

On The Journey

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood



Ministry in Bolivia

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

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Volunteer Pink Ladies in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Editor: Leah Huff
Designer: Debbie Groesch, Groesch Graphics,
314-304-1876
Contact Information:
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon
Leah Huff, Communications Director
204 North Main Street
O'Fallon, MO 63366-2299
636-240-6010
lhuff@collaborativegovernance.org
For more information about the Sisters of the
Most Precious Blood and their mission, please visit
www.cpps-ofallon.org.

Dear Friends,

During the first two weeks of April, I was privileged to visit our sisters in Bolivia and Peru. It was a joy to be with them and to witness the impact of their ministries.

In the places visited, it was not unusual to see homes of those with financial means next to homes of the desperately poor. It seemed a sharp contrast to neighborhoods in the United States which tend to be clearly poor, middle class, or wealthy. Such segregation can make it easy to overlook the poor. However, when one's home abuts that of a family with hungry children, it is not so easy to forget.

For our sisters in South America, the poor are always before their eyes and in their hearts. I was touched deeply by the love and care that they share with those around them. What a blessing it would be to have their acute awareness of meeting Christ in each person with whom they share a loaf of bread or a cup of milk!

In our Fall 2023 magazine, you read of the ministry of Sister María Luz Mejía in Lima, Peru. In this issue, we feature Sister María Jesús Montaña and her ministry in Cochabamba, Bolivia. In Fall 2024, we will tell of Sister Guillermina (Guichy) Loma and her ministry in La Paz, Bolivia. A few words and pictures cannot adequately express the impact of their ministries, but I hope you will get a taste of who they are and what they do.

We appreciate your prayers and support for the ministries of our sisters. Your generosity makes it possible for our community to provide funding for the work of our sisters in South America and those serving elsewhere. We are deeply grateful, and we ask our loving God to bless you lavishly.

Gratefully,



Sr. Janice Bader
Superior General





Partners In Mission

One of the most commonly asked questions about Partners in Mission from outside the community is, "What do Partners do?"

Every Partner belongs to a Small Faith Community that meets every month from September to May. These communities are a place where Partners share and grow in their faith. The members of these groups form a strong bond and often speak of their connection and sense of belonging. But this is only part of being a Partner in Mission.

There are several opportunities throughout the year to interact with the larger Partners in Mission community through events including the Partners' Picnic in July, Commitment Sunday in September, and Winter Assembly in February.

Group service projects were added in the Fall of 2023 and Partners gathered donations for St. Francis Community Services which aids refugee families and helped sort food at the Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Center.

For the first time, an Advent Retreat was offered in November. There are plans to make this an annual event as well as adding a Lenten Retreat for 2025.

Another new activity planned for this summer is Partners on Pilgrimage. Several times a year, a pilgrimage to an area religious site, church or shrine will be offered. This is an opportunity for Partners to interact with those from other Small Faith Communities and to bring a friend who may be interested in joining Partners. The first pilgrimage is scheduled for June 22. We will be touring the Shrine of St. Philippine Duchesne in St. Charles.

We are always looking for new members for Partners in Mission and for new ideas from current members. If you are interested in becoming a Partner or have an idea for the organization, contact Laurie Strickland, Partners in Mission Director, at Lstrickland@collaborativegovernance.org or 314-542-9479.

Join Us

Who Are CPSS Partners In Mission?

CPSS Partners in Mission, together with the sisters, acknowledge a common call in Baptism to live the Gospel. They:

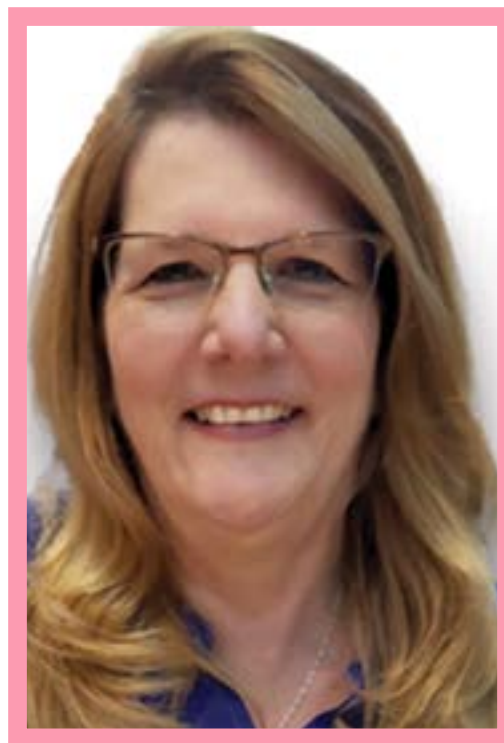
- Live the charism of reconciliation in their daily lives, work and ministry
- Gather monthly in a small faith community
 - ◆ to deepen a relationship with God
 - ◆ to develop relationships with one another
 - ◆ to deepen a relationship with the congregation
- Are women or men at least 18 years of age, lay or clergy, married or single
- Are from a variety of Christian faith traditions
- Make a commitment during a prayer service after the time of exploration, prayer, study, faith sharing, and enrichment.

For more information about Partners in Mission please contact Laurie Strickland, Partners in Mission Director, at Lstrickland@collaborativegovernance.org or 314-542-9479.

Meet the New Director:

We are pleased to announce that Laurie Strickland was hired as the new Partner in Mission Director. She joined our team on October 30, 2023.

A lifelong native of St. Charles, Laurie Strickland attended school at the Academy of the Sacred Heart and Duchesne High School. She received degrees in Education, Music, and Business Administration from Columbia College. Over the years, she has used all three degrees as a music teacher, business owner, and in corporate customer service and training. Her faith has always been a focal point in her life. She is an Associate of the Sacred Heart, a docent at the Shrine of St. Philippine Duchesne, and the Music Minister for school liturgies at the Academy of the Sacred Heart. She enjoys cooking, traveling, and spending time with friends and her four children. She is thrilled to become a Partner and to serve as the Partners in Mission Director.



Welcome Laurie!



Wisdom Circle Small Faith Group: Sisters Fran Raia and Rosemary Oellermann, Carol Jung, Sherry Smith, Maureen McGrath, and Sharon Stockmann.

80th



Sr. Mary Vénard LeBeau

Congratulations to our 2024 Jubilarians!

75th



Sr. Marcella Scego



Sr. Josepha Bauer



Sr. Rose Margaret Wessels

70th



Sr. Viola Marie Spire

60th



Sr. Anna Marie Himmelberg

50th



Sr. Sandra Barton

Jubilarians answer the question: What was one of your favorite Ministries?

Sr. Mary Vénard LeBeau

Sr. Mary Vénard LeBeau enjoyed all her ministries in Finland and Estonia. She found working with children particularly rewarding. During her last year, her work with Fr. Leonard and the African Ministries was important to her because he created possibilities and opportunities for the Africans in Finland.

Sr. Marcella Scego

My favorite ministry was the EAD - Ecclesiastical Art Department. I spent most of my life working there except for two years. I enjoyed all of the hand stitching, hand work, and sewing I did. I was proud of the work I completed.

Sr. Josepha Bauer

My favorite place of ministry/work is Perú. It is there, in another culture and climate that my faith "matured;" there, where I learned as much as I "taught;" there, where the people are happy to just have the basics to live and to share with their neighbors; there, where I had the opportunity to see our country from a different perspective.

Sr. Rose Margaret Wessels

I spent most of my years teaching. My favorite ministry was the nine years I spent at St. Henry School in Charleston, MO. I led the choir and they had beautiful liturgies there. The pastor and I worked very well together. It was a wonderful community. I have taught all grades, K-8, and enjoyed each one.

Sr. Viola Marie Spire

My favorite ministry of course was working in the EAD- Ecclesiastical Art Department for over 60 years! I also was called to teach Kindergarten for four years at St. John the Baptist in St. Louis. I loved the little ones. My life has been blessed indeed.

Sr. Anna Marie Himmelberg

Each ministry and every person with whom I ministered and/or lived revealed God's love to me in new ways. All prepared me to serve as pastoral associate for eight years at St. Joseph Parish in Cottleville, MO and 16 years at St. John the Beloved Disciple Parish in Imperial, MO, my favorite ministry!

Sr. Sandra Barton

Being a caregiver to our elderly Sisters and sharing my foster children with those Sisters has been a favorite of mine. They became a gift to one another with smiles and visits.

Sister María Jesús Montaña Cortadellas – Ministry in Bolivia



Sr. María Jesús with a doctor at the Pharmacy.



Sr. María Jesús with the Volunteer Pink Ladies.



Sisters Mary Therese DeMoor, María Jesús, and Janice Bader; with other Pharmacy volunteers.

What is your current ministry?

I work with a group called Volunteer Pink Ladies who give their time to serve persons who need support in different areas:

- Pediatrics
- Child burn victims
- Maternity
- Children with cancer
- Volunteer Pharmacy

I work with the Volunteers in the Pharmacy. We receive donated medicines from hospitals, doctors, or private clinics. We give medicines at no charge to needy persons who are looking for help in getting the required medicines. I volunteer four mornings a week.

What excites you or brings you joy about the work that you do?

I am happy to have the opportunity to serve my brothers and sisters who can't pay for their medication, so they can receive them and be healed from their maladies.

Where do you think you have “planted seeds” in your ministry that will help to carry on your CPPS legacy?

I hope that my ministry leaves a memory for people that not all is bad in life and that God does not abandon them. He works through other people.

Visiting with Sister Maria Jesus in Cochabamba



Sisters Maria Luz Mejia Vásquez, María Jesús Montaña Cortadellas, Guichy Loma Aliaga, and Mary Therese DeMoor.

Sr. María Jesús is a registered nurse who provided direct patient care in hospitals and clinics for many years. Though she is no longer involved in nursing, she is very active as a volunteer in the health care ministry.

When visiting Sr. María Jesús at her place of ministry, it becomes obvious that she is greatly appreciated by the organizations with whom she serves. The faces of the doctors, nurses, and her volunteer companions light up when she enters the room. She goes about her work quietly and without fanfare, but it is obvious that her service makes a huge difference.

In addition to her volunteer service at the hospital pharmacy, Sr. María Jesús is a liaison

to many of the other ministries where our sisters formerly served. North American friends of these ministries, including some of you who are reading this article, give generously to support these organizations so that they can continue to carry on the work once done by our sisters.

Sr. María Jesús makes sure that donations received through our community and through the Pan y Amor (Bread and Love) organization of the Archdiocese of St. Louis reach their intended recipients. The donations that are designated for her own work, she uses to assist families who cannot afford the medications or infant formula that they need for their children.

Her life is a testament that one person can have a far-reaching impact.



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



Sr. Luanna Brucks

January 2, 1925 - October 11, 2023

Entered CPPS: July 25, 1943

Professed vows: August 10, 1945

Sr. Luanna taught at every level, from kindergarten through college, in Missouri, Illinois, and Nebraska. She also served as a parish liturgist, musician, and pastoral minister in Moberly and Marshall, MO.

Sr. Luanna's words of advice for a happy life: "Get up each morning knowing that God loves you and take it from there." For the cover of her funeral liturgy, Sr. Luanna requested the words from a song by Gregory Norbet, "Long have I waited for your coming home to me and living deeply our new life."



Sr. Katherine Ann Wildt

April 14, 1937 - January 28, 2024

Entered CPPS: July 25, 1955

Professed vows: August 10, 1957

Sr. Katherine Ann taught elementary grades in Missouri, Nebraska, and Illinois. She served in secondary education in St. Louis and O'Fallon. At the college level, she was an instructor and professor at St. Louis University, St. Mary's College in O'Fallon, and Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri.

A lifelong learner and a great lover of art and literature, Sr. Katherine Ann inspired in her students these same appreciations.



Sr. Lorraine Brueggemann

February 19, 1932 - February 22, 2024

Entered CPPS: July 25, 1950

Professed vows: August 10, 1952

Sr. Lorraine taught elementary grades in Missouri and served as both principal and teacher in Biehle. In 1972, she was missioned to St. Elizabeth Academy (SEA) where she would serve for forty-two years. She taught theology and later served as Admissions Director and Financial Aid Director.

In her autobiography, Sr. Lorraine wrote, "My goal was always to lead students to a greater love and stronger relationship with Jesus Christ. I always tried to picture myself as transparent so students could see Jesus through me."

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sr. Joanne Reuter, who was officially recognized on April 13, 2024, at the O'Fallon Police Award Banquet for her 41 years of service as their official O'Fallon Police Chaplain. She has provided a wonderful service to the City of O'Fallon.

Thank you Sr. Joanne!



"Where Are They Now?"



Teaching at Bishop DuBourg.

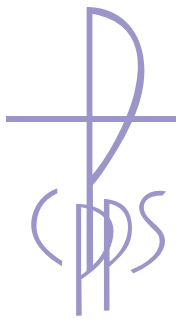
Sr. Barbara Schlatter has ministered in a variety of settings, but you may know her from her 30 years as a teacher at Bishop DuBourg High School. She has also served in prison ministry and was a member of our community's Leadership Team. She can now be found tutoring, proofreading, giving poetry workshops, and volunteering for Microfinancing Partners in Africa - particularly by being a "singing cow" for their Galas. Being creative is a favorite way to spend her time, whether it's conversing with Jesus in her journal or designing greeting cards.



Teaching at Bishop DuBourg.



Education though Prison Ministry.



Sisters of the Most Precious Blood

204 North Main Street
O'Fallon, MO 63366-2299

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please call Leah at 636-240-6010 or email her at
lhuff@collaborativegovernance.org



Graphic by:
Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMING GRACE AND TRANSFORMING CONSCIOUSNESS

*God of Compassion, we are entering into a new journey of transformation. We face the future not knowing what the days and months will bring as we prepare for the 2024 National Elections. Our hearts grieve heavily the polarities that divide our families, our communities, our government. Help us to open our hearts to be a reconciling presence in our world so that we can love the other as you do.
In Jesus name we pray. Amen*