

# On The Journey

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood



## ECCLIASTICAL ART DEPARTMENT



FALL/WINTER 2018



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**Cover photos:**  
 Top Left: Sisters in our Ecclesiastical Art Department in 1938.  
 Top Right: Hands of one of our Sisters working in the Ecclesiastical Art Department.  
 Bottom Left: One of the many designs from the Ecclesiastical Art Department.  
 Bottom Right: Sr. Suzanne Besancenez demonstrates how she creates such beautiful artwork for Sr. Marysia Weber R.S.M.

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





**Sister Joan Schnorbus**  
June 9, 2018



**Sister Bonaventure McManus**  
August 9, 2018



**Sister Gregory Heggemann**  
August 14, 2018

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For more information about the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood and their mission, please visit [www.cpps-ofallon.org](http://www.cpps-ofallon.org).

### Dear Friends,

In 1858, our Sisters were struggling to make ends meet. They had recently returned to their German homeland after being exiled to France from our foundation in Switzerland. Father Herman Kessler, the chaplain, thought it would be helpful if the Sisters could begin making vestments to supplement their meager resources. He brought in a woman skilled in ecclesiastical embroidery to teach the Sisters. The rest, as they say, is history.



For 160 years (1858-2018) our Sisters created exquisite works of art through cycles of growth and struggle. Hand-stitched faces of Jesus, Mary and the saints rival paintings by the Masters in their attention to shading and detail. Vestments, albs, altar linens and every type of ecclesiastical accessory were hand-crafted and made-to-order. From the vestment that won a first-place prize in the 1904 World's Fair to the stoles made for the St. Louis Archdiocese's 2018 ordination class, these creations never wavered in excellence.

Though some of our Sisters continued to work in our Ecclesiastical Art Department to age 90 and beyond, the day was coming when we would no longer be able to continue producing such superior works of art. Rather than produce anything of less than excellent quality, we decided to end this long-time ministry. On July 1 of this year, we celebrated the 160th anniversary of this work, and we marked its official closing.

While this ministry is ending its tenure under the auspices of our Sisters' skilled hands, it does continue. Over the years, our Sisters taught this craft to a number of other religious communities, most recently to the Benedictine Sisters of Gower, Missouri. In addition, our Sisters taught a refugee from Angola, Lucretia de Silva, to make albs and altar linens. This work, which supported our Sisters when we were a young, refugee community struggling financially, now provides income for another new community and for a modern-day refugee. We are grateful that this tradition will live on through them.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of *On the Journey* in which we feature the long-time ministry of our Ecclesiastical Art Department as well as some of our current ministry involvements. As always, we appreciate your generous and prayerful support. May our loving God bless you and all the works of your hands.

Gratefully,

*Sr. Janice*

Sr. Janice Bader,  
Superior General

## 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.” We selected Immigrants and Refugees as our topic for Bold Action. Through activities in the areas of accompaniment, advocacy, education and prayer we hope to change the narrative and develop awareness and just and caring solutions to the migration crisis in the U.S. and around the world.

### BOLD ACTION ACTIVITIES UPDATE:

◆ **International Day of Peace:** Sisters, Partners, and 7th graders from Assumption Catholic School participated in a prayer service on the International Day of Peace on September 19, 2018.



Peace pole which was used during the prayer service.

◆ **Diaper Drive:** Sisters and Partners participated in a diaper drive for Immigrants and Refugees. They collected diapers, wipes, and other baby items, plus \$365 in cash. A truckload of baby supplies was sent to St. Borromeo parish for distribution.



Sr. Anna Marie Himmelberg, Sr. Loretto Maes, Sr. Carol Boschert, Partner Susan Buerkle, Sr. Joyce Schramm, McCaskill's staffer Jessica Beezhold, Sr. Eileen Schieber, Sr. Rosemary Russell, and Partner Colleen Curran-Schulte.

◆ **Advocacy Day at Senator McCaskill's Office:** We urged Sen. McCaskill to ensure that our borders are regulated with justice and compassion by stopping the “Zero Tolerance” policy, to reunite ALL children with their parents, and to use humane alternatives to family detention centers. We further urged her to reinstate as reasons for asylum gang and domestic violence, and to raise refugee admissions for FY2019.



Kristine Walentik, Meredith Rataj, Sr. Susan Borgel, and Sara John pose for a photo after their presentation to the Sisters.

◆ **Education opportunity:** Sisters and staff learned about “What is going on at the border and in St. Louis” from Kristine Walentik, immigration attorney and Meredith Rataj, site director, both from St. Francis Community Services; and Sara John, Executive Director, Interfaith Committee on Latin America

For more information on how you can get involved visit, [www.cpps-ofallon.org](http://www.cpps-ofallon.org), in the Immigration and Refugee tab.

## English Tutoring Project



Sr. Joyce Schramm, former tutor, with one of her students.



ETP students with Sr. Rosemary Russell, former tutor with for 13 years, 6 of those years as an administrator.



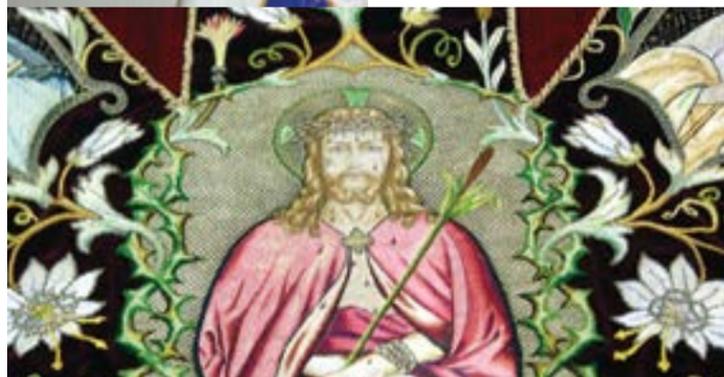
Sr. Carolyn Pozarich has been a tutor with the program since 2011.

The English Tutoring Project (ETP) is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The ETP provides on-site assistance to children from refugee and immigrant families, so they can acquire English language skills in an environment where all children experience respect for themselves and their culture. ETP is an initiative of the St. Louis Area Women Religious Collaborative Ministries. One of our Sisters, Sr. Susan Borgel, along with Sr. Carleen Reck, SSND, and Sr. Peggy Moore, OSU, created the English Tutoring Project (ETP) to fill a need for English tutoring services created by an influx of immigrants/refugees arriving in South St. Louis Catholic schools in 1998.

Since its inception, ETP's experienced, caring teachers have helped more than 1,100 immigrant children from more than 30 different countries to learn standard English. They provide this service to the students' schools at no cost to the immigrant families or to the school.

Through the years, several of our Precious Blood Sisters have been a part of ETP either as a teacher, administrator, or board member. Currently, Sr. Carolyn Pozarich is working as a tutor.

Join us in congratulating the English Tutoring Project on this milestone. For more information about the project please visit [www.englishtutoringproject.org](http://www.englishtutoringproject.org).



# ECCLESIASTICAL ART DEPARTMENT CELEBRATING 160 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Ecclesiastical Art Department (EAD) has been a ministry of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood since 1858. It began in Germany as a source of income for the community. The mission of the EAD included creating meaningful fabric art for use in divine worship. The Sisters worked in the manner of a guild with each person contributing her particular skill. The style of the hand-stitched liturgical symbols on the article made the work distinctive.

When the Sisters immigrated to the United States in the 1870s, they continued this work. In 1904 at the St. Louis World's Fair, a chasuble the EAD exhibited won a gold medal. Under the direction of Sr. Anselma Lange, 1906-1945, and Sr. Hiltrudis Powers, 1945-2000, the department's creations expanded to include anything that would enhance Divine Services. As years passed, much of the hand stitching was done by machine, using a combination of hand-guided zigzag and chain stitching. Each design was then couched with gold cord to accentuate the design.

The Sisters took orders from all over the United States and abroad. In the 1960s, they began to fill the needs of other denominations. In 1999, the Sisters were commissioned to make a stole and miter for the Holy Father's visit to St. Louis. Pope John Paul II wore the stole at the youth gathering and then returned it to the Archdiocese where it is now on display in the cathedral crypt. In

addition to filling orders, the Sisters taught their skills in ecclesiastical embroidery and vestment making to several religious communities in the U.S., most recently, the Benedictine Sisters of Mary, Queen of the Apostles. Sisters from Ghana, Africa, also came to learn this art and opened their own Ecclesiastical Art Department.

After celebrating 150 continuous years of service, the EAD entered a new phase in 2008. With an aging staff of Sisters, the EAD relocated to smaller quarters and became a retirement ministry through which the Sisters continued to do the work in a more relaxed setting. Realizing that they would not be able to continue this ministry indefinitely, the Sisters began to look for other avenues to continue this legacy. They trained Lucrecia de Silva of St. Louis to make albs and altar linens and referred these orders to her; they shared patterns and skills in constructing vestments with others who asked. At the beginning of 2018, they stopped taking orders and began a process of passing on stole and other small designs by having them digitized for embroidery by commercial and home machines. Sr. Mary Cecile Gunelson, director of the EAD since 2000, said: "The EAD has always changed and adapted with the times. Digitizing our designs and training others in this artform are ways we are called now to share the gift God has given us."



**Partners In Mission Commitment:**

Responding to an invitation from God expressed through the community of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, Missouri, I promise to strive to bring Christ's reconciling presence to those I encounter in my daily life. I will carry on the legacy of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood by deepening my relationship with God, other Partners, and the Community to heal our broken world.

# Partners In Mission:



**P**lease join us in welcoming our new Partners in Mission! On September 9, 2018, seven women made a commitment to the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood by becoming Partners in Mission. They are the women pictured above: Mary Jane Matejka, Joyce Miller, Deborah Meyer, Arlene Kowalcyk, Denise Hoehne, Nancy Hebert, and Mary Buchanan. Also at this celebration, three partners were recognized for their years of commitment: Lorraine Cully and Paul Pellegrin celebrated 25 years; Sandy Hosack celebrated 20 years; and Mary Martin celebrated 10 years.

*For more information about the Partners in Mission Program visit our website at [www.cpps-ofallon.org](http://www.cpps-ofallon.org).*

## Congratulations:

**C**ongratulations to Sr. Mary Brendan Block on celebrating her 100th birthday on July 28, 2018. Sr. Mary Brendan was born in St. Louis and entered the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon in 1936. She made her religious profession in 1939. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Quincy University in Quincy, IL in 1958.

Sr. Mary Brendan ministered as an elementary school teacher in many Missouri cities and towns. She also taught in parish schools in Nebraska and Tennessee. Her long career in teaching was even recognized by the Archdiocese of St. Louis. She has been serving in prayer and presence since 1997.



**SAVE THE DATE:**

SEA Alumnae Reunion Luncheon  
 Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.  
 International Institute Hall of Nations  
 (former SEA Chapel)  
 \$35 a person  
 For more information call Marcia at 636-542-9481

# With Gratitude

Thank you to our many generous donors who supported the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood and their ministries in the 2017/2018 fiscal year. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. The Sisters would not be able to do their great works were it not for your generosity.

## Mission Advancement Office Statement of Accountability



### Income

Bequest	\$195,149.51
South American Missions	\$117,785.10
Individual Donations	\$72,964.88
Retirement	\$103,520.51
Events	\$82,027.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$571,447.48</b>

### Expenses

Administration	\$85,218.24
South American Missions	\$117,785.10
Retirement	\$103,520.51
Events	\$25,983.49
Invested for Future Needs	\$238,940.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$571,447.48</b>



## Night at Busch Stadium

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our "Night at Busch Stadium" Fundraiser a great success! Many of our friends joined the Sisters for a fun evening of baseball.



Please mark your calendars and join us for our Dinner Auction on Saturday, March 23, 2019, at Old Hickory Country Club.

For more info visit: [www.cpps-ofallon.org](http://www.cpps-ofallon.org).



**Sisters of the Most Precious Blood**

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To be good stewards of our money and the environment we have opted not to include a donation envelope in our *On the Journey* magazine. You can still make a donation to the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. Make an online donation at [www.cpps-ofallon.org](http://www.cpps-ofallon.org) by clicking on the DONATE NOW button, or tear off the form below and mail it to 204 North Main Street, O'Fallon, MO 63366. Please make your check payable to: Sisters of the Most Precious Blood.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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I would like to make a gift to further the mission of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood in the amount of:

\$1,000     \$50     \$250     \$100     \$50     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please apply my tax-deductible gift to: Greatest Need  or Retired Sisters