

SPRING 2018

C P P S T O D A Y

MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

SHARING
IN THE
MISSION

C.P.P.S. Missionaries in Peru
Do God's Work Together

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



Fr. Maximo Mesia receives the offertory gifts at Nuestra Señora de la Luz Parish in Lima, Peru.

Page 2: **Life on the Road**

Traveling can give a driver time to think. *Between the Lines* by Fr. Larry Hemmelgarn, C.P.P.S., provincial director of the Cincinnati Province.

Page 3: **Sharing in the Mission**

Missionaries of the Precious Blood in our mission in Peru take on the work, worry and joys of ministry together.

Page 11: **Encouraging Vocations over Time**

Sometimes children hear God's call years before they can pursue it. We can nurture and encourage that call. *Call and Answer* by Fr. Steve Dos Santos, C.P.P.S., director of vocation ministry.

Page 12: **A Gathering Place for the Past**

C.P.P.S. archivist Fr. David Hoying, C.P.P.S., organizes the Congregation's past as a foundation for its future.



Page 16: **Chapter and Verse**

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

Page 17: **The Unaligned Bite**

Are we all really alike under the skin? Not in every way. *At Our House* by Jean Giesige, editor of *C.P.P.S. Today*.

Fr. David Hoying, C.P.P.S. archivist.

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

SPRING 2018

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

Life on the Road

Back when I was studying for the priesthood, I would not have guessed that driving would have taken up so much of my time. But as provincial director for a religious congregation of Missionaries, I find myself on the road a lot, traveling to meetings and visiting our ministry sites here in the U.S. as well as in Chile, Peru, Guatemala and Colombia.

Travel gets you out of your daily routine and can help you see things with a new perspective. Driving, for me, can be a time of spiritual renewal—as long as I’m not stuck in traffic! When I’m going down the highway, I can contemplate thorny problems, I can pray, I can let everything go for a little while. It can be a very fruitful time.

I don’t think I could contemplate or pray if I had to drive in the traffic of Lima, Peru, as described in the cover story about our mission in Peru and its director, Fr. Maximo Mesia, C.P.P.S. I’ve been a passenger in Fr. Mesia’s car and am always impressed with his calm demeanor while driving through some of the worst traffic I’ve ever experienced. He must have an inner well of peace and tranquility! That also serves him well as he oversees our mission in Peru, encouraging his C.P.P.S. brothers while serving as the pastor of a large urban parish in Lima. I hope you’ll enjoy reading about our ministry in Peru, where we have served for over 50 years.

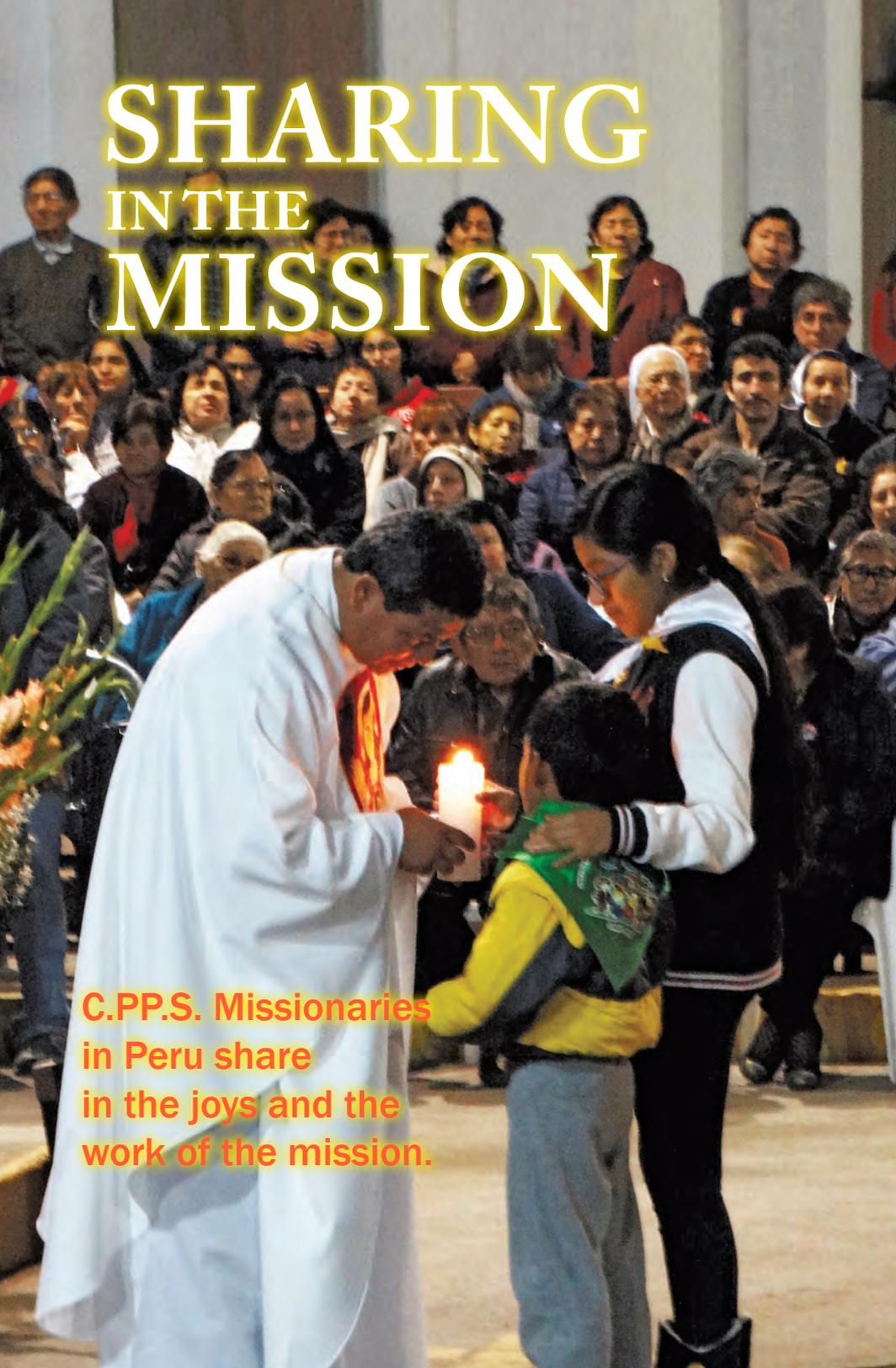
In this issue you will also read about Fr. David Hoying, C.P.P.S., who serves as our archivist at St. Charles Center in Carthagena, Ohio. Fr. Hoying isn’t as likely to get stuck in traffic as Fr. Mesia. But I can imagine that he gets stuck in his work in other ways as he sorts through and categorizes the documents, photos and items that have accumulated there from the Missionaries’ 174 years here in the United States. As archivist, Fr. Hoying has to decide what to keep and where to put it. It requires organizational skills, certainly, but also an appreciation for our past, present and future.

Fr. Hoying, formerly the pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Trinity, Ind., still ministers in many other ways, as he helps out at local parishes, at our Sorrowful Mother Shrine, and will preach parish appeals for us in addition to his work as archivist. Just like Fr. Mesia, he has more than one responsibility. So do I, and probably so do you. This keeps us busy, keeps us challenged, and keeps us on the road. I hope the road that we are traveling brings us all closer to Christ, whose light can help us see where we are going.

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



SHARING IN THE MISSION

A photograph capturing a religious ceremony. In the foreground, a priest in white vestments is lighting a candle for a young child. A woman in a black and white uniform stands behind the child, holding their hand. The background is filled with a large, diverse crowd of people, many looking towards the priest. The scene is set outdoors at night, with a building's facade visible in the background.

C.P.P.S. Missionaries
in Peru share
in the joys and the
work of the mission.

The first thing you have to understand about the traffic in Lima, Peru, is that it moves like a river. A frozen river. It is widely acknowledged to be one of the most challenging places to drive in the world. Buses, cars, taxis and motorcycles clog the streets, each of them striving to be first in a long line of vehicles that are all attempting to block each other. City officials are working on ways to improve the situation, but so far Lima's traffic remains a large, knotted ball of twine.

And into this, Fr. Maximo Mesia, C.P.P.S., goes forth to be with his brothers in the C.P.P.S.

What does it take to drive from the Santa Luzmila neighborhood, where he is the pastor of Nuestra Señora de la Luz (Our Lady of the Light) Parish, to visit his fellow Missionaries of the Precious Blood at San Francisco de Borja Parish across town, 13 torturous miles through the worst of Lima's traffic? "Patience," says Fr. Mesia. He does not honk his horn, he does not gesture angrily. He drives and prays.

Such trips are difficult but necessary, because in addition to his ministry at the parish, Fr. Mesia is the director of the Missionaries' mission in Peru. There are 15 members and five candidates who are part of the mission, and 9.7 million people in Lima. If the Missionaries hope to

fulfill their mission to help people see that they have been saved by the Precious Blood of Jesus, they have to stick together.

The Missionaries' mission to Peru began in 1962, led by Fr. Paul Beuhler, C.P.P.S., after the Church asked all religious congregations to send priests, brothers and sisters to Latin America to aid in evangelization. The Missionaries had already established a mission in Chile in 1947. Peru presented a different culture, different challenges. It still does.

A Missionary School

Fr. Mesia weaves his way—patiently—through the city streets to the pleasant neighborhood of San Borja. There, the Missionaries minister at the parish and its school, which in 2017 celebrated its 50th anniversary.

The principal, Nelva Rios Huallaquispe, has been at the school for 39 years; she was formed as an educator by the Missionaries, who encouraged her in her career when she arrived as a new teacher.

"Fr. Ernesto (Ranly, C.P.P.S.), was my mentor and guide," she said. Fr. Ranly ministered in Peru for 30 years, including his years at San Borja. Also at the school in those early years was Fr. Bill Beuth, C.P.P.S., now in ministry

in Guatemala.

The school, which educates children from preschool through high school, shares the Congregation's missionary spirit and instills it into its students. "This school is a Christian Catholic missionary school," Rios said. "Our main goal is to form the students by and for the mission of Christ."

That important work happens during the day. Then in the evenings, the school and its grounds are shared with others. Then there are classes at the school for young adults who work during the day. The government pays some of the evening teachers' salaries, but the Missionaries chip in to pay for additional staff and teachers in subjects like physical education and dance, because they want the young people in night school to have the same opportunities as the day students.

The school is a point of pride for the Missionaries in Peru; from the school's founding, the Missionaries have worked together to sustain and nourish it as a place where children see firsthand the importance of reaching out to others. During the school year, Fr. Alex Chasnamote, C.P.P.S., along with faculty and students from San Borja make two mission trips each year to a school in a village in Peru's Amazon jungle.

The school also hosts the rural students on a return visit, where they take part in classes and visit museums and other sites in Lima.

The school is a success by any measure, in part because the Missionaries have thrown themselves into the work. "The presence of our priests in the school is very important," Fr. Mesia says. "The work that's done here is not the work of one person, but it's the work of the Congregation. Everybody plays an important part—and that way the burden is not all on one or two of us."

Food Unites People

Fr. Edgardo Chero, C.P.P.S., is in ministry at San Borja Parish, which adjoins the school. When Fr. Mesia arrived, Fr. Chero was in the garage, peeling vegetables for lunch. Peruvians, Fr. Mesia says, love food. They love preparing it and sharing it. The only thing they like better than cooking is sitting down to a meal together.

It's a luxury, in the middle of a busy day at the parish, for the Missionaries to eat a home-cooked meal around the large dining room table of the parish house, but Fr. Mesia happily sits down with his brothers in ministry there. There's a lot of work for them to do in Lima; time with their brothers in community



Five candidates are studying at the house of formation, pictured here with Fr. Nino Calderon, their formator.

gives them strength for their mission.

“Food is important to us,” he says. “Meals help us celebrate they give us time to talk. Food unites people.”

When they’re together, the Missionaries compare notes, talking about the challenges they face in their ministry.

Fr. Mesia worries about the city’s young people. “The structure of the family is falling apart,” he says. “Often there’s no mother or no father in the home, but the children still need family. If they can’t find it at home, they look for it somewhere else—and sometimes they find it on the streets.”

On the way back to his own parish on the opposite side

of the city, he stops in at the mission’s St. Gaspar house of formation, where five young men are studying for the priesthood. They live with their formator, Fr. Nino Calderon, C.PP.S., and Fr. Jim Gaynor, C.PP.S., a native of Indiana who has been serving in Peru for over 30 years. Fr. Gaynor serves as their spiritual director and, as he puts it, honorary grandfather.

Having so many candidates in the house is one of the biggest accomplishments of the mission, Fr. Mesia says. “It’s hard work,” identifying young people who might be called to religious life, “but you have to be persistent. I always say to young people, ‘I’m looking for my own replacement.’ I tell any young man I see, ‘You’re

going to replace me.' They say, 'Me?' And I answer, 'You!' In that way, you plant a seed in that person, you've placed the question in their mind. Some come to me later to ask me more about it. We'll see how many of those seeds grow."

A Place of Peace and Prayer

The Missionaries also operate a retreat center outside of the city, where people can go to escape from Lima's dust, congestion and noise. Arriving at the retreat house entrance, Fr. Mesia chooses one key from an outsized ring of keys that he carries to unlock the gate. Keys are a means of access and can be a symbol of power, but it's not that way at the mission in Peru.

"All the members of the mission have the keys to all our community houses," Fr. Mesia said. "If no one is there when they arrive, they can come in, rest and eat something until someone arrives. That way, none of our brothers has to wait outside."

Behind the gate is Casa Merlini, a place of peace and prayer. It's named after the Venerable Giovanni Merlini, C.P.P.S., an Italian priest who was one of the early moderator generals of the Congregation.

As Fr. Mesia arrives, a youth group has just left. The beds have been stripped in the guest

rooms, as the caretakers prepare the place for its next group of visitors. The sky is a vivid blue, away from the haze of the city center, and the air is fresh and cool.

"The retreat center is in a different mini-climate from Lima," says Fr. Mesia. Peru, with its capital city in an arid zone, its long shoreline and mountain ranges, has nearly every possible climate within its borders. "You can drive for three hours and go through 12 different weather patterns."

In January, all of the Missionaries in Latin America were invited to a retreat at Casa Merlini, led by Fr. Barry Fischer, C.P.P.S. Over 45 Precious Blood Missionaries gathered from Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Brazil, Mexico and Peru. The Missionaries in Peru were happy to host them, happy that the facilities withstood the test. They hope to build an auditorium at the center, and add a modern kitchen and dining room. The retreat center will help them spread the same message that they carry to their school and parishes: that all people are the beloved sons and daughters of God, redeemed by the Precious Blood of Jesus.

Life at the Parish

Fr. Mesia has been director

of the mission for six years, in addition to his ministry as pastor of Nuestra Señora de la Luz. He sees himself as something like the father of the fathers, a brother to all, someone who is to unite the Missionaries and help them as they are helping the people of Lima.

“My job as director of the mission is to help each Missionary achieve what he wants to achieve,” he said. “We know that each of us has his own style and brings his own personal touch to his ministry. I’m also trying to help them see how that fits into what we want to accomplish as a Community.” He also works closely with local bishops and with provincial leadership in the U.S.

Fr. Mesia believes that the Missionaries draw strength from being together. They schedule time together to talk about their ministry and the work of the mission, and just relax. At the parish house at Nuestra Señora de la Luz, where he lives with C.P.P.S. Frs. Hilton Rodriguez and Aurelio Chipana and Deacon Tomas Chamaya, they might watch soccer games together or play board games in the evening.

He encourages the Missionaries in the pursuits that they enjoy, outside of the



Above, Fr. Chipana with his chickens. Below, Deacon Tomas baptizes a young person.

rigors of life in a busy parish. Fr. Chipana, for instance, is a writer and musician. Now 60, he still plays tennis at a nearby city park; he jokes that he was insulted when a park attendant offered him a senior citizen pass. With Fr. Mesia's blessing, he and Deacon Tomas raise chickens in the fenced yard behind the parish house.

During the week of the parish anniversary, the usual work continued. The parish is a hub of activity in the neighborhood; it hosts AA meetings, literacy classes and a senior fitness group. The Legion of Mary is active there, as are several charismatic groups, and there are activities for young people of all age levels. There are weekday Masses at the main church and its eight chapels spread throughout the neighborhood, as well as religion classes for children and preparation for the sacraments. On the Saturday afternoon before the anniversary Mass, Deacon Tomas, who will be ordained a priest in April, baptizes dozens of babies, children and young adults in the church.

That morning, parishioners gathered to prepare for the anniversary party. A crew chopped heaps of vegetables for the "stone soup" that would be served that night. Stone soup, from the folk story, is made when many people contribute what they have to the soup pot.

The vegetables along with other ingredients that parishioners brought by were cooked in cauldrons over a fire behind the parish house.

Fr. Mesia presides at the anniversary Mass. Choir members wear matching t-shirts that say, "You are worthy of the Blood of Christ." The full church is glowing with light as the night sky outside grows increasingly dark. As he gives the people their final blessing, they prepare to go out into the streets of the neighborhood in a procession behind a statue of Our Lady. Fr. Mesia and the other Missionaries walk near the front of the procession, leading prayers during its frequent stops, including at the local firehouse, the firefighters come out for a blessing.

The procession winds through the neighborhood and at last circles back to the parish property where soup is served. The church building has grown so much in its 36 years, along with the surrounding neighborhood. It means many things to many people, and to the Missionaries represents a commitment to the working-class people it serves. For 36 years, the Missionaries and the people have been working on the church. They've come so far, but the church building still lacks a front wall.



A parish volunteer stirs the stone soup before Nuestra Señora de la Luz' anniversary Mass.

The fact that the church is still not finished frustrates Fr. Mesia. The parish classrooms also require attention, but “we can work with the classrooms we have now,” he said. “It’s necessary to finish the church.”

That’s a problem for another day; for now, he recognizes, the mood is properly joyful as the people celebrate how far they have come. In the morning, after a long happy night of celebrating at his own parish, he’ll get up early to drive across Lima once again to be with his fellow Missionaries at an anniversary Mass at San Francisco del Borja.

Being with the people, encouraging young people to follow the light of Christ, walking with his brother

Missionaries, keeping their Precious Blood family together, keeping up with the schedule, keeping it all together. It’s a lot for one man in one Toyota, the only driver in Lima who uses a turn signal as he goes from place to place where the Missionaries serve.

“For us, it’s very important that the mission in Peru is not based on only one person— everything that we take on, we try to take on together, all the Missionaries working together,” Fr. Mesia says. “If all the burden was on one person, if he became ill or his situation changed, the missionary work disappears. For us, everything we’re trying to do belongs to all of us.”



Encouraging Vocations Over Time

How do I encourage vocations? I was recently face to face with an eighth grader who told me that he thinks God is calling him to be a priest. I immediately began to think about how best to engage this young man in a way that would be helpful, while still recognizing that a lot can happen in his discernment over the next four years. How do we encourage young people toward a vocation of priesthood or religious life—especially when they are a number of years away from pursuing the vocation?

First, treat it the same way you would any other expressed desire about an adult career. When a young man says he wants to be a doctor, a firefighter or an astronaut, the usual response is to say something positive and encouraging. Be sure to be positive and encouraging in the case of religious vocations. It is not uncommon for people to accidentally speak in ways that discourage the idea of vocation.

Along with your encouragement, you might want to ask a question or two. How long have you been thinking about being a priest? What about life in the convent captures your attention? What do you think would be the best/hardest part? These questions might prompt a little research about a possible vocation

Pay attention to and love the whole person. He or she has lots of interests; pay attention to those as well. Priests, brothers and sisters have a wide variety of interests, so don't treat this young person like a one-dimensional figure

Don't pressure. Here we have to walk a tight rope. Every subsequent conversation shouldn't be about their vocation, but returning to the topic from time to time is a good thing. The occasional gift with a spiritual focus can be encouraging—but a four-volume Liturgy of the Hours set will probably overwhelm a high school freshman.

Provide occasional specific encouragement. When they do something that connects to their potential vocation, that is the time to bring it up in a positive and encouraging way. Compliment them on a job well done, and be explicit about how it connects with the possibility of their vocation. Specific, positive feedback can be very helpful in confirming them in their vocation.

These are just a few ideas. What else do you do? If you have other ideas on how to encourage our young people in their journey toward a vocation, e-mail them to me at vocation@cpps-preciousblood.org.

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



A Gathering Place

for the Past

Fr. David Hoying,
C.P.P.S., as the
province's archivist,
is the official keeper
of it memories.



Tucked into box G70 in the C.P.P.S. archives at St. Charles Center in Carthage, Ohio, is a narrow notebook that, while perfectly preserved, is well worn. It was carried about, possibly daily, by Fr. Francis de Sales Brunner, C.P.P.S., who led the first group of Missionaries of the Precious Blood to the United States.

Fr. Brunner, a prodigious organizer and builder, and his small band of Missionaries arrived in New Orleans on New Year's Eve 1843 and were in Ohio by early 1844 to minister to the

German-speaking settlers there. Fr. Brunner was happiest when he was busiest. He jotted notes to himself in his little notebook: the names of counties in West Central Ohio and their county seats; a careful accounting of the Mass stipends he received, and from whom; and recipes for lotions and elixers in Latin.

This little notebook has been carefully preserved for more than 170 years, and it's the job of Fr. David Hoying, C.P.P.S., to see that it remains intact. Fr. Hoying is the Missionaries' archivist, responsible for preserving the



Photo slides in the archives. Fr. Bill Hoyng, C.P.P.S., has volunteered to digitize them.

In the archives are objects that people have donated because they don't know what else to do with them. "And from the everyday things that come to us, we get a glimpse of what life was really like way back when," said Fr. David Hoyng.

Congregation's yesterdays as a lesson for today and tomorrow.

An Orderly Attic

Archives are like a family's attic, but orderly. They hold original documents, publications, photos and personal items that help tell the story of a human organization. Early in our nation's history, Thomas Jefferson urged the careful preservation of the young country's emerging history. "Time and accident," he warned in 1791, "are committing

daily havoc on the originals deposited in our public offices."

Fr. Hoyng must keep havoc at bay in the C.P.P.S. archives. They were formerly maintained by archivist Fr. Milton Ballor, C.P.P.S., who died in 2009. Fr. Hoyng hopes to reorganize them for the 21st century and beyond.

"First of all, the archives exist to keep a record of what has happened," Fr. Hoyng said. "People can go back and refer to letters, minutes of meetings, reports, back issues of newsletters and other publications. The

archives give them one place to go for all of that. It preserves what has transpired, and it maintains a record of the lives of the priests and brothers who've served in this province."

But the archives go far beyond documents. "It's also a gathering place for all the stuff that people don't know what to do with, but they don't want to throw out," he said. "So they give it to the archives. And from the everyday things that come to us, we get a glimpse of what life was really like way back when."

History is a Lot of Work

All those documents that should be stored in acid-free folders don't file themselves. And more documents arrive all the time. It's a challenge to sort through the old and keep up with the flow of the new. Fr. Hoying also receives requests for historical data from Community members and local historians. He also has helped volunteers from the parishes where Missionaries have served write their parish histories. "History is a lot of work," he said, so he's happy to lend a hand whenever possible.

His own interest in history goes back to his childhood in Minster, Ohio. "My great grandfather, C.H. Dickman, wrote a history of Minster, and while he was collecting

information about that, my dad, Louis, went along with him—so my dad got interested in history, and my mom did too," Fr. Hoying said. "My mom's parents lived with us and so did my grandma's two bachelor brothers. When I was growing up, my mom took care of four people over 70 and four people under seven, all at the same time."

Steeped in local history—"My mom could trace anybody's genealogy," he said—he couldn't help but catch the bug himself.

A Good Mentor

Fr. Hoying earned his bachelor's degree in history from Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind., where he assisted Fr. Dominic Gerlach, C.P.P.S., in the college archives.

"Fr. Gerlach was a good mentor," he said. "He was very particular. He had a good mind, and he thought things through. He also had a quiet sense of humor and a wry smile. During the summers, he would stop by our family's house. He'd confer with my dad on local history, especially of the German-speaking people who settled in our area."

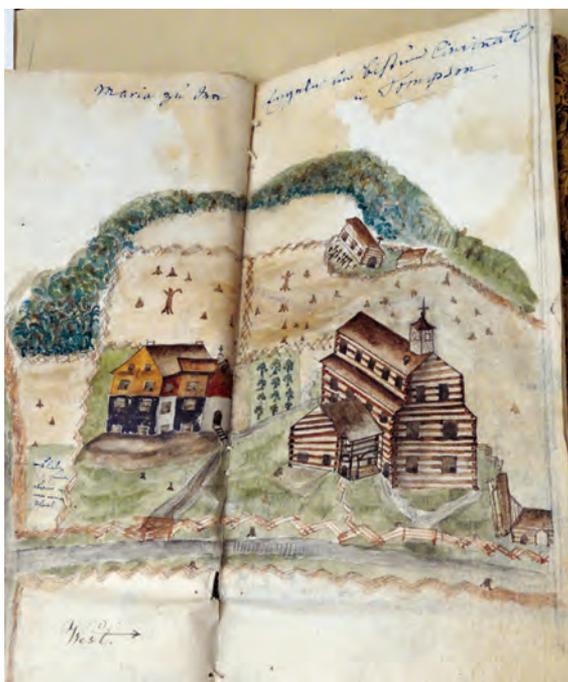
History is the blending of facts with human stories. Fr. Hoying sees that every time he turns around in the archives. When he pages through a large

record book that contains hand-written biographies of the early C.P.P.S. members who served in the U.S., he finds notes added later by a provincial director, commentaries on each member's disposition and methods of ministry.

From that, he can draw conclusions about the members—but also about that long-gone provincial director. As a historian, he knows his conclusions will not be conclusive. As an archivist, he carefully closes the book and slides it back into its place.

He knows there is a danger of getting lost in the pages of old books, of falling into box G70, the box that contains mementos of Fr. Brunner, including a lock of hair cut from Fr. Brunner's head in 1859. Perusing all that, Fr. Hoying might lose his focus for a while. But then a sharper focus will emerge. All of history is about understanding the context of the times, and not just the individuals within it, he said.

For instance, "it's easy to see Fr. Brunner as someone who was



A sketch by Fr. Francis de Sales Brunner of the convent he had built in Marywood, Ohio, is preserved in the C.P.P.S. archives.

dry as bones," Fr. Hoying said. "But he had a real zeal for his ministry. How he accomplished everything he did, I don't know. He was sick half the time. Where did he get the energy and the money for all that he built here?"

"If you look at him too closely, it's like an impressionist painting: all you see are dabs of color, and none of it makes any sense. But if you stand back and get the whole view, it's an amazing picture."





Definitive Incorporation: On February 4, the feast of St. Maria de Mattias, Eduardo Fredy Campos, C.P.P.S., was definitively incorporated into the C.P.P.S.

It was the first definitive incorporation in the C.P.P.S. *ad experimentum* mission in Colombia for more than ten years. Fredy, a native of Peru, lived most of his early years in La Oroya, where Missionaries of the Precious Blood formerly were in ministry.

The definitive incorporation took place at Our Lady of the Alps Church in Bogotá. Fr. Joe Deardorff, C.P.P.S., was the main celebrant and represented the province during the ceremony.

Happy 104th Birthday: On March 1, Fr. Leonard Kostka, C.P.P.S., the oldest living Missionary of the Precious Blood in the world, celebrated his 104th birthday.

Fr. Kostka was born in 1914, raised in Detroit (he remains an ardent Tigers fan), and ordained in 1940. He served as a U.S. Navy chaplain in World War II.



Fr. Len Kostka

Fr. Kostka was in ministry for many years at Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind. He now lives in retirement at St. Charles Center in Carthagen, Ohio, where he studied for the priesthood so many years ago.

Fr. Len attends daily Mass in the St. Charles infirmary chapel. He enthusiastically watched the Winter Olympics. And, as he has all his life, he's dreaming up ways to bring people closer to Christ. His latest idea is for a statue or sculpture of Jesus holding a lamb, an image that he feels would appeal to children, to help them see how much Jesus loves and cares for them.

He's also been focusing on the mission cross that he received at his ordination, nearly 78 years ago. "The mission cross is a vivid reminder that we're a missionary community," he said.

He ponders these and many other things. "I've got nothing to do but ponder," he said with a smile.



Eduardo Fredy Campos with Fr. Joseph Deardorff.



The Unaligned Bite

I was in the dentist's chair recently, getting briefed about the continuing battle my teeth are fighting against decay and devastation. Like two war-weary field officers, the dentist and I were discussing which battlements and ramparts should be reinforced in my mouth so that I can keep on eating cashews, etc., in relative comfort.

Our dentist is a good-humored, conscientious young man, and he puts up with my joking about how I just want to be able to eat my daily Sugar Daddy (surely that candy, of all candies, must be the nemesis of dentists everywhere), and my suggestions that he should offer a BOGO deal on crowns.

Once I had all that out of my system, the room grew quiet and he resumed. "The problem is, you're doing most of your chewing on the teeth in the back," he said. "Your teeth up front don't line up so they're not doing much of the work."

This was the first I'd heard about this, in all my years of squirming in the dentist's chair. You go through your whole life thinking that you are normal, and that the way you experience life, and Sugar Daddies, is how everybody experiences life, and Sugar Daddies. And then you learn that you, your experiences, and your weird unaligned bite are all your own.

This is a good lesson in the Christian life. We sometimes see sappy sentiments about how underneath the skin, we're all alike. Yes, we are, in some ways. But in many other ways, we have a unique outlook and attitude, and it is a danger to assume that everyone thinks and reacts exactly as we do. It's instructive to attempt to see the world through the eyes of others, to wonder about how they process what they see, to step out of our own skull for a time and appreciate the variety of life that God has placed before us. Even in a family, people think very differently from each other. It's tempting to think that those whose views don't line up perfectly with our own are just dumb or uninformed. But we don't make any progress toward true unity in that way. It's illuminating for us to realize that God gave them different eyes than ours, different ears and yes, different teeth, and so they see, hear and taste in a way that is unique to them, and instructive to us.

After a conversation that was more prolonged than it probably should have been, the dentist and I came up with a plan for my dental health. It's not going to fix my bite, but it should shore up my most essential teeth. I hope they'll be rattling around inside my skull for a long time, doing their duty, part of what makes me me.

At Our House
by Jean Giesige



A beautiful, peaceful, prayerful **HOME**



**SAINT CHARLES
SENIOR LIVING
COMMUNITY**

- Airy, spacious one- and two-bedroom apartments for seniors.
- Exercise room, library and walkways on the beautiful grounds.
- Residents are invited to participate in St. Charles' rich and devout prayer life, through daily Mass and benediction in the Assumption Chapel.

For more information, call 419-925-4516, ext. 112

2860 US ROUTE 127, CELINA OH 45822

*Let
us
hear
from
you*

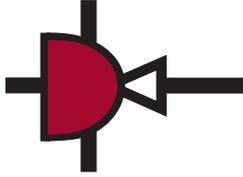
Send address changes,
comments, suggestions
or requests for
more information to:

**Jean Giesige, editor,
C.P.P.S. Today, 431 E. Second St.,
Dayton, OH 45402-1764
mission@cpps-preciousblood.org**

*Please include your name and contact
information so that we can respond to
your correspondence.*

MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD
431 E. Second St.
Dayton, OH 45402

Return Service Requested



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Celina, Ohio
Permit No. 2