



MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

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Dear Friends,

I'll never be a soloist, but I can sing. I enjoy music and all that it brings to our lives. I especially appreciate it during Mass, when the music underlines the prayer we're offering. In May, we held our annual assembly at St. Charles Center in Carthagena, Ohio. Our Congregation has been blessed with several musicians and they led the singing, were cantors and played the organ. When the organist opens up the chapel's Holtkamp organ and the music swells to the final chord of the last hymn, it feels like another great amen.

If you're like me, you can sink into the music without always appreciating everything that goes into it. Whether at St. Charles or at your local parish, a great deal of thought and planning goes into music ministry. Someone chooses the music that will be knit into the liturgy. The choir is called together for practice. Soloists stand beside the organist, going over their part in advance. If we're not in the choir loft, we probably can't imagine how much time and effort goes into it.

I would venture to say that's true of most ministry. The training, the planning, the preparation and prayer, and then the time spent with the people of God—it's not undertaken lightly. The Holy Spirit gives us a nudge or maybe a hard push, but we need to put in the time and the work.

I know that's true of our Missionaries. As provincial director, I spend a lot of time on the road visiting our various ministry sites. I'm always impressed with the commitment of our priests and brothers to their lives of service. As with music ministry, much of it goes on behind the scenes. We may see the pastor at morning Mass, but may not realize that he's going on to a full day of meetings, visiting parishioners, counseling sessions, unexpected phone calls, and maybe if he's lucky a bit of time to think about his next homily. He has to be absolutely committed to his prayer life, too, or his relationship with the Lord gets boxed out by a busy schedule. And then everything suffers.



Provincial councilors help me guide the province, in addition to their full-time ministries. With me left to right are Br. Juan Acuña, Fr. Ben Berinti, Fr. Tim McFarland, Fr. Ken Schnipke, Br. Tom Bohman and Fr. Steve Dos Santos.

(Please detach from letter and return with your gift in the envelope provided.)

Yes, I would like to support the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____.

I would like to pledge \$ _____ a month a quarter

We will send you pledge forms and envelopes.

Please make your check payable to: **Society of the Precious Blood**

ACCOUNT:

To make a donation by credit card, please use the reverse side of this form.

All gifts count toward the *Missionary Hearts* Mission and Ministry Society membership levels.

I ___ have or ___ wish to include the Missionaries in my estate planning.

Another thing that you may not realize is that every Missionary also has a commitment to the C.P.P.S. Many of our priests and brothers, in addition to their ministry at a parish, school, hospital or other ministry site, also take on roles in our religious congregation. They serve on committees, organize or host our gatherings, travel to meetings, and/or volunteer for leadership positions. Our priest and brother members support their religious congregation in many ways.

And the Congregation, in turn, supports them. I take very seriously my commitment as provincial director to give our priests, religious brothers and candidates all that they need to lead a happy, faithful and fulfilling life. The Congregation supports their education, encourages their professional and pastoral growth, and takes care of them when they are sick. We provide times of spiritual enrichment, retreats and days of recollection, when they can spend time with the God who called them to this life.

They need that, because a life of ministry isn't only about an outpouring of God's love. For a priest or religious brother to be effective, he must know that he is loved and supported in turn. Our Congregation supports the priests, brothers and candidates who are committed to serving God's people—will you help us support them?

We truly believe that they can serve you better when we serve them well. We strive to provide the resources that they need through our provincial leadership. Will you prayerfully consider a donation to help with the Missionaries' general operating expenses? This would help with all the same bills that any family incurs, but it's for a big family: the family of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

Our priests and brothers work hard behind the scenes and they are there for you at the best and worst moments of your life: when you are celebrating the sacraments, or when you or someone you love is sick and suffering. When you feel lost and alone, and when you feel as one with your faith family, adding your own voice to the great amen.

Please consider a gift to help support our Congregation, which has been serving the people of God for over 200 years. And please remember our Missionaries in your prayers, and know that we pray for you every day, as together we move more and more toward the best life that God has in mind for us.

Sincerely in the Blood of Christ,

V. Rev. Jeffrey S. Kirch, C.P.P.S.

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Provincial Director

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cpps-preciousblood.org

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