

SUMMER 2018

C P P S T O D A Y

MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD



FATHERS & FAITH

Parish Discussion Group Helps
Men Keep Their Focus on Christ

In this issue of *C.P.P.S. Today*



**The men's group
at Sts. Peter and
Paul in Ottawa,
Ohio.**

Page 2: **Finding God in the Unexpected**

Throughout our lives we encounter the unexpected—but God is always there. *Between the Lines* by Fr. Jeffrey Kirch, C.P.P.S., provincial director of the Cincinnati Province.

Page 3: **Fathers & Faith**

Members of a parish men's group find that fellowship strengthens their faith.

Page 8: **What Else Can We Do?**

A vocation minister offers some ideas in addition to praying for vocations. *Call and Answer* by Fr. Steve Dos Santos, C.P.P.S., director of vocation ministry.

Page 9: **The Mission of the Mission**

The goal of a parish mission is to get people fired up about their faith. That was true when St. Gaspar was preaching parish missions, and it's still true today.

Page 14: **Cincinnati Province Elects New Leadership**

Fr. Jeffrey Kirch, C.P.P.S., takes on a new role as provincial director.

Page 15: **Chapter and Verse**

News about C.P.P.S. people and places.

Page 17: **Setting Events in Motion**

Even when we're trying to do good, it doesn't always work out that way. *At Our House* by Jean Giesige, editor of *C.P.P.S. Today*.



**St. Gaspar,
founder of the
C.P.P.S.**

C.P.P.S. is an abbreviation of the Latin name of the Congregation, Congregatio Pretiosissimi Sanguinis, *Congregation of the Most Precious Blood*.

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On Facebook, Missionaries of the Precious Blood Cincinnati Province
On Twitter, @cppsincinnati

Finding God in the Unexpected

The past few weeks have been a blur. What began as a simple trip to the United States for some meetings and vacation time became a life-changing trip. I arrived at the electoral assembly in May expecting to enjoy time with my fellow Missionaries. By the end of the assembly I was trying to rebook airline tickets, figure out where to live, and wrap my head around the fact that my brothers have entrusted me with a ministry of service to them and the wider Precious Blood family. It was a busy few weeks!

Throughout our lives we encounter the unexpected. In our family relationships, at work and in our own personal faith journeys we often have to deal with situations that arise quickly and unexpectedly. Sometimes the outcomes are difficult to deal with, while at other times we can see joy in the journey.

On July 1, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Precious Blood. In the Gospel we heard St. Luke's description of the last supper. Jesus had gathered his disciples in the upper room to celebrate the Passover meal with them. It was something they did each year. But this time something unexpected happened. Jesus spoke to them as he never had before. Breaking the bread, he told them that this is his body given up for them. Taking the cup, he told them that this is the cup of the new covenant in his blood, shed for them. These words would take on a new meaning with the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. As Missionaries of the Precious Blood, Companions, and friends of the Congregation, these words of Christ have a special meaning for us. Our spirituality is rooted in this great mystery.

When our lives take unexpected turns, like the apostles experienced in that upper room, we turn to our faith in God for that sure foundation. This issue of *C.P.P.S. Today* offers us glimpses of this faith in God. The men's group in Ottawa, Ohio that is profiled in this issue is a powerful example of people coming together to support one another and grow in faith. This type of ministry is not something new, as can be seen in the article on parish missions. St. Gaspar and all of the Missionaries who followed in his footsteps preached that the love of God knows no bounds. They proclaimed that even in unexpected and difficult events of life, God is there.

As I begin this ministry of service as provincial director, along with the newly elected provincial council, the support of you and God will be our sure foundation.

**Between
the Lines**
by Fr. Jeffrey
Kirch, C.P.P.S.





FATHERS & FAITH

“Iron sharpens iron,” said one husband and father who participates faithfully in the men’s group at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Ottawa, Ohio. They meet before sunrise on Saturday mornings, before their regular weekend schedules can intrude.

Early on a Saturday morning in the spring, before the sun was up but after the coffee was brewed, a group of men gathered in the cafeteria of Sts. Peter and Paul School in Ottawa, Ohio. No one looked sleepy, and when they turned the lights down to start the video they'd all come to watch, no one dozed off.

It was the season's next-to-last session of a men's prayer and discussion group that's been meeting at the parish for four years. They follow the materials provided by *That Man is You*, a ministry intended to help Catholic men strengthen their faith. After the 30-minute video, everybody went to get another cup of coffee, and then the heart of the meeting began. They sat around the cafeteria tables and talked about things that really matter: faith, family, troubles, triumphs, love and life.

This week's session focused on St. Joseph, seen by many of the men as a model for their own lives. "When my children were young, I bought them a statue of Joseph with Jesus on his shoulder," one father said in his small group. "I liked that they had that image in their room."

Another father talked about his own faith journey. "I always thought that faith and family were separate," he said. "I thought that church was church, and family was where you raised

your kids. It took me a long time to realize that family is church. They're one and the same. I wish I'd known that when I was 25."

The men talked about how St. Joseph, as the father of the Holy Family, had to have influenced Jesus when he was growing up in Nazareth. "We don't hear anything about Jesus' early life after we hear the story that he was lost in the temple," another man said. "All those years, between that time and when he stepped into his public ministry, he had to learn from the experiences he had in that family. Joseph and Mary had to be his core teachers. I would love to know more about his young life, and what transpired in their home. But it had to be the family that helped form him."

Family is the Foundation

The discussion went on, lively and engaging. The men talked about things that were going on in their own families, local concerns and larger issues. They explored their faith lives and their Church. "I read that the pope goes to confession every week, and I wondered why—what can the pope do wrong?" one man said. "Then it struck me: he's human, just like the rest of us."

After 30 minutes, the group leader, Deacon Jim Rump, brought the discussion to a close.

The organizers know they have to be strict with the time so that the men keep coming; they have plenty of other things they need to do on Saturdays.

Fr. Matt Jozefiak, C.P.P.S., is part of the group. He's the pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul, where Missionaries of the Precious Blood have been in ministry throughout the 150-year history of the parish. Having a place where husbands and fathers can intentionally talk about their faith can strengthen the family, he said.

"Family is the foundation of all that is good," Fr. Jozefiak said. "We can see it. When you see brokenness in the family, there's chaos. If you're brought up in a good family, it gives you a good foundation. With a good foundation, that house will stand."

Strong Bonds, Deep Trust

There are 20 to 25 men who usually take part in the sessions each week. The leaders of the group initially took guidance from a similar group meeting in nearby Glandorf, Ohio, Deacon Rump said.

Parishioner Tim Fruchey said he enjoys "being with a group of guys who have similar values and are trying to get closer to God."

Paul Brickner said he comes to the Saturday sessions for

fellowship and for his faith. "You learn something new each week. And it gives me a good focus—it puts faith and family in the forefront," he said.

Many of the men were looking for a way to deepen their spiritual life. "When they announced that this group was starting, I knew absolutely that I would be a part of it," said Eric Siefker. "This group has been great for me. I enjoy the fellowship, and I always learn something about my faith. Then I can bring that home to my wife and kids."

They've formed strong bonds and deep trust in the group, they added. "You know that whatever you talk about, it's going to stay here," Brickner said. "We can open up to each other. We've asked each other for prayers during tough times. After four years of being together, there's a comfort level."

It's enhanced their worship on Sundays and on weekdays as well. Fr. Jozefiak said that many of the men come to the parish for the sacrament of reconciliation, fine-tuning what they've heard and talked about on Saturday.

It helped at least one person feel more at home in the town. "I'm a transplant," said Chad Masters. "I'd been here (in Ottawa) for years, but I still felt like I didn't really know anybody. Here, I met a group of guys of the



Above, Fr. Matt Jozefiak takes part in the table discussion. Left, Ted Macke, Chad Masters and Deacon Jim Rump share their thoughts over coffee in the school cafeteria.



same faith, with a good mix of ages and life experiences, a place where we could talk about our struggles. I'm always looking for ways to strengthen my faith, and I'm also looking for ways to pass it along. I've formed a lot of great relationships with people I never would have met without this group."

Masters and his wife, Andrea, had their fourth child earlier this year. They asked Brian Fruchey

(Tim's son), whom Chad had met in the men's group, to be the godfather. "We're not biologically related, but we're faith related," he said. He knows he has placed his child in good hands.

"We Make Each Stronger"

There have been other blessings along the way, as the good that comes from the group flows out into families



“I try to surround myself with good people, hoping to make myself better.”
— *Jeff Giesige*

and parish. Jeff Giesige enjoys being a part of the group, he said, because “iron sharpens iron. We make each other stronger. I try to surround myself with good people, hoping to make myself better.”

His wife saw how much the group meant to him, how much it helped him, and that made her think about her own faith life, Giesige said. After much prayer and discussion, she entered St. Peter and Paul’s RCIA class last fall and was received into the church at Easter.

And other families have been affected by it as well. “My son is the one who got me here,” said Fruchey. “He was coming to the sessions, and he said, ‘Dad, why don’t you come along?’ I’m not a big talker, the guys know that. They get to see me come out of my shell.

“My son sees it too. We go on drives, and he likes to talk about

his faith. I can see that over the years, maybe my actions have spoken louder than words.”

And, he added, “My wife is amazed that I can get up this early on a Saturday!”

The sessions will resume in the fall; in the meantime, the men miss their Saturday mornings together, but they stay in touch. They keep helping each other along the path.

Fr. Jozefiak said that while he misses seeing them on Saturday, he likes to see the members of the group in church with their families.

“Personally, this group has helped me with my own faith life,” he said. “The men here are married and have families. They speak clearly about their spiritual life. They are spiritual friends, and they’re friends to me. They’ve played an indispensable role in inspiring me in my priesthood.”



What Else Can We Do?

“What else can we do?” This was the question a young father asked a fellow vocation director at the Cincinnati Men’s Conference in April. He and his wife regularly prayed for vocations, and they taught their young children to do so as well; but he wanted to know what else they could do to promote vocations in their home. What follows are some specific things that can be done to help create a culture of vocation in the home.

- Pray specifically rather than generally. Praying for vocations in general is a great thing, but how about upping the ante and praying for vocations from your own parish? Parents and grandparents can boldly pray that God will call someone from their family. Children can be taught to pray that the Lord will help them to discover their own vocation.

- Help your children get to know priests and religious. Make time for you and your children to chat with the priest or a religious brother/sister after Mass on Sunday. Invite priests and religious into your home regularly for a simple meal, or just to hang out with no agenda.

- Have fun with priests and religious. Maybe it’s at the parish festival, or at a ball game. Invite them over for a family game night.

- Use the language of discernment. Don’t let discernment be a word that is attached only to the priesthood/religious life. Model discernment in your home by making prayer a part of major family decisions. Teach your children to discern as they begin to make important decisions. Talk openly about your own discernment to married life.

- Spend more than an hour a week at church. Whether through social activities and religious education, or just time the family comes to church to pray, make church an important part of your family life.

- Pray together as a family. The more prayer is central to the family life, the more it will be central to your child’s life.

- Read the lives of the saints. As you read the lives of the saints with your children, they will get a better understanding of the call to holiness and how it has been lived. They will get to know holy priests, brothers, sisters, husbands, wives and single people.

These are just a few ideas, they are by no means exhaustive. One important element of promoting vocations is helping our children to see themselves in the priests and religious they know. God does the calling; it is our job to help our children listen, hear and respond.

**Call and Answer
by Fr. Steve Dos
Santos, C.P.P.S.**



The Mission of the Mission

Preaching parish missions was one of the first ministries of the C.P.P.S. Parish missions have changed a lot in 200 years—but much about them remains the same.



A parish mission at Immaculate Conception Church in Celina, Ohio, uses candles to set faith on fire.

A parish mission can enliven and energize the people of God. A new preacher comes to town, a new voice and a new message, and it gives folks a new perspective on their faith.

That's true today, and it was true in 1815, when St. Gaspar del Bufalo founded the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in Italy.

St. Gaspar and his early Missionaries were on a mission to renew a Church that had been spiritually battered and bruised

during the Napoleonic Wars.

St. Gaspar believed that the best way to do that was to take his message of reconciliation and redemption directly to the people through parish missions.

It was quite a show, said Fr. Jerry Stack, C.P.P.S., who, as editor of the C.P.P.S. Resource Series and former secretary general of the Congregation, has done extensive research on St. Gaspar's life and times. St. Gaspar, whose father was an actor and promoter of public

events, knew that he had to capture the attention of the people right from the start.

“The Missionaries’ entrance to a parish mission was theatrical—Missionaries would come to the gate of the town or its main plaza, and be met by the bishop or his representative and some of the town’s magistrates,” Fr. Stack said. “Various organizations, called confraternities, would also be there. These were made up mainly of lay men. They would have special habits that they wore, similar to monastic habits. It was a grand affair.”

That dramatic beginning was the start of two weeks of preaching, Masses, confession, catechism, singing and other activities, in the hope that the people would experience God’s mercy and in turn, extend mercy to each other.

Stoking the Fire

Bishops don’t normally meet the mission team in the town square these days. But in many ways the goal of a parish mission remains the same as when St. Gaspar and his Missionaries came to town.

Vince Ambrosetti is a composer and musician who has given missions around the U.S. Last spring, he presented his mission, *Awaken Our Hearts*, at Immaculate Conception Church

in Celina, where Missionaries of the Precious Blood are in ministry.

“What do I hope the mission will accomplish? That it will bring back disengaged people. For people who are already coming to church faithfully, that the Eucharist will have an amplified place in their lives. And that for all, the sacrament of reconciliation will be a flashpoint in our souls,” Ambrosetti said. “That the baptized understand that baptism isn’t just a card you carry, but it’s at the heart of who you are. That at the end of the mission people will be fired up. Every now and then, we have to stoke that fire. To me that’s the purpose of the mission. We want people to get more deeply, richly, passionately involved in the sacraments in their parish.”

There’s nothing there that St. Gaspar wouldn’t affirm. He would likely also understand the preparations involved; before Ambrosetti came to Immaculate Conception, the parish received a 63-page PDF of instructions on everything from set-up to tear-down, including a list of all the volunteer positions that would have to be filled to make the mission run smoothly.

St. Gaspar was similarly methodical and also had a detailed plan in mind, said Fr. Stack. “My understanding of Gaspar was that he was not

only charismatic, but he was very organized,” he said. “You don’t often find those characteristics in the same person.”

Gaspar wrote a detailed guidebook, *Method of the Mission*, in which he described how a parish mission was to take place. He expected his Missionaries to follow the method, for the most part, though he did allow some leeway in the topics they chose for their preaching and teaching. “One of Gaspar’s quotes is, ‘The mission is a machine that runs like a clock,’” Fr. Stack said.

Getting the People’s Attention

When Ambrosetti is coming to a parish, he is preceded by notices in the bulletin, on a parish website and in its social media. Gaspar had none of that, and had to use other methods to persuade people to gather. Processions were an important part of his missions, said Fr. Stack, both to help the people express their faith and also to attract more onlookers. The lay volunteers of the confraternities carried maces, which they would pound on the church floor to keep order. Church bells were used as a signal in the evening to let people know that now was the time they should settle any differences within the family.

“St. Gaspar knew that sometimes, you need to engage

people at a different level than just intellectually,” Fr. Stack said. The mission also included activities for people of all ages, and lots of music, led by local singers both clergy and lay.

Two centuries later, Ambrosetti concurs. “Our mission offers a combination of ritual, sacrament, story, preaching and song: it’s what gets us completely firing on all cylinders,” he said. “I like it when people are laughing from the gut one minute, and three minutes later they’re in tears. It’s the full spectrum, because that’s how life is.”

God’s Unconditional Love

The first job is to get the people’s attention and hold it—but the power of a mission is really in its message, said Fr. Andy O’Reilly, C.P.P.S. A former pastor, he has been preaching parish missions for eight years (fatherandy.com).

“What I’m trying to convey are themes of God’s love and compassion, reconciliation and forgiveness: ideas that are central to Precious Blood spirituality,” he said. “Often, I concentrate on God’s unconditional love for his people. And people will come up to me afterwards and say, ‘Thank you—I had forgotten how much God loves me.’”

As a mission preacher,

Fr. O'Reilly enjoys more latitude than a pastor in a parish where people might start to fidget 10 minutes into a sermon. "The pastor has a limited time to preach on Sunday," he said. "But at a parish mission, you can go deeper. People don't mind if you preach longer. They know they're going to be there for a while—and they want to be there for a while. It gives them a chance to reflect a little more than they might in their day-to-day lives."

Fr. Dennis Chriszt, C.P.P.S., is the director of Precious Blood Parish Missions (PBParishmissions.org). He travels with a three-person team that includes a religious sister and a Companion (lay associate).

"St. Gaspar had a team with him when he did a mission, and so do we," Fr. Chriszt said.

He hopes that hearing from three different people gives parishioners a 360-degree view of the message of the mission.

"Sometimes, when people hear something from a priest or religious sister, they might think, 'They're religious, they're supposed to think that way,'" he said. "It can be a powerful witness when a lay person speaks



Vince Ambrosetti (back row, center) and his mission team with Missionaries of the Precious Blood in ministry at IC, Frs. Ken Schnipke (back row, far left), Vince Wirtner (front row, far right) and candidate Greg Evers (back row, second from right).

out of his or her own experience, which is the experience of most of the people in the church.

"St. Gaspar was inspired by Francis de Sales and his belief that lay people could be holy. And their preaching witnesses to that, and enables the listeners to believe they can be holy too, right where they are."

The Fruit of the Mission

St. Gaspar wanted the message of his mission to linger. While he was in a town, he organized groups that would continue the catechesis after he was gone, or he reenergized and



St. Gaspar del Bufalo

While the Missionaries' parish missions began with great fanfare, they usually ended quietly. "Gaspar didn't want applause or adulation," said Fr. Stack. "Once you left, you left."

recommissioned groups that were already in existence in the parish. "He wanted what he called 'the fruit of the mission' to be preserved," Fr. Stack said.

But in the end, he knew he would have to travel on. Their entrance into town was very grand, but when they departed, the Missionaries did so quietly, humbly. "Gaspar didn't want applause or adulation," Fr. Stack said. "Once you left, you left."

Fr. Chriszt said his team

hopes that parishioners can continue sharing their faith after the mission is over. "We give them a resource they can use to reflect on the Sunday scriptures," he said. "The leader doesn't have to be a theologian, just a believer. Anybody in the parish can host a faith-sharing group. They can do it for a few weeks or they can do it for the rest of their lives."

Then as now, a parish mission preacher doesn't get to see the end of the story. "One of the great challenges of our ministry is that you can't really measure what you accomplish," Ambrosetti said. "We don't walk out and say, 'We had 23 transformations, 12 or 13 people went to confession for the first time in 30 years . . .' You don't really know what the long-term effect of a mission is going to be.

"We're not here as theologians, not here as experts. We're here to be good spoons. We want to stir up the pot and get the things that matter to rise to the top. If people can take spiritual and emotional inventory of their lives and walk away feeling that they've gotten something out of it, something that is new and invigorating and fresh—we've accomplished our mission."



Cincinnati Province Elects New Leadership Team

Fr. Jeffrey Kirch, C.P.P.S., was elected provincial director of the Cincinnati Province during the provincial assembly held May 21–25 at St. Charles Center in Carthage, Ohio.

Joining Fr. Kirch on the provincial council are Fr. Ken Schnipke, C.P.P.S., vice provincial; Fr. Ben Berinti, C.P.P.S.; Fr. Steve Dos Santos, C.P.P.S.; Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.; Br. Juan Acuña, C.P.P.S.; and Br. Tom Bohman, C.P.P.S.

Fr. Kirch, 41, a native of Greenwood, Ind., was serving in Rome as secretary general to the C.P.P.S. worldwide. He was installed as provincial director on July 2.

Fr. Kirch is a 1998 graduate of Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind., where he first met the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. He was ordained in 2004.

After his ordination, he served as a chaplain at Saint Joseph's College and taught in the religion department and the college's Core program. He also served in the administration of the college as the president's assistant. He later earned a doctoral degree in theology and served a term on the Cincinnati



Back row: Frs. Dos Santos, Kirch, Schnipke and McFarland. Front row, Br. Juan Acuña, Fr. Berinti and Br. Tom Bohman.

Province's provincial council from 2010–14.

In 2014, he was appointed secretary general, responsible for maintaining documents and communications to serve the worldwide Congregation.

"I'm humbled by the call to service," said Fr. Kirch. "I see my role as supporting our members and Companions in their service to the people of God. I'm also looking forward to working with all the members of the province as we move into this new adventure, this new phase of our life, with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood of the Kansas City Province."





Ordained to the Priesthood:

Fr. Matthew Keller, C.P.P.S., was ordained to the priesthood on June 9, 2018, in his home parish of St. John the Baptist in Maria Stein, Ohio. Bishop Joseph Charron, C.P.P.S., a fellow Missionary of the Precious Blood, presided.

In his homily, the bishop commented on the location of the ordination. “Maria Stein has such a wonderful place in the history of our Community,” he told the congregation, which had filled the country church to capacity. “After the Missionaries of the Precious Blood came to the United States (in 1844), our Precious Blood fathers, brothers and sisters worked and ministered here. By being ordained here, Matt, you are building on a very powerful tradition of the Precious Blood and the ministry of the Precious Blood.”

Bishop Charron told Fr. Keller to be fearless in his new role as a priest and to put all his faith in the God who called him. “God said to Jeremiah, ‘To whomever I send you, you will go. Have no fear.’ Matthew, on your ordination day, have no fear. Keep close to God, and God will stay close to you,” he said. “You are a Missionary of the Precious Blood. You have been chosen to spread the merits of the Precious Blood as part of this Community. . . .With a shepherd’s care, you are to be with the people in good times and difficult times—truly be in their midst as a strong but gentle leader, a true shepherd.”



Above, Fr. Keller, second from right, with Fr. Larry Hemmelgarn, Bishop Joseph Charron and Fr. William Nordenbrock. Below, Fr. Keller gives a first blessing to his parents, Paul and Carol Keller in St. Charles Assumption Chapel.

Fr. Keller, 29, served as a deacon at Dayton's Region Seven parishes, Emmanuel, Holy Trinity and St. Joseph. He will continue to serve there as associate pastor. Fr. Angelo Anthony, C.P.P.S., is the pastor.

Throughout his years of formation with the Missionaries, he also served at St. Michael Church in Kalida, Ohio, and the Church of the Resurrection in Cincinnati. He is a graduate of Marion Local High School in Maria Stein; St. Xavier University in Chicago; and the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where he earned a master of divinity degree.

Fr. Keller, the son of Paul and Carol Keller of Maria Stein, presided at his first Mass at St. John the Baptist on June 10. In his homily, he credited his parents and family members for fostering his religious vocation. He also thanked the Missionaries, who minister at the parish and at nearby St. Charles Center, for encouraging him on his path.

In his first homily as a priest, Fr. Keller said, "On a weekend like this, the temptation is to say 'It's all about me.' . . . What is this weekend really about? Last year before I was ordained a deacon, Fr. Dennis Chryst, C.P.P.S. (the director of advanced formation), gave me some words of wisdom. He said, 'It's not all about you. It's about how God is working through you.' I am just an instrument through whom God is working.

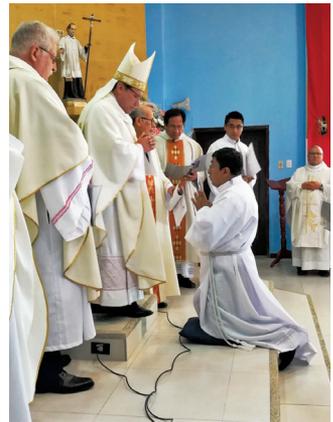
"God called me to the priesthood. But God calls each and every one of us. He doesn't call each and every one of us to do the same thing. He calls us to do a variety of different things, on different paths and in the various stages of our lives. When each of us responds to our call, we create a beautiful picture of what our Church is."

Ordained to the Diaconate: Eduardo Fredy Campos, C.P.P.S., was ordained a transitional deacon on June 2 in Bogotá, Colombia. The ceremony was held in Nuestra Señora de los Alpes (Our Lady of the Alps) Parish, where Missionaries of the Precious Blood of the Colombian mission are in ministry.

Fredy is Peruvian and grew up knowing the Missionaries in ministry in his hometown of La Oroya, Peru.

Presiding was Bishop José Daniel Falla, the bishop of Soacha, Colombia, and an old friend of the Congregation.

A reception followed the ordination Mass; the parishioners prepared a meal, and all enjoyed the festive atmosphere.



Fredy Campos is ordained to the diaconate.



Setting Events in Motion

I never paid much attention to birds until two things happened simultaneously this spring: a nest of robins hatched and thrived within sight of our patio, and I read Julie Zickefoose's fascinating book, *The Bluebird Effect*.

Zickefoose has spent most of her life caring for abandoned and/or injured fledglings and adult songbirds. Her stories of how she helped baby birds to thrive by feeding them custom-mixed food, sometimes every 20 minutes of every waking hour, made me feel I could do more.

So I hung a finch feeder next to a bird bath in our backyard. I love to look out the kitchen window while I'm washing dishes and see the finches at the feeder or a robin taking a good, long bath. Maybe it's one of "our" robins.

Nothing comes without consequences, however. Last week I went out to bring in the laundry and saw a bird had made a generous deposit in one of the laundry baskets. This can't be prevented under the best of circumstances but inviting all the additional birds into our yard makes it much more likely.

And there are worse things. Zickefoose writes that she loves to feed cardinals and often sees as many as 20 in her Ohio yard on a winter day. However, the crowd of cardinals also gets the attention of the sharp-shinned hawk, which swoops in and carries off a cardinal, which had been trying to enjoy a peaceful lunch.

That is happening at our place too. Now that we have a bird sanctuary in the backyard, we are also putting them at risk. One day I found two dead robins in the yard, probably the victims of the feral cats in the neighborhood. Maybe they were two of "our" robins.

All of our actions, whether done with good or evil intentions, set into motion a series of events that we cannot predict or control. Like dominoes they tumble on, seemingly to the ends of the earth. We can't always see whom we're helping or hurting with our daily decisions.

This is where God takes over. God can see and sort out the tangled layers of our lives; he can turn hurt into healing and can weave something beautiful out of what were perhaps poorly-conceived plans. What we set in motion, he can direct toward the light. Someone who multiplied loaves and fishes to feed the hungry crowd will have no trouble making something good come out of our efforts.

The effort, then: that's my part. I refill the feeder, wash out the birdbath and back away. What happens next, as with everything else, is up to God.

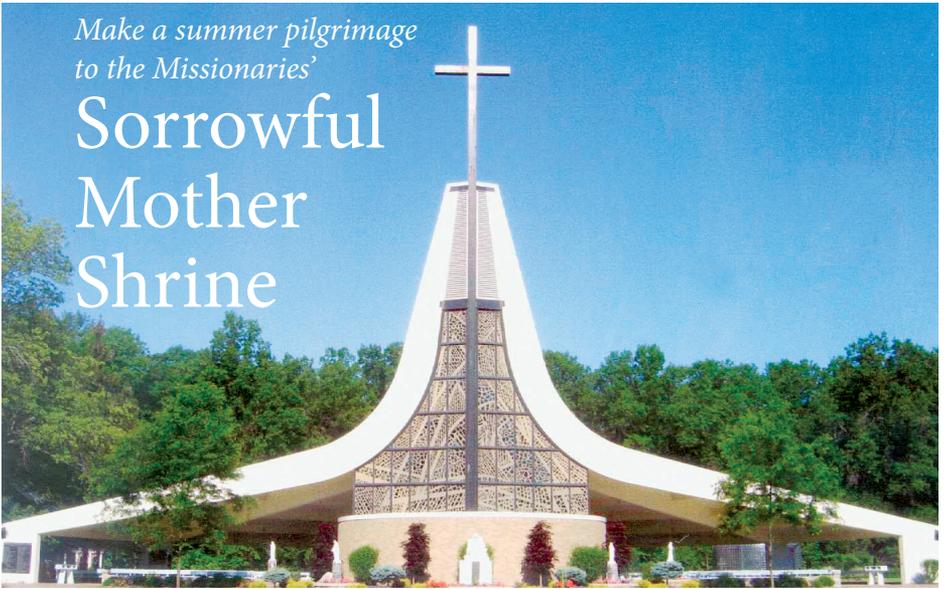


At Our House
by Jean Giesige



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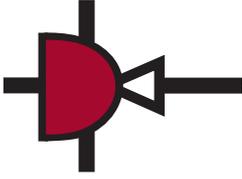
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