

SUMMER 2016

CPPS TODAY

MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD



A Five-Hour Drive, A World Apart

Ohio Parishioners Find
Friends in Appalachia

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

SUMMER 2016

C.P.P.S. Today is published by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, (Society of the Precious Blood), Cincinnati Province, 431 E. Second St., Dayton, OH 45402 937-228-9263 mission@cpps-preciousblood.org cpps-preciousblood.org
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A Missionary Spirit

One of the best things that our Missionaries can do for the parishes, schools or other ministry sites they serve is turn the people's vision outward. I learned that first-hand when I was transferred to Rome, Italy for further studies after ordination. It was not something I sought out, but the Community asked me to do. It changed my life as I experienced the world from a different perspective.

When we're part of any circle of people, whether that's a parish, a school, a family or a religious congregation, it's easy to focus inward on our own triumphs, troubles and concerns. With his sometimes troublesome crew of disciples, Jesus could have spent his whole earthly ministry sorting out their squabbles and insecurities! Instead, he consistently set an example of service to those outside of his inner circle. He cast his net wider and wider to include the least likely and most needy.

It's wonderful to see people at our Precious Blood parishes reaching out to others in many ways. In this issue of *C.P.P.S. Today*, we tell the story of just one of those parishes, St. Michael in Kalida, Ohio, which later this summer will send another group on its annual mission trip to Appalachia. The people who've been on these trips say they receive more than they give. It's an eye-opening experience to get beyond our own familiar borders and learn how others live.

Our Fr. Mark Hoying, C.P.P.S., the pastor of St. Michael and also St. John the Baptist Church in Continental, Ohio, fosters a missionary spirit in the parishes where he serves. We all learn and grow as Christians when we keep our eyes and hearts open to others, especially to people whose lives and experiences are very different from our own.

Fr. Barry Fischer, C.P.P.S., our former moderator general, gave the commencement address this year at both Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind., and Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, Ind. He urged graduates to walk lovingly among the people of God. "When we let go of the false sense of cultural superiority which we tend to carry within us, we can be open to see life from the other side, with the eyes and ears of the other or of another culture," Fr. Barry said. "When we enter into the life of another, or walk in their culture, we are to take off our shoes and tread lightly, as we walk on sacred ground. We can learn so much and we will be better for it!"

May we all learn from each other, as together we build the kingdom of God!

**Between
the Lines
by Fr. Larry
Hemmelgarn,
C.P.P.S.**





**A Five-Hour Drive,
A World Apart**
**Ohio Parishioners Find
Friends in Appalachia**

(Photo by Sherry Unwerferth)

St. Michael Parish's mission trip to Appalachia isn't until the first week of August 2016, but don't try to sign up for it because you can't. It's full.

The roster for this year's mission trip at St. Michael has been full since early spring, "and about half the people who have signed up for it are first-timers," said Fr. Mark Hoying, C.P.P.S., the pastor of St. Michael in Kalida, Ohio, and nearby St. John the Baptist in Continental, Ohio.

Fr. Mark encourages the parishioners to reach out to others in many ways, but the annual mission trip is something special. It's a five-hour drive from Kalida to Louisa, Ky., but it might as well be 5,000 miles, because it's a chance for people to get away from their responsibilities at home and discover something about God and God's people, including themselves.

"We bring people of a variety of ages, from teens to 70-year-olds. We all stay in one house and we work hard every day, and in the evenings we spend time together and talk about everything we've seen," Fr. Mark said. "The trip helps you see people in your parish—people you might have known your whole life—in a different way. You work alongside them, you fix food with them, you play cards with them. And that creates a real bond."

It's Not All About the Work

The work is coordinated at and through the Fr. Beiting Appalachian Mission Center in Louisa, a project of the Diocese of

Lexington, Ky., named for the late Fr. Ralph Beiting, who ministered in the area for more than 60 years.

Fr. Mark talks with his parishioners before they depart from Kalida that, like Fr. Beiting, they need to accept the people in Appalachia for who they are. "While we're there, we install bathrooms, flooring, windows, siding, roofs and drywall. We paint and do other work on the inside of people's houses," he said.

"But it's not all about the work. It's about the people. Before we go, we talk about the cultural difference that our people will experience. It's important for us to see beyond our own borders."

Parishioner Connie Cleemput went along on the 2015 trip. "For me, it was an eye-opener," she said. "The crew that I was on worked on a house trailer owned by a grandmother who was taking care of her granddaughter. It was out in the holler. We replaced windows and a rotted floor, and the lady who lived there was so appreciative."

Connie said she experienced a culture where "family is so important. You see generations all living together. They're willing to share what they have, whether it's a soda or a meal."

Interacting with the Family

Dominic Capria, the director of operations at the Fr. Beiting

center, said that those experiences are at the heart of the mission. “Typically, our volunteers get more out of the experience than the people we serve,” he said. “We do accomplish home repairs and that’s important, but the idea is to interact with the family and develop a relationship with them. The repairs are almost secondary.”

Sherry Unverferth of St. Michael and her husband, Scott, were part of the parish’s 2014 trip, where they were on a roofing crew. “We put on a metal roof for a lady named Hazel. Her roof was rotting and sinking in places,” Sherry said. “Every morning, we said a prayer before the work started, and then we got busy. The women did the cutting of the metal roofing, and the men installed it—good teamwork. And you can’t believe how much fun it was!”

For the Unverferths, the trip was in part a celebration of their tenth anniversary, and not one that they took lightly. It meant leaving behind their four children, the youngest just a toddler. “He was just two years old at the time, a little red-haired, blue-eyed boy who was used to being with me all the time. I didn’t know if I could leave him for a whole week,” Sherry said. “I prayed, ‘God, help me get through not seeing my kids for a whole week.’ And then the first house that we worked on, there

was a little red-haired, blue-eyed kid. He looked exactly like my son and was the exact same age. It was a sign that, yep, I’m where I’m supposed to be.”

Some who signed up for the trip may worry that they don’t have the necessary skills to make a difference. But everyone brings something, Connie said.

“I know a little bit about everything. I can paint and I can hammer nails. But a lot of the women in our group questioned whether they’d be able to do the work,” she said. “But even if their skills were minimal, they could still spend time visiting with the people, which is a ministry in and of itself. It’s not all about the hands-on part. Equally important is taking the time to visit with the people.”

The Presence of Christ

The Unverferths and Connie and all the volunteers from Kalida were treated to Wednesday well visits, which offer a break in the work week and an opportunity to build relationships. A well visit is a chance for volunteers to sit with families and get to know them, Capria said.

“A well visit is just what it sounds like: a chance to check in with people. We usually try to put volunteers up with someone they have served in the past,” he said. “It’s a chance to say,



Left, a roofing crew at work. Below, volunteers Matt Keller, C.P.P.S., and Herm Borgelt work on windows.

(Photos by Sherry Unverferth and Rita Borgelt)



“Every morning, we said a prayer before the work started, and then we got busy. . . . And you can’t believe how much fun it was!”

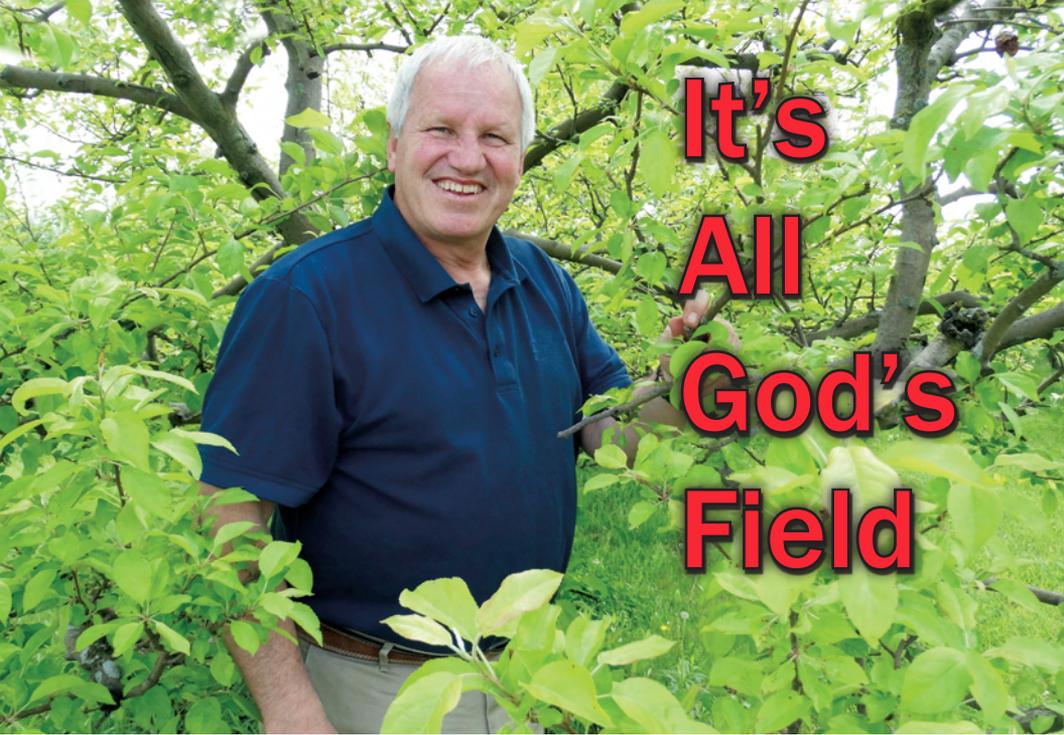
– Sherry Unverferth

‘How are you doing?’ ‘Let’s pray together,’ or ‘Let’s talk about your family.’ There’s no work on that day. It’s about sitting together and having a cup of coffee, spending time with each other, being the presence of Christ to each other.”

One side benefit from the mission work is that it helps the

residents of Lawrence County, less than one percent of which are Catholics, gain a little first-hand experience with people of our faith. During their week at the center, volunteers attend daily Mass and Eucharistic devotion.

“Even though we’re a very small minority, the Catholic
(Continued on page 12)



It's All God's Field

Fr. Mark Hoying, C.P.P.S., likes to watch things grow: his garden, his orchard, and most of all, the people of God whom he serves.

By Jean Giesige

We were on a Putnam County side road, between the towns of Kalida and Continental in northwestern Ohio. Fr. Mark Hoying, C.P.P.S., the pastor of parishes in both towns, had offered to take me on an afternoon tour of the parish and we were seeing every nook and cranny.

We slowed on the side road because sometimes he sees bob-o-links nesting there, though not this time. As we drove at a stately

pace, I thought it was the perfect time to ask him something that had been troubling me for a while.

"A bird built its nest near our porch light and there are eggs in there but she's hardly ever in it," I said. "Are those eggs going to be okay?"

"Sure," he said. "She doesn't have to spend a lot of time on the nest until she has a full clutch of eggs." He explained that the eggs that she laid earlier will remain

dormant until she has enough in the nest to begin incubating the eggs with her body heat. That way they'll all hatch at one time; it's more manageable for the mother bird that way.

Fr. Mark's life is like that: bob-o-links and bird nests and baptisms and bereavement calls and apple blossoms. He perceives no boundaries between religion and God's great creation, between church and family and fields and flowers. It's all one great work of God; it's all God's field that he tills with all his might.

Not Motionless

Fr. Mark is the pastor of both St. Michael in Kalida and St. John the Baptist in Continental. First and foremost, he sees himself as a Missionary of the Precious Blood, with an accent on the missionary. Missionary is a word that Fr. Mark uses a lot. It's how he likes to describe the parishes where he is the pastor. It's how he likes to describe himself.

And of course, it's how St. Gaspar del Bufalo, the founder of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, described the priests and religious brothers who would follow in his footsteps. Missionaries are on the move, St. Gaspar often said. "Unlike statues, Missionaries are not motionless."

St. Gaspar would have loved Fr. Mark, whose many projects keep him hopping. He divides his time judiciously between St. Michael Church, a well-established, well-tended church, rectory and parish office building that is at the heart of a picturesque farming town, to St. John the Baptist Church, 14 miles away, a smaller rural parish where the people recently raised enough money to build a new church.

It's a balancing act that Fr. Mark, who was raised as the 15th of 17 children (this is not a misprint) on a farm in Carthagena, Ohio, relishes as he pours himself into his ministry.

"I've always thought of myself as a dairy farmer. When you're a dairy farmer, how many days do you get off from milking the cows? And parish life can be a little like that – there are times when the cows get out, and you've got to get them back in," he says with a grin. "Of course, you have to prioritize. Emergencies crop up and calls come in all the time, and you have to know what can be put off and what you have to handle right away."

Seeing God Everywhere

If he can fit all of the things that he enjoys into his working day, work isn't really work.

More than anything, Fr. Mark enjoys watching things grow. He gets equal enjoyment from the parish's apple and peach orchard on the south side of Kalida, where he vigilantly carries out a spraying program; from the garden that flourishes outside his parish office window; from the kids in the parish, whom he coaches on CYO basketball teams; from the adults whom he challenges, always, to expand their minds and hearts to more richly appreciate God's love and mercy.

"If God is everywhere, then you should see God everywhere, and not just in church on Sunday morning," he said. Fr. Mark feels the goodness of God in every round, red radish from his garden.

His exuberance washes over into the liturgies where he presides. "Sometimes people say I talk too much," he said. But he tries hard to make sure it's never dull. When he's the celebrant at a wedding, for instance, the bride and groom come away with a special gift from the pastor that represents the message he weaves into the homily.

"I always go out and buy something that I can preach about, something that's special to the couple," he said. "It's something different at every wedding. Recently, we had a wedding at St. Michael where the

groom was a softball player. So I got a glove for the couple. In the homily, I told them that marriage is like a softball glove. When you wear a glove every day, it becomes comfortable—and a glove can also absorb the shock from a hard hit. And that's the way love should be. After all, if you take the *g* off *glove*, you get *love*."

These gifts to the couple become a present to himself, too; before every wedding, he bikes the 10 miles from Kalida to the larger town of Ottawa, Ohio, where he shops for the couple's custom gift. The bike ride is a time for prayer and reflection, a time to be outside, active, yet still in service to the parish and its people.

Gathered Around the Table

While telling people to get out and spread the missionary message, he's also encouraging them to draw near. He loves gatherings, and loves them even more when the gathering involves food and he is the cook. Recently, he was in the kitchen preparing a weekly breakfast for St. Michael's religious education teachers. "We talk about what's going on in the classes, are there things that we can do better," he said. "Every teacher has his or her own style of teaching. When we can get together and compare



“They named the bells back in the old days,” said Fr. Mark Hoying, leaning on Herman.

clear the underbrush.

“If you can get out and work among the people, it helps,” he said. In the park, he spotted a couple of young parishioners and invited them along on the bell-tower expedition, so there were four of us clambering up the narrow steps, farther and farther up than seemed possible from the ground.

The last stage was an ancient but sturdy wooden ladder, looking as if it would be at home in a hay mow. Such a thing is very much in Fr. Mark’s wheelhouse, and he went up first to prove to all that it was safe and easy. He lent a hand to other climbers as they emerged through a hole in the belfry floor, out into the bright sunshine. There was a baseball

game going on at the town’s baseball diamond to the east of the church, and, to the north, a long, straight highway leading to the horizon, and all the rest of Kalida, far, far below.

To Fr. Mark, all of that encompasses God’s vineyard. He looked at the old bells in the tower with affection. “They named the bells back in the old days,” he said, pointing to two of them. “That one is Michael, and this one is Herman.” A third bell was manufactured later, in the 1960s, and it has no name.

Fr. Mark seemed to regret this. Everything should have a name. Everyone should have a place at the table. And everyone, every living thing, should look to the horizon and see the full glory of God.



A Five-Hour Drive

(Continued from page 6)

presence here is huge,” Capria said. “Formerly, a lot of people were wary of Catholics. But we hear a lot of people say, ‘I’ve gone everywhere else, and now I’m coming to you to ask for help.’ And we do what we can to help them.”

It was a priority for Fr. Beiting that the mission spirit not come to an end at the end of a visit, Dominic said. “He always used to say to our volunteers, ‘What are you doing the other 51

weeks of the year? Be the stone that has the ripple effect through your parish.”

And that’s exactly what Fr. Mark hopes will happen at St. Michael. “This trip can change how we see people,” he said. “We can get settled in our ways here. But when we step away from what we’re used to, we can appreciate other people for who they are. It’s a lot more than just telling ourselves, ‘We did a good job.’”



Join in the Missionaries’ mission through the



Missionary Hearts

MISSION AND MINISTRY SOCIETY

The Society provides support to the Missionaries through various annual giving levels. Society members enjoy two events each year at St. Charles Center. Visit cpps-preciousblood.org and click on donate to learn more.

Planting the Seeds of Vocations

I'm Fr. Steve Dos Santos, C.P.P.S., and I'm the newly appointed director of vocations ministry for the Cincinnati Province. I'll be taking over this space from Fr. Vince Wirtner, C.P.P.S., who heads west to serve as the chaplain to the students at Saint Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Ind. We will miss Fr. Vince at the provincial office in Dayton and at the mission house where he lived with five other Missionaries, including me, in the rectory of St. Joseph Parish in downtown Dayton. But I know that the SJC students are looking forward to having him on campus.

Vocations ministry is an exciting challenge, because it includes within it the opportunity to get to know many new people as I walk with them, even if only for a little while, on their discernment journey. Some will spend time discerning and discover a call to married or single life; others will discover that God made them to flourish in a garden other than the C.P.P.S. There will be those young men with whom I will have the pleasure of walking for a longer period as they discern the call to be a Missionary of the Precious Blood.

We need to invite and encourage young people to remain open to the idea of a priestly or religious vocation.

As exciting as all of that is, it is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to promoting vocations. The ministry of promoting vocations is one that falls to all of us. The time I will be blessed to spend with people will be the culmination of the work done by so many others, like you.

Praying for vocations is an incredibly important part of vocations promotion. We all need to pray for vocations. And if you have children at home, please be sure to pray for vocations with them. A gentleman I met recently told me that he and his wife teach their children to end their nightly prayers with the following: "Jesus, I love you with all my heart. Help me to learn my vocation." What an awesome way to plant the seed of vocation in a child's mind. Parents, while you're at it, you could be really bold and pray that God might call one of your children to the priesthood or religious life.

As important as praying for vocations is, the work doesn't stop there. We also need to invite and encourage young people to remain open to the idea of a priestly or religious vocation. One way to do this is to have regular conversations about the important role that priests

and religious play in our Church. We also need to encourage them to consider this as an option for their own life. Plant the idea in the mind of a young child by simply asking “Have you ever thought about becoming a priest?” Encourage a middle schooler to think about the possibility. Tell high schoolers or young adults specifically why you think they’d make a good priest or religious: “Your faith inspires me. Have you ever considered religious life?”

Raising up vocations is hard but rewarding work, and, like the old saying goes, many hands make light work.



Our New Director of Vocation Ministry

Fr. Steve Dos Santos, C.P.P.S., was born and raised at St. Barnabas Parish in Alameda, Calif., where Precious Blood priests served the parish his whole life. He is the youngest of nine children, and five of his siblings still live in the Bay Area.

He studied economics at UC Berkeley then went into the restaurant business with dreams of someday running his own restaurant. That all changed when, in his early 30s, he began to (finally) hear God’s call to service as a priest. By this time he was already a Precious Blood Companion, and so he says it was a no-brainer for him that he would live out his call to the priesthood as a Missionary of the Precious Blood.

After graduating with his MDiv from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, he was ordained a deacon in 2005 and was assigned to St. Agnes Parish in Los Angeles. Fr. Steve stayed at St. Agnes after his ordination to the priesthood. There, he was active in building the youth and young adult ministry at the parish. He likes to say that at that time his only qualification for that ministry was “being the youngest Missionary at the parish by 20 years.”

In fall of 2011, he was appointed executive assistant to the provincial director, and so he came to work at the provincial office in Dayton. Fr. Steve is also a member of the provincial council and currently serves as the provincial secretary.



Fr. Dos Santos



Ordained to the Diaconate: Kneeling before Bishop Joseph Charron, C.P.P.S., two Missionaries of the Precious Blood were ordained deacons during a liturgy on May 27 in Assumption Chapel at St. Charles Center, Carthagena, Ohio.

Ordained to the diaconate were James Smith, C.P.P.S., of the Cincinnati Province, and Peter Tam Minh Hoang, C.P.P.S., of the Kansas City Province's mission in Vietnam.

The liturgy took place during the Cincinnati Province's annual assembly. The chapel was filled with C.P.P.S. members from both provinces, Companions, friends of the two new deacons, and the Precious Blood extended family.



Deacons Smith (left) and Hoang with Bishop Charron.

Earlier in the week, Deacon Smith and Matthew Keller, C.P.P.S., were definitively incorporated as Missionaries of the Precious Blood. Matthew, who is in advanced formation with the Missionaries, is spending the summer in a hospital chaplaincy internship in Columbus.

Deacon Smith, 31, a native of Corydon, Ind., first came to know the Missionaries when he was a student at Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind. He was not a Catholic when he enrolled; the first priest he ever met, he said, was Fr. Phil Gilbert, C.P.P.S., on an SJC college visit.

While at SJC, he felt drawn first to the Catholic Church, and went through RCIA on campus.

"I jumped into RCIA, and I kept getting more involved. I was a lector, I volunteered at a soup kitchen," he said. "I kept on saying yes."

That led to a call to the priesthood, though he told himself, "I won't respond right away. I want to go live first," he said.

But he did respond, entering formation with the Missionaries in 2009. The example he saw in the Missionaries at SJC inspired him. "It was more than just seeing Father preside at Mass or preaching or teaching," he said. "I saw the Missionaries in their day-to-day lives.

It was the late-night conversations and borrowing from their Netflix queue. It was then that I realized what I might want to do and what I might already be.”

Deacon Smith is now in ministry at the St. Henry cluster of parishes in and around St. Henry, Ohio.

Deacon Hoang, who was born and raised in Vietnam, studied the Korean language and culture in college before discerning his vocation as a priest. As with other C.P.P.S. candidates in the Cincinnati and Kansas City Provinces, he went through formation in Chicago, studying at Catholic Theological Union.

Now, the deacons are living out a year of service; they are living out their call. “Remember, your calling is, first and foremost, God’s initiative,” Bishop Charron told them. “God called you. It was not, at first, your choice. It was God’s choice.”

In Memoriam: Fr. Norbert Adelman, C.P.P.S., died on April 5, 2016, at St. Charles Center, Carthage, Ohio. Fr. Adelman was 94.

He was born on February 2, 1922, in Peru, Ohio, to George and Bertha (Schlachter) Adelman. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he entered the Society in 1947 at Saint Joseph’s College in Rensselaer, Ind., and was ordained on June 2, 1956, at St. Charles.

Fr. Adelman was involved with many ministries in his nearly 60 years as a priest. In the years after his ordination, he served at parishes in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Missouri and Ohio.

In 1966, he was named procurator (treasurer) at Brunnerdale, the Congregation’s high school seminary in Canton, Ohio. Fr. Adelman was appointed director of the Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue, Ohio, in 1972, and at the same time also served as pastor of St. Michael Church in Marywood, Ohio.

In 1978, Fr. Adelman was elected provincial director of the Cincinnati Province. He also served in the province’s senate. He returned to parish ministry in 1983, first at Good Shepherd Church in Frankfort, Ky.; then at St. Michael in Kalida, Ohio.

In 1987, he returned to the Sorrowful Mother Shrine as its director, and stayed there until 1994, when he was named associate pastor of the Church of the Nativity in Lake Mary, Fla.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on April 8 at St. Charles Center. Burial followed in the Community cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, Cincinnati Province.



Fr. Adelman



An Anniversary Gift

I was touched and charmed by Sherry Unverferth's account in our cover story about how she and her husband, Scott, decided to give themselves a special gift on their tenth anniversary: a mission trip with a group from St. Michael Parish in Kalida, Ohio, where they spent a week putting a new roof on a home in Appalachia.

My husband and I marked our 29th anniversary recently in a similar way, except that, tired of waiting around for a mission group to show up at our house, we reroofed our storage shed. The project took place over Memorial Day weekend, so our kids who were home were available to pitch in.

It may not sound like a romantic option and certainly was not something that I would have pictured as a new bride back in 1987. I don't think roofing was mentioned in any of the blessings offered during the ritual by Fr. Rich Reidel, C.P.P.S. Yet there was something profoundly satisfying in completing a home improvement project as a tribute to a long-standing marriage.

We originally bought the shed from a local hardware store when our kids were little, at a time when hardware stores were still downtown. First we had to go to the local zoning board to ask if we could shoehorn the shed into our backyard. My husband was out of town at the time so I had to appear before the board, four little kids in tow. They deliberated our request as if it was a Supreme Court case. The kids, who were used to church functions, were disappointed that there were no cookies served after.

Ultimately, the shed was approved, and one afternoon we watched as it was towed overland to our property. It shimmered on the Sugar Street horizon and finally was in place in our backyard. Many years later, it is part storage shed and part archive as it holds baseball gloves and sand toys along with the lawn mower.

Recently, it sprung a leak, and so my husband and our youngest son went off to the hardware store (not the same one, alas) to buy tar paper, shingles and nails. The shed became both project and primer as we learned or re-learned the craft of roofing at a height that probably would not kill us if we rolled off. Also, no chimney.

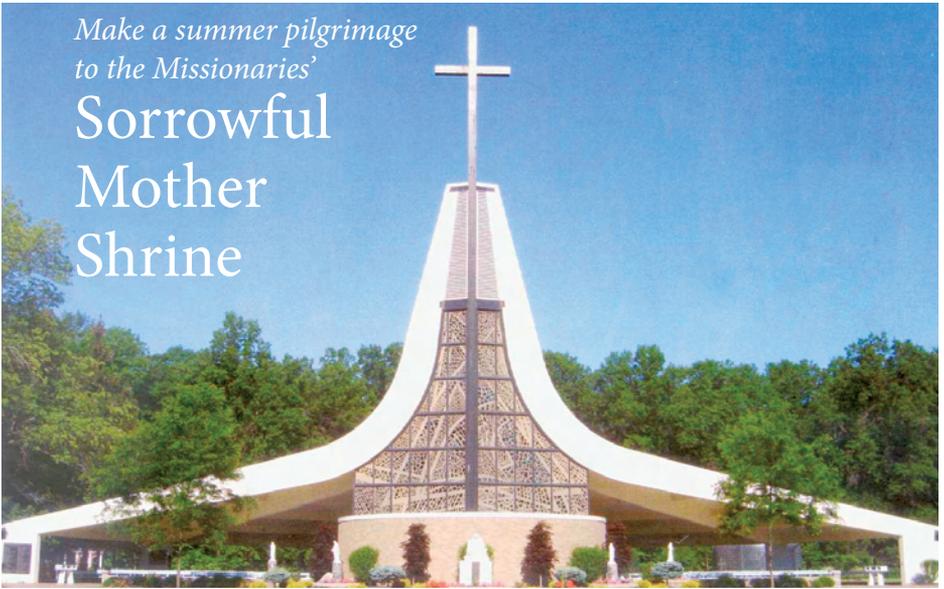
Our kids who were not actively roofing organized dinner for the crew. What finer meal is there than one shared after a sunny-day project? "Happy anniversary!" the kids told us, toasting us slightly sardonically, probably thinking that we were crazy to spend our anniversary in such a way and that we don't know much about love.

At Our House
by Jean Giesige



*Make a summer pilgrimage
to the Missionaries'*

Sorrowful Mother Shrine



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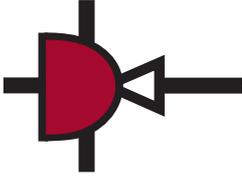
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