

Partners in Mission

History and Ministries of the CPPS

Opening Prayer

Lord:

We praise you when the harvest is plenty.

We thank you for the abundance and overflow of goodness and blessings you give us.

How humbled we are at your favor in our lives.

As we find ourselves in a season of richness, may you cause our hearts to remember others.

As your word instructs us, guide us to be helpers to those in need, givers to those who have less, and generous with our time, talents, and resources.

We want to be obedient and faithful to you by giving to others the overflow of what we have, so that you would bless the work of our hands.

We ask to be cheerful givers and to be representatives of your love in this world.

Amen.

The charism of the Precious Blood has an uncompromising commitment to life and the quality of life for all people.

We will challenge ourselves and our global society in how we treat the poor, the sick, the alienated, as well as our stewardship of the earth that God has given to us.

Ours is a spirituality of reconciliation between God and the entire human family. We will bring together in love and with faith the diverse factions that attempt to rip apart the unity for which Jesus lived and died.

Our spirituality calls us to a radical love that is poured out for all in adoration, in sharing, and in solidarity. We are committed to living this out in our daily lives.

Taken from "United in Prayer" Precious Blood Prayers

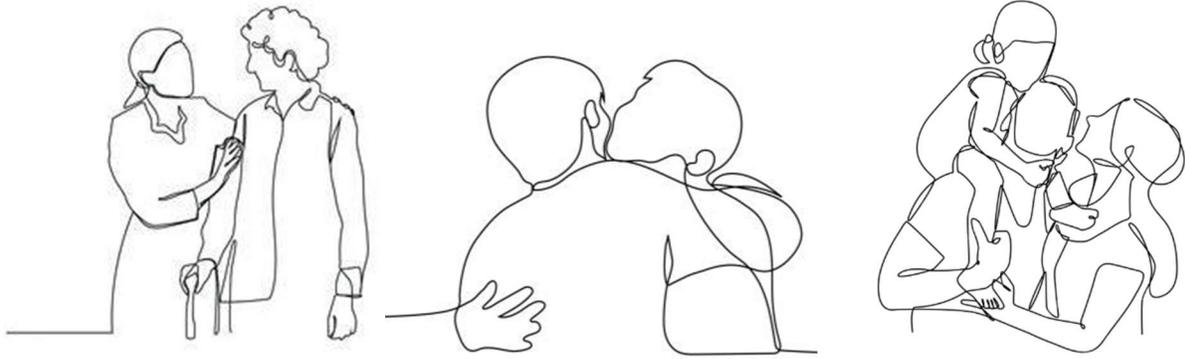
Throughout the story of the Precious Blood Community (planted in 1845) and still alive in the 21st century, are elements of any good life story. Within these years and still present today are the elements of:

*movement * risking the unknown * disagreements * flexibility

*hope * illness * conflict * perseverance * response to needs * prayer

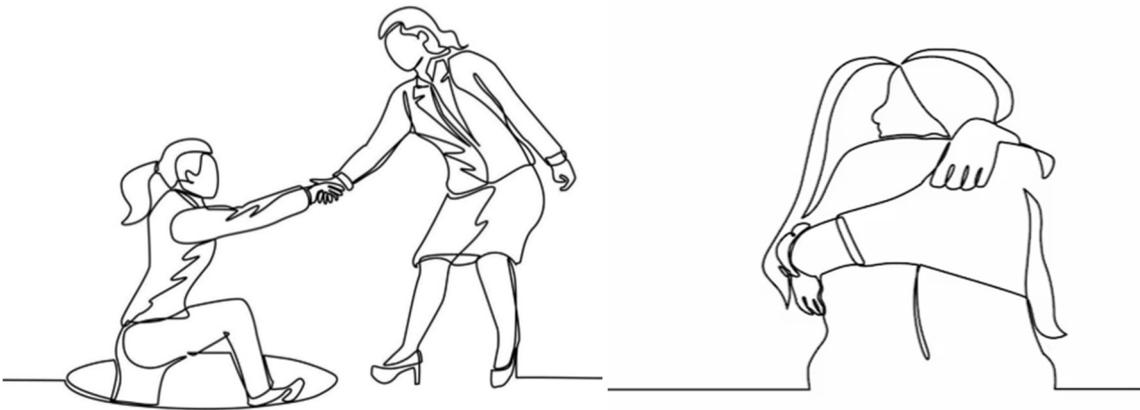
*death * confusion * loss * sense of mission * striving

*periods of discernment * Love of God



Take some time to journal thoughts about your life story.

- **Were there times you had the same elements listed as the Sisters?**
- **What got you through the tough times and the stress-filled times?**
- **What has brought you the most joy?**
- **How have your gifts (charisms) been used to share with others?**
- **If you ask God one question about your life story, what would it be?**



Closing Prayer

Lord,

I know how much you love me.

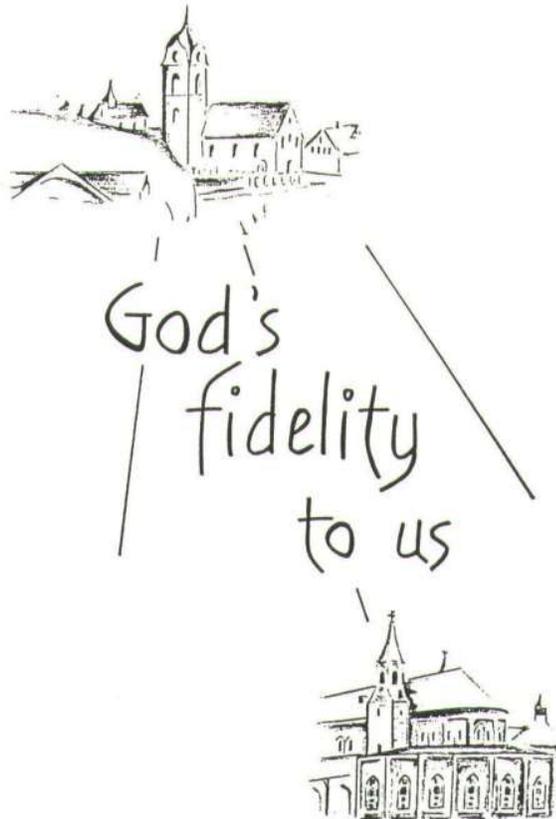
It's hard for me to feel it sometimes, but I know your love is always with me.

Let me be aware of the many ways you reach out to help me today,

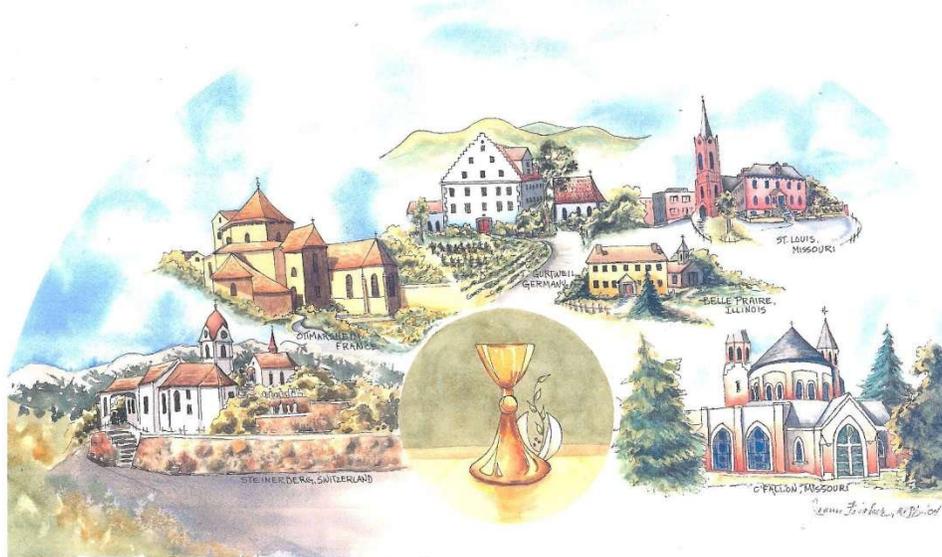
and let me stand in awe of the power that you use in such loving ways.

Help me to let go of this world and draw closer to you each day.

Amen



We, the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, Missouri, form a community that finds its mission in the Church. Rooted in the Eucharist and personal prayer we continue the mission of Jesus by striving to be and to experience Christ's redeeming presence as we affirm and empower one another and those we serve, especially the poor.



SISTERS OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF O'FALLON, MISSOURI

STEINERBERG, SWITZERLAND

In 1845, a group of young German women gathered in Steinerberg, Switzerland, to form a religious community dedicated to Perpetual Adoration and the veneration of the Precious Blood. Several sisters taught. Despite government opposition, the imprisonment of their spiritual director, and much sickness and death, many young women joined the community.

OTTMARSHEIM, THE ALSACE

Beginning in 1848 the community, expelled by the secular Swiss government, moved to Ottmarsheim, leaving behind their sisters who had died, including their foundress, Mother Theresa Weber. They became affiliated in 1847 with the Precious Blood Sisters in Rome whose primary purpose was education. Consequently, the sisters were trained to teach young girls although they had come together to be contemplative.

GURTWEIL, GERMANY

Starting in 1857, the sisters began to teach in Gurtweil, where many sisters were finally able to return to their native Baden. As more children came to the school, an additional source of income was needed, so the sisters began making Church vestments. In 1860, the community separated; the sisters desiring to remain contemplative remained in Ottmarsheim, and the sisters desiring to be more active moved to Gurtweil.

BELLE PRAIRIE (PIOPOLIS), ILLINOIS

Government opposition in Germany again forced the sisters to leave. In 1870, the first sisters journeyed to Belle Prairie, to which they had been invited by the pastor. More sisters arrived, but then the Bishop of Alton wanted the sisters to sever ties with the sisters in Europe and become a diocesan community, under him. The sisters refused his request.

ST. AGATHA PARISH, ST. LOUIS

In 1873, the sisters moved to St. Agatha's Parish when the Bishop of Alton dismissed them from his diocese.

OFALLON, MISSOURI

In 1875, the sisters moved to what was to become their Motherhouse in O'Fallon. From here, they served in many areas of the Midwest, and later in Finland, Bolivia, and Peru.



**In celebrating the Eucharist
we respond to all that is given to us as gift by the Lord.
We allow the redemptive work of Christ to transform our lives and
to overflow into our community efforts and mission.**

Constitutions #16

MINISTRY

IN THE WORDS OF MOTHER THERESA WEBER (FOUNDRRESS OF THE SISTERS OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD):

“ALL LIFE IS PRECIOUS, PRECIOUS AS THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.”



She is known to have said this during a very difficult time in Switzerland when some young women were looking to the saving blood of Christ for healing and strength.

Mother Theresa is present today, in spirit, to remind us of our painful beginnings, our struggles with many types of changes, and our response to the needs of today. We are inspired to trust that we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, and of God's profound fidelity to us both then and now.

Today the Sisters have varied ministries. Although they were formed as a community of educators, especially of youth and girls. They have reached out now according to the needs of others and their own special gifts as women.

The Sisters' ministries:

- Evidence of people who are energetic and creative
- Responding to the human needs of others.
- They are ordinary people, doing extraordinary things.
- They are witnesses of Global justice, with love and care for all God's people
- The Sisters show us the importance of a life of balance between prayer and action.
- They become visible signs of God's love for the World.

SISTERS' CURRENT MINISTRIES

Spirituality

- Spiritual Direction
- Prayer
- Communion Service

Eradication of Poverty

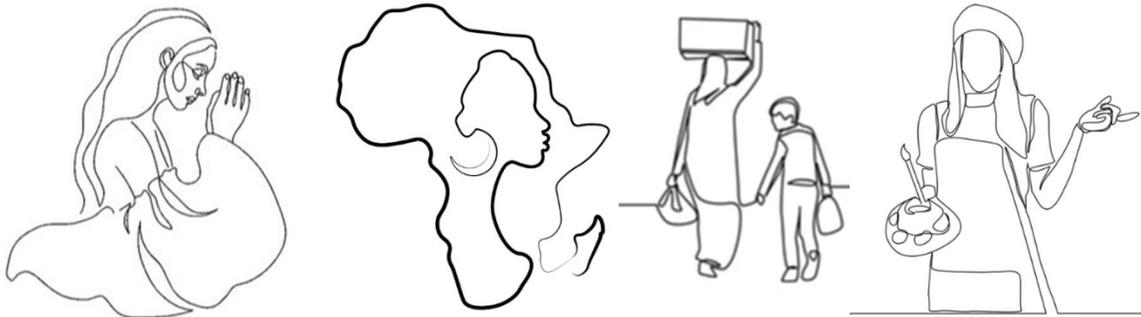
- Food Pantries/Systemic Change Agents
- Human Trafficking - UNANIMA International/Local
- Sustainability in Uganda
- Microfinancing in Africa

Welcoming

- Immigration Reform/Hispanic Ministries
- Prison Ministries
- Chaplaincy
- Care and comfort of the residences in The Abbey

Art

- Chapel tours
- Legacy
- Ironwork
- Paintings
- Stained Glass



WHAT CAN PARTNERS DO?

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Ministry is acting on the mission. It is what we do day to day to bring about the mission. The mission – “to bring Christ's reconciling presence to those we encounter in our daily lives. We will carry on the Sister's legacy by deepening our relationships with God, each other, and the community to heal our broken world.”

Our charism of the precious blood has an uncompromising commitment to life and the quality of life for all people.

We will challenge ourselves and our global society in how we treat the poor, the sick, the alienated, as well as our stewardship of the earth that God has given to us.

Ours is a spirituality of reconciliation between God and the entire human family. We will bring together in love and with faith the diverse factions that attempt to rip apart the unity for which Jesus lived and died.

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CURRENT MINISTRIES

- St. Anthony's Food Pantry
- Sts. Joachim & Anne Care Service
- Alleluia Baskets
- St. Francis Community Services
- Crisis Nursery
- Room at the Inn
- Ladies of Charity Food Pantry
- Abbey Senior Services
- Summer Picnic
- Assembly Day

Our Personal Story

The life of each of us is a story in progress --- a story taking form and living out a narrative and a structure. We may have common experiences of struggle, joy, stress, conflict, etc., just as we heard the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood did in the early days, even until this unfolding in time.