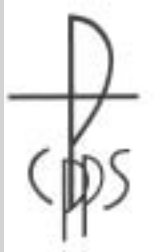


SISTERS OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD PARTNERS IN MISSION NEWSLETTER



Spring 2008

Important Date

September 14, 2008
Partners in Mission
Assembly Day

Editor: Sr. Carol Orf

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



A rose is a rose, but when you meet Rose Meyer you experience a bouquet! Rose is wife, mother, grandmother,

nurse, volunteer, neighbor, gardener, friend, learner, teacher, and Partner in Mission.

Rose and Paul have been married for over fifty years. They are blessed with three daughters, two sons, and seven grandchildren. During her career as a nurse, Rose worked at St. John's, St. Joseph's, and at Chronic Hospitals. After retiring from nursing, Rose did volunteer work at a therapeutic horsemanship program for physically handicapped children and helped at St. Agatha's Food Pantry once a week. She also tutored children in reading and taught in the GED program at Meramac Community College.

In the twelve years that Rose has been a Partner in Mission, she has developed personal friendships with the Sisters, has grown in appreciation of her faith, and has reached out to her parish community.

Rose is an avid gardener. Flowerbeds adorn the front of her house and a beautifully landscaped waterfall graces the back yard. It would be no surprise then to find out that Rose's favorite way to pray is to be in and soak up the beauty of nature.

She loves to travel and treasures her trips to Ireland and Germany. However, her "wildest" trip was a five-day white water rafting trip down the Salmon River in Idaho with her daughter and son-in-law. Scary at times, it was a fun way to experience the wilderness of the USA.

This wild Irish Rose continues to bloom wherever she is planted.

By Sr. Rosemary Oellermann

Morning Breaks!

By Rick Heitman

Our spotlight shines on a small but vibrant and committed faith community. One of our founding small faith groups, "The Bolivian Community," is comprised of some of our most senior Partners in Mission. Lorraine Cully, former co-director of the partners, and Youhna Wang Ayala combine to total almost twenty-seven years as partners. Prayer partner, Sister Audrey Hemsath, and Alan Hartman complete the group.

The Bolivian Group's particular outreach is to provide funding for a Precious Blood mission located in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The mission is Amanecer, Spanish for "morning breaks." Amanecer provides many vital services to the very poorest of Cochabamba's people.



The Bolivia Community "adopted" Raul, a baby who was born blind and left abandoned on the very doorstep of Amanecer. Their generous funding made it possible for Amanecer to meet Raul's special needs. Unfortunately, Raul died in December of 2007 but it does not lessen the dignity of his precious life, made possible by the Bolivian Group's support. What a shining example of how we, as Partners in Mission, can live out the CPPS charism of reconciliation and touch lives so far away from our own!

The members of the Bolivian Community, wishing to expand their numbers, are considering a merge with another small faith group, to allow themselves more opportunity to grow spiritually while retaining their special outreach!

Green Flag For NACAR Conference

By Judy Shirley

This year's North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR) is being held May 30 to June 1, 2008 in Vienna, Virginia. Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ, is the keynote speaker. She is a leading American advocate for the abolition of the death penalty. A full schedule is planned with breakout sessions on various subjects pertaining to lay association with religious communities. Co-directors, Rick Heitman and Sr. Carol Orf, will attend the conference. Carol and Rick, GO and bring back inspiration for all of us!



What Does God Want Of Me Now?

By Sr. Carol Orf

February 2008 was an exciting month for CPPS Partners in Mission. It is the first time that we have a group of potential

partners meeting in both St. Louis and O'Fallon. On February 5 in O'Fallon, Sr. Carol and Rick Heitman welcomed Debbie Whited, Sally Baumbach, All Saints parishioners, Maureen



McGrath, friend of Sr. Barbara Payne, and Susan Grimm, (not pictured) niece of Sr. Ann Clare Hendel, to explore their call.

Two days later on February 7 in St. Louis, Sr. Carol greeted

Sandy (Kollar) Meyer, Kay (Mochler) Canull, St. Mary's Academy graduates, Diane Rademacher, Rosemary Christie, St. Pius V parishioners, and Linda Buxton, friend of Sandy Hosack, partner in mission, as they began their discernment journey.



These women are exploring CPPS Partners in Mission by meeting monthly in February, March, April and May. During that time they will get a taste of our history, charism, prayer and ministry.

At our first gathering, we shared our history as we left Germany and explored the new world of Illinois! Each candidate was invited to make an Everyday Life Retreat by spending 30 minutes in prayer several days before we would meet again in March. Scripture readings were suggested for each day.

Each candidate was asked, "Why are you seeking this relationship with the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood?" One of the women responded by saying, "I am a graduate of St. Mary's Academy. I loved the sisters when I went to school there. Now that my children are getting older, I am asking what God wants of me now. Being here with my sisters tonight, I know I wouldn't want to be anywhere else!"



Continuing The Journey!

By Sr. Carol Orf



Susan Kroupa, All Saints parishioner, Mary (Carusa) Martin, and Patti (Sachs) Ballman, (not pictured), St. Mary's Academy graduates, continue their formative journey with the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood as they discern their commitment to join CPPS Partners in Mission.

These women have been meeting in O'Fallon since September 2007 and conclude their discernment in June 2008. I ask your prayer for them; they are wonderful women who desire to live the mission of reconciliation!

