

## Prayer in Honor of the Precious Blood



*We are all washed clean in the blood of  
the Lamb,  
our sins forgiven, our hearts strengthened,  
our lives given purpose.*

*Grant to me, this day, O Saving God,  
the power of the Precious Blood  
so that I might see the violence and  
disharmony  
around and within me.*

*Move me to bring your life-giving love,  
your reconciling power  
to those who do not know you and  
cannot hear your voice  
in the events of their lives.*

*May this day be one of praise and honor  
to the saving blood of Jesus.*

*Amen.*

By Joyce Lehman, C.P.P.S. Dayton

## THOUGHTS ON PARTNERS IN MISSION

Becoming a Partner in Mission requires commitment and a process of becoming more, not doing more.

Becoming a Partner in Mission is a desire to be part of a like-minded community of people and its spiritual gifts.

Becoming Partner in Mission recognizes that we are always evolving and will continue to evolve if we dance with the Spirit.

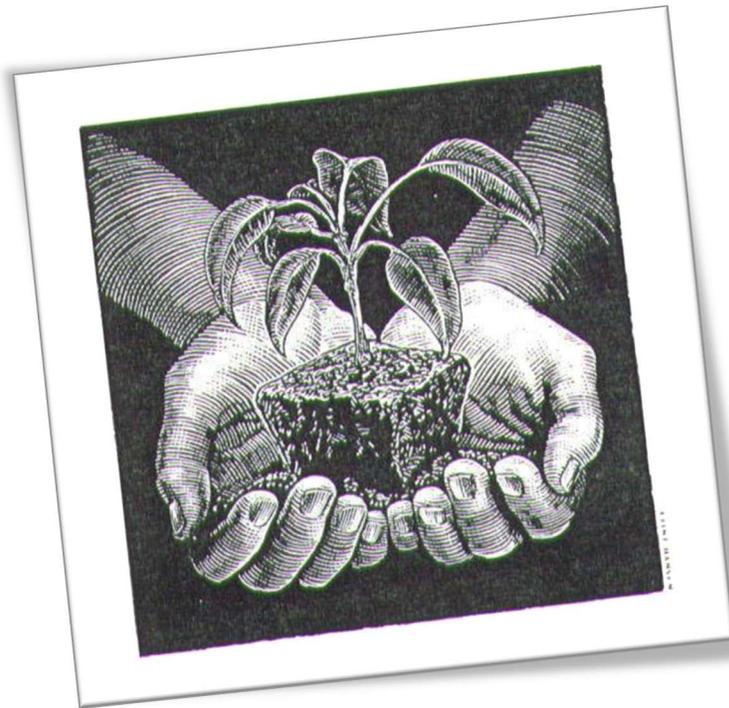
Becoming Partner in Mission encourages us to be willing to do our own “inner work” and the willingness to unpack and to share our own style of prayer and spirituality.

Becoming Partner in Mission offers opportunities to be more involved with the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O’Fallon, Missouri and to work toward keeping their legacy, mission, and charism alive.

I welcome you with arms open and heart ready to continue with you on your journey and your story. I will pray for you and support you on this step forward. I believe that you need not look at the whole staircase, just the first step!

Thanks for being a part of this Pathway!





## SMALL FAITH COMMUNITY

*“Community means helping people know one another’s stories and then deciding what the community wants to achieve.”*

Marie Trout

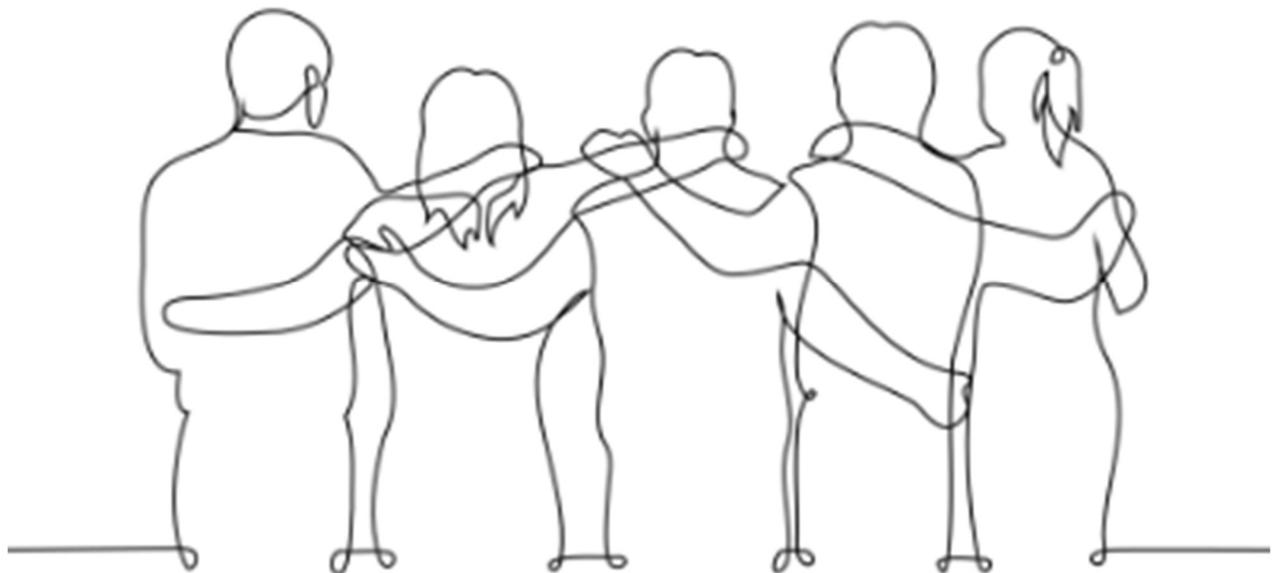
## **WHAT IS A SMALL FAITH COMMUNITY?**

The Small Faith Community is the goal and gem of our partnership with the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. It is about keeping us connected and focused on something larger than ourselves. The purpose is to connect with Sisters and other Partners and to carry on the Sisters Legacy.

Simply put, Small Faith Communities are groups of people who want to explore the charism of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. A personal desire or call to continue the journey is answered and one can connect with others who have also responded to that call. A formal commitment is made annually each year in September.

Diversity in Small Faith Communities gives us the ability to meet various needs of our communities. A typical gathering could include prayer, some article/topic that will be shared and discussed at the gathering. Sometimes this is given the month prior, so that one has time to reflect and prepare so sharing is reflective and stimulating.

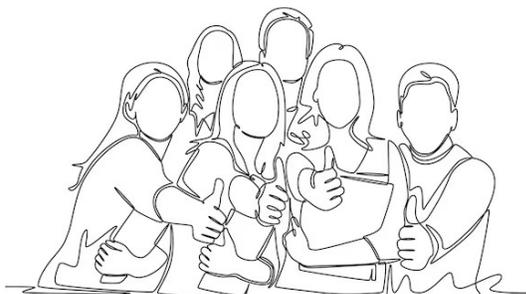
Often Small Faith Communities choose a service/ministry together. This can be a one-time event or may carry over many times. It is not mandatory. This is entirely up to the individuals in the community. Many of us already do service in other areas of our lives. We are not about burdening or adding on more "to do's"! Praying for others and family responsibilities is a very important ministry and can be done by each of us. Requests for prayer intentions is also a part of each gathering and can also be viewed on the e-mails sent to us from the Collaborative Governance Team.



## **WHY DO WE CONTINUE IN SMALL FAITH COMMUNITY?**

We continue a process that is on-going and deeper in sharing ourselves and our insights. We are also encouraged in our spiritual life and everyday ministries. We become more connected with other Partners and Sisters who are on a spiritual path.

**THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME REFLECTIONS/REMARKS MADE BY OTHER PARTNERS WHO HAVE BEEN PART OF A SMALL FAITH COMMUNITY:**



A lifeline – a community who keeps me grounded, accepted, respected, and loved. It is my extended family of faith.

A place to share life stories and discuss new topics and ideas.

A place to be stretched and encouraged to speak my own truth.

A place to be more reflective and trust my own gifts.

A place to be nurtured in my spirituality.

A place that exposes me to greater awareness of social justice issues: women issues, compassion, prayer, peacemaker, suffering of the poor, ecology and feminine spirituality.



A key to living my life with more balance of prayer and action.

A place to laugh, enjoy, and meet with others, who have chosen to live more fully the mission, vision, and charisma of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood.

A place where mutual support and encouragement gives insight and grace at each gathering.



## **SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT SPIRITUALITY FROM OTHER SOURCES:**

- Spirituality is the context in which we give ourselves over to God's loving embrace. It is the position from which God (in and through us) embraces that part of the world we touch. Ours is the spirituality of the Precious Blood. (Al O'Dell from article "The Charism of the Moment" in The Wine Cellar Issue)
- Richard Rohr states: "Much of the work of spirituality is becoming aware of the biases, prejudices, and limitations thru which you see the moment. It is a lifetime of painful work!"
- Spirituality is a process of growth. It is a lifetime of expansion. It takes us through many twists and turns.
- Spirituality empowers our journey forward.
- Our spouses, family, friendships, and the multiple loves of our life are the grounds for our holiness and the core of our spirituality.
- Spirituality, Charism, and Mission are 3 Triads that all penetrate and nourish each other. All are useful as we strive to live out our call to holiness.
- My Small Faith Community enhances my life. It often tugs, stretches, and breaks open for me stories of how we individually and together live the spirituality of the Blood of Christ.
- For me, spirituality is learning to live a life of balance between prayer and actions of love and service.
- Spirituality is a path to making a difference in the world. I do this when I am present to those needs around me.
- Spirituality is how I live the Word of God that I come to learn at Mass and go forth to show that I have been touched by God's message.

## *Psalm of the Edge*

Spirit of our founders,  
Take us to the edge.

With a gentle push,  
Send us forth to fly  
Beyond the confinements  
Of our minds  
To the heart of mystery.

You preached the vision  
Of a new heaven  
And a new earth.

This vision has its time  
And will not disappoint.

Etch the vision  
In our imagination  
To help us see  
The time is now.

Give us courage  
To find our home  
On the edge  
Where heaven meets earth  
And hope is born.

-Joe Nassal, CPPS