmitz@cpps-ofallon.org.

In honor of our deceased Sisters...

What: Remember all of the Sisters who have gone before us, by making a donation to put flowers on their graves.

When: The Sisters of the Most Precious Bloods 170th Birthday - September 8, 2015.

How: Use the envelope provided in this publication, donate online at www.cpps-ofallon.org, or send us a check made out to the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. Please put "Cemetery Flowers" in the memo section.