

On The Journey

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood



Our Presence in
La Paz, Bolivia

FALL 2024

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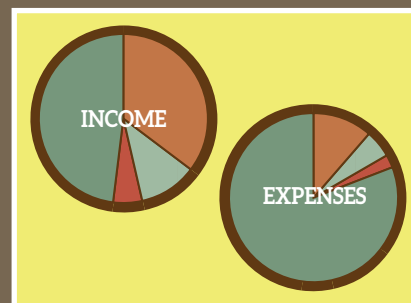
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Cover photo:

Sr. Guichy Loma Aliaga with women from Maria Reina Parish.

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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,

"Perhaps the most spectacular moment in the life cycle of a leaf is its final burst of color, a last opportunity to proclaim God's beauty before falling to the ground and becoming nourishment for the new life of the next season."^{*}

Here in the northern hemisphere, we have entered the season of fall and are seeing hints of the "burst of color." We are reminded again of the cycle of life, death, and new life - a cue to reflect upon the ultimate reality of the Paschal Mystery.



As an aging community, we have fewer sisters involved in active ministry. While we once had as many as seven Sisters serving in LaPaz, Bolivia, Sister Guillermina (Guichy) Loma is now our only CPPS sister there. She continues our CPPS presence, giving selflessly to those in need. She adds bright color to Maria Reina Parish, generously sharing her love and care. We hope you will enjoy a glimpse at the depth of her service.

Our Partners in Mission join with our sisters in sharing God's reconciling presence, adding splashes of color to our world. Together we pray for peace on earth, for a healing of the divisions in our country, and for a nonviolent transition of the U.S. presidency in January 2025.

Some among us have "fallen to the ground," and we trust that their lives did, indeed, "provide nourishment for new life." The two sisters featured in this issue served for a combined one hundred forty-one years as vowed religious. Surely the countless lives they touched are adding beauty to our world.

We thank each of you for the color and beauty you add to our lives. Thanks to your kindness and generosity, we can financially support the ministry of Sister Guichy and others, ministries we once supported with the work of our hands. May you be blessed abundantly for your goodness, particularly during the coming seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Gratefully,

Sr. Janice

Sr. Janice Bader
Superior General



^{*}"Our October Pathway" by Sister Andrée Fries, CPPS, from CPPS *Walking Together* newsletter, October 1981.

Partners In Mission

By Partner, Denis Wilhelm

On Sunday September 8th, Sisters and Partners joined together for our annual Commitment Sunday. This year we were doubly blessed because it was also the anniversary of the founding of the Most Precious Blood Sisters in Steinerberg, Switzerland in 1845.

The day began with the introduction of leadership and governance. Sr. Janice gave us an update on the community with special emphasis on Partners in Mission and our continued relationship with the Sisters. There are sixty-three Sisters, with a median age of 83, and over one hundred Partners. Sr. Janice said, "Our relationship with you as Partners in Mission is very important to us, and we are committed to maintaining our relationship with you. We Sisters are here to support you and be here for you, but we want you to spread your wings and fly."

In addition to Sr. Janice's remarks, we also heard from Partner, Patti Belmont, who fittingly spoke of commitment. Her eloquent words reminded us of the importance of staying connected in action and spirit, and of our charism of reconciliation to one another and our world.

During our gathering, our Direction Statement was read, and each Small Faith Community (SFC) was given a candle and



Partners prepare to process in for Mass.

Legos™ with which to build a candle holder. We were reminded that we are the pieces and that together we build the future of Partners in Mission. Our Direction Statement for 2024-2025 will be implemented into our SFC meetings this year as well as our service opportunities and communal gatherings. Our 2024-2025 Direction Statement is **"Rooted in a shared foundation, we are each an integral piece of building our future."**

New Partners:
Mary Su Sutton, Laurie
Strickland, and
Joyce Kluge.



We also took time to recognize our Partner anniversaries. Celebrating 10 years with Partners in Mission are: Patti Belmont, Mary Mann, Julie Schlichting, Denis Wilhelm, Helen Brown, Jim Bauer, and Jean Walker. Prayer and Presence Partner, Suzanne Everett celebrated 25 years. Deborah Meyer and Denis Wilhelm were then elected to our Governing Board by a show of hands.

Our day included a Mass celebrated by Fr. Patrick Russell with the initial commitment of our three newest Partners: Joyce Kluge, Mary Sue Sutton, and Laurie Strickland. Each was presented with her Partner in Mission pin by Sr. Janice. After our newest members made their commitment, all Partners then recommitted to another year. The Sisters touched us all with their song of blessing. It was a beautiful celebration.

Following Mass, we shared lunch in the Villa Theresa Dining Room. During our luncheon, each Sister was presented with a note card and rose from a Partner.

Collectively, Partners had decided beforehand to let our Sisters know that they will never be forgotten and each note reminded the recipient of that sentiment. In addition, three Partners, Chris Lloyd, Jeanne Palombo,



Mary Su Sutton receives her new Partner pin from Sr. Janice Bader.

and Denis Wilhelm spoke of the significance of Precious Blood Sisters in their lives.

It was truly a day of commitment. We are committed to a joyful, hopeful, compassionate, and reaffirming love for one another. We are committed to carrying the legacy of The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood to future generations of Partners. Borrowing Sr. Janice's words, "It's time to spread our wings and fly."

Join Us

Who Are CPPS Partners In Mission?

CPPS 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 PartnersInMission1875@gmail.com or 636-542-9479.

Sister Guillermina Loma Aliaga, CPPS - Maria Reina Parish



What is your current ministry or who are you working with?

My ministry at this moment is to serve at Maria Reina Parish, in La Paz, Bolivia. I minister with people in Social Programs such as: Promotion of Women, School Support, Golden Age (an elderly group), assistance to patients with cancer, and other needs as they arise.

What excites you or brings you joy about the work that you are doing?

I am moved by the way many people, despite their suffering and needs, have the strength to continue. I have to admit that I continually receive the gift, that of the blessing from the people who come to meet with me. It is of course not my merit. I have learned to look, to be open. That is my only task. I discovered that grace is not in projecting what one carries, but in discovering what comes to each person, and in everything there is "grace upon grace." I learn a lot from people. They live day by day putting their faith, hope, and trust in God. They experience the never-ending struggle to make ends meet. They are grateful for their family and delight when their family multiplies. They make the time to be together. Unfortunately, some despair and fall into other much more difficult realities. Yet I am happy to be with them. I have laughed with them; I have cried with them. For these experiences of mission and ministry, I thank God and my CPPS community.

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

I have shared my life with people aware that I am a Sister of the Most Precious Blood and I carry the hope that I have planted something in their memory of continued hope and God's unconditional love for them.

SPANISH

Cuál es tu ministerio actual o con quién estás trabajando?

Mí ministerio en este momento está en la Parroquia Maria Reina, de la ciudad de La Paz Bolivia. Trabajo en Programas Sociales, como ser: Promoción de la Mujer, Apoyo Escolar, Edad de Oro (grupo de ancianos) asistencia a enfermos con Cáncer y otras necesidades.

Qué te emociona o te alegra del trabajo que estás haciendo?

Me emociona la manera en que muchas personas a pesar de sus sufrimientos y necesidades tienen la fuerza de seguir. Tengo que reconocer que recibo continuamente el regalo de la gente, que me salen al encuentro, no es por supuesto mérito mío, he aprendido a mirar. (esa si es tarea propia) he descubierto que la gracia no está en proyectar lo que llevas, si no en descubrir lo que te viene, y ahí sí que todo es “gracia tras gracia”, aprendo mucho de la gente, ellos viven el día a día poniendo su esperanza y fe en Dios, ellos saben lo difícil que será llegar a fin de mes, agradecen como familias multiplican su tiempo para estar juntos, otros se desesperan y caen en otras realidades mucho más difíciles, me alegrado con ellos también he llorado con ellos y por está experiencia en mi misión de doy gracias a Dios y a mi comunidad Cpps.

Dónde cree que ha “plantado semillas” en su ministerio que ayudarán a continuar el legado de la CPPS?

He compartido mi vida con la gente, consciente de que soy una hermana de la Preciosísima Sangre y llevo la esperanza de haber plantado algo en su memoria de esperanza continua y del amor incondicional de Dios por ellos.

1. Maria Reina Parish.
2. Members of the Golden Age Group playing bingo.
3. Greeting members of the Golden Age Group.
4. Delivering school materials through the School Support Program.
5. A member of the Golden Age Group.
6. Planning activities for older adults.
7. Parish group of women.



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LA PAZ, BOLIVIA

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood

St. Joseph Chapel Concert Series

The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood were delighted to host the Saint Louis Chamber Choir's first concert in their 69th Annual Season, "Opposites Attract" on Sunday, September 29, 2024. The Saint Louis Chamber Chorus presents the finest a cappella choral works in the region's most distinctive buildings, seeking to entertain, educate, and inspire. The Chorus, under the direction of Philip Barnes, sounded beautiful with the great acoustics in the Sisters' St. Joseph Chapel. For more information about the rest of their season, please visit www.chamberchorus.org.



Save the Date:

We have more dates set in our Concert Series. Please join us for our next Organ Concerts on **November 17** with Jinal Knapp and **November 24** with Bill Sullivan. They are held in St. Joseph Chapel, 204 North Main Street, O'Fallon, MO 63366 at 3:00 p.m. We hope you will join us.

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

**Sr. Marjorie (Marge) Cordes, CPPS***May 26, 1939 - July 23, 2024*

Entered CPPS: 1958

Professed vows: 1960

Sr. Marge taught elementary grades at Our Lady of Fatima, Florissant, MO; St. John's School, Uncasville, CT; and Redwood School of the Precious Blood in Redwood Falls, MN. She taught high school in Missouri at St. Henry in Charleston, St. John the Baptist and Bishop DuBourg in St. Louis, and St. Mary's Academy in O'Fallon. At Bishop DuBourg she also served as assistant principal. Sr. Marge was a member of the congregational leadership team, administrator and local coordinator of our retirement center, and served almost ten years in ministry to the poor through St. Agatha Center in St. Louis.

Marge brought a deep spirit of love and care to each of her ministries, to her students, to our sisters, and to her clients at St. Agatha. Respect for the individual was a hallmark, along with smiles, encouragement, and warm hugs. She developed strong and supportive friendships with her fellow teachers and felt that they, too, were part of her ministry.

**Sr. Mary David Debrecht, CPPS***February 20, 1922 - August 29, 2024*

Entered CPPS: 1945

Professed vows: 1947

Sr. Mary David taught elementary grades at Sacred Heart in Columbia, MO and at St. Henry in Charleston, MO. She taught business education at Bishop DuBourg High School in St. Louis, MO. Sr. Mary David spent much of her life in service to our community as Secretary General, Council Member, and Treasurer General.

Teacher, accountant, baker, gardener, arborist, health and food naturalist, Sr. Mary David readily shared the fruits of her labors. Whether a balanced checkbook or a fresh loaf of bread, each offering was an expression of God's love through her. She credited her family with teaching her generosity by example rather than by words.

Praying in a Polarized World

By Sisters Lucy Meissen and Toni Temporiti

*"Lord, Make me an instrument of your Peace"
Where there is homelessness let me be a haven.
Where there is war let me be resolution.
Where there is violent death let me be life.
Where there is mistrust let me be truth.
Where there is injustice let me be fairness.
Where there is intolerance let me be compassion.
Where there is hunger let me be food.
Where there is thirst let me be
the water of refreshment.
Where there is faithlessness let me be hope.
Where there is darkness let me be light.
Where there is polarization let me be reconciliation.
Gracious God, You, in Your divinity
embrace our humanity.
Your cross - a sign of contradiction.
Your resurrection - a witness
that all things are possible in your love.
Make me an instrument of Your Transforming Grace
becoming Your Hope, Your Light, Your Love.
Amen.*

With Gratitude

We are very grateful to all our donors for their support in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Because of your generosity, the Sisters are able to continue their work to heal our suffering world.

Thank you!



48.2%	Bequests
35.2%	Individual Donations
11.2%	South American Missions
5.4%	Retirement

INCOME:

Bequests	\$ 99,047.15
Individual Donations	\$ 72,462.00
South American Missions ..	\$ 23,030.00
Retirement	\$ 11,039.00
TOTAL	\$ 205,578.15



2.3%	Administration
5.4%	Retirement
11.2%	South American Mission
81.1%	Future Needs & Ministry Support

EXPENSES:

Administration.....	\$ 4,792.04
Retirement	\$ 11,039.00
South American Mission	\$ 23,030.00
Future Needs & Ministry Support.....	\$ 166,717.11
TOTAL	\$ 205,578.15



Sisters of the Most Precious Blood

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

“Did You Know?”

Did you know that there used to be a pond on the Sisters’ property? It was drained in 1923 and made into a sunken garden. Later the sunken garden was made into the small walking park to the left of the driveway as you enter the property.

Sisters having a picnic at the pond in the early 1920's.

