

On The Journey

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood



In this moment of our history,
we will give from our vulnerability
and our blessedness.

FALL 2022



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

Cover photo: Artwork by Sister Mary Beth Kemper, CPPS.

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, the summer harvest of wheat in Missouri is complete, and we are entering the time for harvesting the Fall crops. In a few short months, the cycle will begin again – planting, growing, harvesting.



In the 177 years since our founding sisters tilled the ground for the beginning of our community, our sisters have planted many seeds, tended their growth, and rejoiced as these seeds grew to fruition. In all of this, we gratefully acknowledge that it is not our efforts, but God's love and grace working through us that have allowed these seeds to bear fruit.

We now are engaged in nurturing seeds for another type of harvest. As you will read on page 4, we recently elected three sisters to serve as our CPPS leadership team from 2022-2025. This will be our last elected leadership team of CPPS sisters. During these three years we will nurture the seeds of Collaborative Governance which we have been sowing for the last several years. This collaboration with the Franciscan Sisters of Mary (FSM) will allow each of our communities to continue to be of service to God's people until the last sisters go home to God.

The Gospel tells us, "Unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit." We hope that some of the seeds that we have sown, have fallen on the "ground" of your heart, and have borne fruit there. We would be honored if you would share a reflection about the seeds the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood have planted in your life and how you have nurtured that seed. (See back cover.)

You also have planted seeds in our hearts, and we are deeply grateful. May we continue to be of support to one another as we nurture the seeds of God's love which unites all of us as sisters and brothers in the Family of God.

Sr. Janice

Sr. Janice Bader
 Superior General

Our 2022 Chapter



Sisters that were present for the 2022 Chapter.



The newly elected Leadership Team for 2022- 2025: Sisters Marie Fennewald, Janice Bader, and Susan Borgel.

From March 25-30, thirty-four Sisters of the Most Precious Blood (CPPS) gathered at Mercy Center in St. Louis for our 2022 Chapter.

For a religious community, a Chapter is a time to evaluate its communal life and mission, to set direction for the future, and to elect a leadership team. Ordinarily our community holds a Chapter every six years. Given our ages and our decreasing number of sisters, we chose to make this our final Chapter and to elect a team that would serve for three years rather than for six.

While it was a bittersweet experience to know that our 2022 Chapter would be our last, the overwhelming sentiment was one of gratitude. We were very aware of how many blessings God has showered upon us throughout our history. We know we are called to give as gift all that we have received as gift.

We Move Into Our Future

We, Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, through our prayer and contemplative way of being, live with energy, mutual respect, gratitude, hope and joy.

Conscious that our personal and communal life is limited, precious, and a gift, we choose to love more deeply.

In this moment of our history, we will give from our vulnerability and our blessedness.

We choose to be Christ's reconciling presence in our increasingly divided world as a witness to Christ's healing love.

We will take risks in whatever circumstances God places in front of us. We do this to accomplish God's mission of bringing love and hope to a suffering interconnected planet.



Our Chapter Commitment

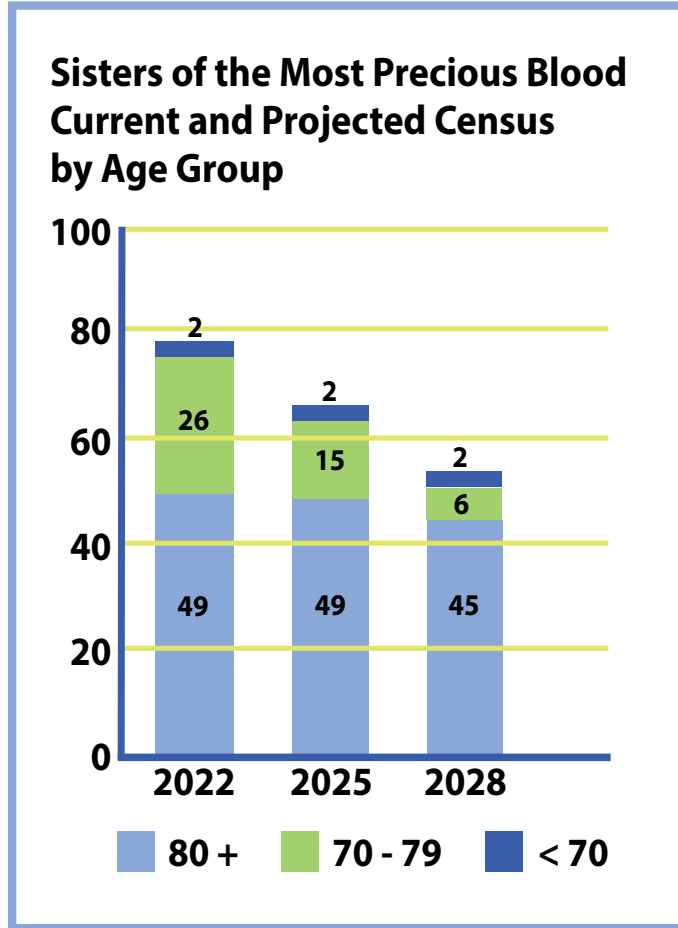
We know that we are called to continue sharing this giftedness, so we committed ourselves

- To love more deeply
- To give from our vulnerability and our blessedness
- To be Christ's reconciling presence in our increasingly divided world
- To take risks in whatever circumstances God places in front of us

(See box above for full commitment statement.)

Our Reality

The last woman to enter our community professed vows in 2000. As time passed, we came to acknowledge that the gap in years and in age significantly impacted our ability to successfully incorporate new members, and we decided to stop actively inviting women to join us. With that decision came the recognition that one day we would not have sisters with the energy necessary for the tasks of leadership. Currently our community numbers seventy-seven sisters, forty-nine of whom are age 80 or older.



Collaborative Governance

In light of our reality, we began exploring options that would provide for someone other than our own sisters to carry out the ministry of leadership. In 2013 we began working with the Franciscan Sisters of Mary (FSM), a community with demographics similar to ours. With the help of both canon and civil lawyers and other consultants we designed a structure that would provide for spiritual leadership and management of both congregations. The result of this planning was the development of a new not-for-profit corporation called Collaborative Governance. This is not a merger; it is a flexible structure that will allow each of our congregations to maintain its own autonomy and identity with shared services from an Executive Director and Directors of Finance, Health Care, Communications, and Spiritual Care and Community Life.

The Road Ahead

The 2022-2025 leadership team faces a unique challenge. Not only are they called to lead the community in living out the Chapter commitment, but they also will continue to work with the Collaborative Governance Directors to help them grow in knowledge of our heritage, culture, and spirit so that they are ready to assume leadership by July 2025. We already have identified a sister from another congregation who is willing to serve as our canonical superior beginning in 2025. She, too, will be working closely with us over these next years.

We will continue to develop the structures and systems and build on the relationships that will allow our sisters to continue living with energy, mutual respect, gratitude, hope and joy. Life may be changing for us, but it is not ended. We trust that our future is in God's hands, and we know that we are safe there.



Collaborative Governance Staff Members: Back row - Cathy Modde and Leah Wand, middle row - Sr. Helene Cooke, IHM, Suann Fields, Mary Ann Signaigo, and front row - Sr. Barbara Jean Franklin, ASC, and Allison Hewitt.



Precious Blood Sisters carry flags in the entrance procession of the Installation Mass of the New Leadership Team.



Sisters Ginny Jaskiewicz, Janice Bader and Julia Marie Wolf enjoy refreshments at a reception.

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



Sr. Rose Rita (Catherine) Orf, CPPS
 May 5, 1920 - December 3, 2021
 Entered CPPS - 1945
 Professed vows - 1947

Sr. Rose Rita dedicated 47 years to teaching in elementary schools in Missouri, Illinois, and Colorado. Though tiny, her presence in the classroom was far from diminutive. She expected the best of her students, and they gave their best in response.

Sr. Rose Rita was a deeply prayerful person, always quick to express gratitude. Her trust in God was her bedrock, always believing that no matter what happened, God would give her the grace she needed to accept it.



Sr. Carol (Caroline) Donohue, CPPS
 August 1, 1941 - December 31, 2021
 Entered CPPS - 1964
 Professed vows - 1966

Sister Carol taught elementary grades at St. Mary in Glasgow, MO, and at St. Monica and St. Nicholas in St. Louis. She also taught at DeAndreis High School in St. Louis.

Love for the poor and passion for justice led Sr. Carol to twenty-six years of service in Bolivia. There, she worked with Amanecer, serving primarily with the programs for street children. She was a fierce advocate on their behalf.



Sr. Darlene Huck (Sr. Caelestia), CPPS
 August 3, 1937 - January 19, 2022
 Entered CPPS - 1954
 Professed vows - 1956

An excellent and creative elementary teacher, Sr. Darlene taught at many schools in Missouri. After 28 years of teaching Sr. Darlene, along with her twin sister, Sr. Marlene, began serving in parish ministry, and later served as the community's web master.

One of Sister Darlene's parting gifts is the quote she chose for her memorial card, "All I ask of you is forever to remember me as loving you."



Sister Marie (Mary Frowine) Loeffler, CPPS
 March 18, 1923 - February 21, 2022
 Entered CPPS - 1941
 Professed vows - 1943

Sr. Marie served as a homemaker and cook for fifty years, then ministered as a teacher aide at the Missouri School for the Blind and served as a caregiver for homebound persons. After retirement, she volunteered in various capacities at St. Timothy and St. Wenceslaus Parishes in St. Louis.

Sr. Marie always had a ready smile and a positive attitude, and she had the gift of making each person feel they were the most important person in her life.



Sister Philip Marie (Marlene Mary Senora) Burle, CPPS
 September 21, 1933 - April 4, 2022
 Entered CPPS - 1955
 Professed vows - 1957

Sister was an elementary school teacher at several schools in Missouri and served in secondary education at Bishop DuBourg High School and St. Elizabeth Academy, both in St. Louis.

In the late 1960's, Sr. Philip Marie became active in the Charismatic Prayer movement. What began as a ministry of retreats and conferences in the St. Louis Archdiocese, soon spread to other areas of the U.S. and then to countries throughout the world.



Sr. Estelle (Tarcisia) Sullentrup, CPPS
 November 8, 1923 - April 26, 2022,
 Entered CPPS - 1942
 Professed vows - 1944

For fifty-eight years Sr. Estelle brought a quiet, gentle strength to elementary school classrooms across Missouri. She also taught in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Her deep love and respect for each student was reciprocated by their love and respect for her. After retiring from teaching, she served for nineteen years in pastoral care at DePaul Health Center.

Always gracious, gentle, generous, and grateful, Sr. Estelle's most frequent words may have been "thank you."



Sr. Mary Joan (Mary Ann) Dyer, CPPS
 August 14, 1926 - May 6, 2022
 Entered CPPS - 1943
 Professed vows - 1945

Sr. Mary Joan taught elementary school through college in Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado, and Helsinki, Finland. After returning from Finland, Sr. Mary Joan served as secretary to the congregational administration and later as a congregational archivist.

She was a highly organized and exceptionally creative teacher, and she loved teaching French. As a principal, she provided her teachers with an atmosphere that allowed for their creativity.



PARTNERS IN MISSION

The last Saturday in July began as a gorgeous day. It was not raining, it was not extremely hot, and the humidity level was reasonably low. And then, CPPS Partners in Mission and their Sister Mentors—some of whom had not been together in quite a while—gathered for a picnic in the park and made it a perfect day!

On July 30, 2022, the Partners in Mission Sustainability Committee hosted its first social gathering for Partners and Sister Mentors. Everyone came together for a delicious meal and lively fellowship in the beautiful setting of Faust Park in Chesterfield, MO.

Committee members Carol Oldendorf, Patti Belmont, and Dawn Boschert were on hand to help set up for the picnic and make sure everything went smoothly. As soon as Partners and Sisters began to arrive, even more hands pitched in to arrange a feast of fried chicken, salads, and every imaginable side dish and dessert.

Over the past couple of years, spikes in the number of Covid cases often made it necessary to cancel planned events, and Partners were beginning to feel the effects of not getting together. “Picnic in the Park” was an opportunity for Partners and Sisters to reconnect, do some catching up, and meet new friends. They took full advantage of this!

The Partners in Mission Governing Board and Sustainability Committee plan to offer more events like this in the future to bring people together, not only for social interaction, but also for various service projects. Individual Small Faith Communities already have ministries and outreach activities of their own. Having Partners come together to work on shared projects will hopefully benefit everyone. Partners will have a chance to get to know members of other Small Faith Communities, and ultimately, more people can be served.

A big “Thank You!” is owed to everyone who helped make this year’s picnic a success, including everyone who attended. We hope to see even more of you at the next event!

Audrey Jungermann,
Partners in Mission Director

The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood have touched my life, planted a seed in my heart . . .

From what the sisters shared with me, I have sown seeds . . .

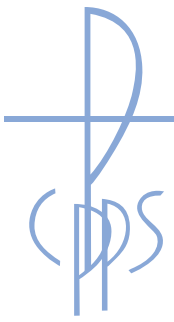
Below is one side of a postcard. We are asking you to send in your reflection on the seeds the Sisters have planted in your life. Please see the back cover for more information.



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood

Attn: Sister Susan Borgel
204 North Main St.
O’Fallon, MO 63366-2299



Sisters of the Most Precious Blood

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We would be honored if you would share a reflection about the seeds the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood have planted and how those seeds have grown and produced fruit in your life. Please fill out the card below, tear off and mail it back to us.

The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood have touched my life, planted a seed in my heart

From what the sisters shared with me, I have sown seeds . . .
