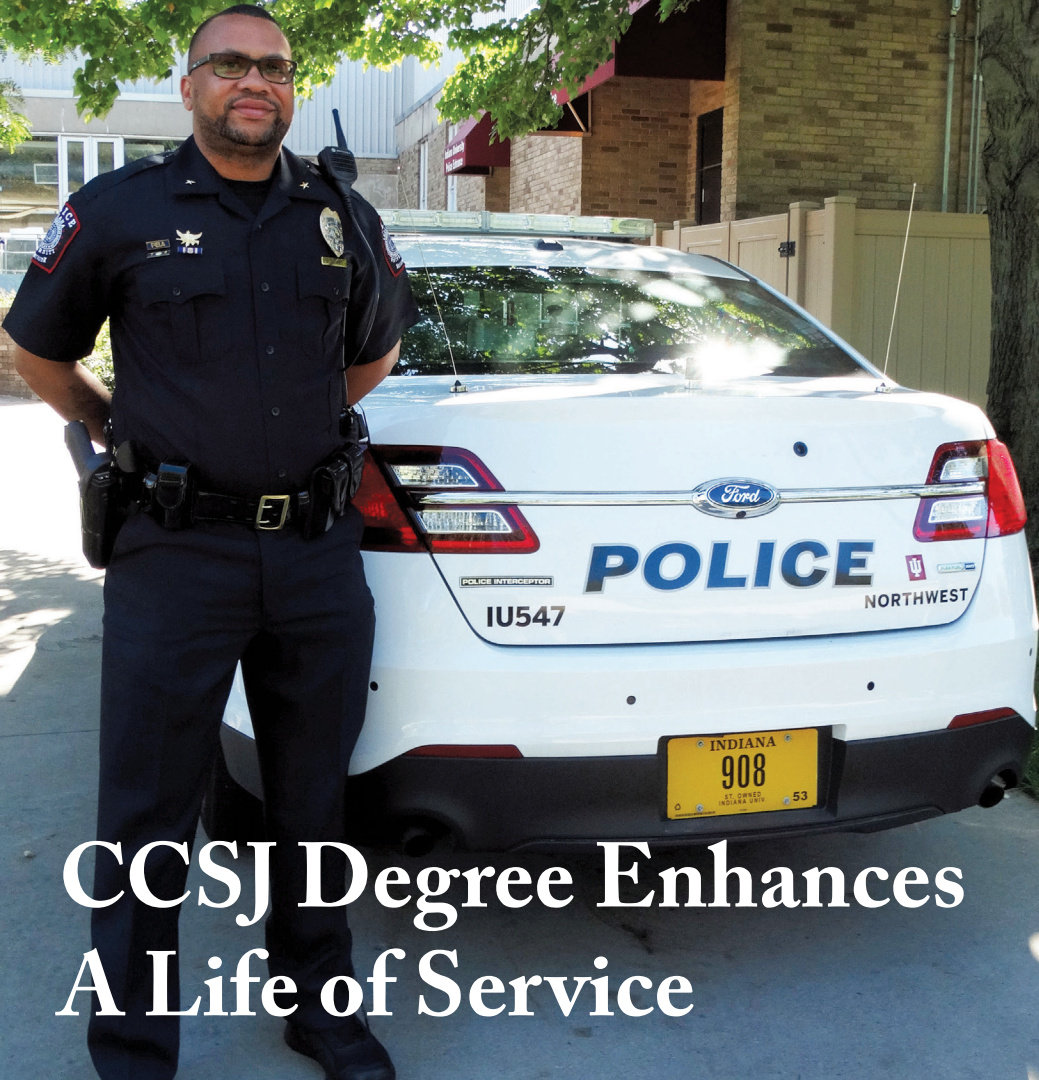


FALL 2018

CPPS TODAY

MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD



CCSJ Degree Enhances A Life of Service

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



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Mother Shrine.**

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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Our Senses Lead to Understanding

Autumn is the perfect season for me. The stifling heat of summer has subsided and the biting winter has not yet set in. All five senses are awakened by autumn. The changing of the leaves give us a visual cue that autumn has arrived. The honking of the geese as they fly south alerts our ears to the season. The smell of bonfires wafts through the cool night air. And the taste of pumpkin spice lattes from Starbucks is the definitive sign that autumn is here.

We live our lives through our senses. When we lose use of one of the five senses through illness or accident, our lives are changed. We have to make adjustments. Some people claim that when there is a diminishment in one sense, the others are heightened. Our senses give us clues to our surroundings.

In this issue of *C.P.P.S. Today*, we encounter two stories that help us see how our surroundings can truly impact our lives. These stories highlight two very different ministries of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. Yet despite the differences in the location, both stories point to the fundamental truth that our surroundings, the world of our senses, can have an effect on our spiritual lives.

The Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue, Ohio, was founded shortly after Fr. Francis De Sales Brunner, C.P.P.S., brought the first Missionaries of the Precious Blood to America. The shrine is a place where pilgrims journey to find respite from their busy lives. A walk through the shrine grounds enlivens the senses and lifts the spirit. Each year during the pilgrim season, thousands of people come to the shrine to celebrate their heritage with songs, dance and food. The shrine offers them a venue to pray and reflect on their relationship with God.

Calumet College of Saint Joseph also offers a space for people to reflect on their relationship with God and the community. The urban experience in Whiting, Ind., is very different than at the Sorrowful Mother Shrine. But Calumet College of Saint Joseph's effect on the individual is similar to that of the Sorrowful Mother. Service to God and to neighbor are stressed inside and outside of the classroom. The environment at CCSJ overflows with a commitment to service.

We experience the world through our senses. But more than that, our senses, the place where we find ourselves, help us to experience God as well. The sights, sounds, touches, tastes and smells are more than just biology. They are ways to encounter God.

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





Claire Schapker, top, with her CCSJ teammates. Chief Wayne James, left, with his CCSJ diploma, which he keeps in his office at IU Northwest.

CCSJ Degree Enhances A Life of Service

Back in September, Claire Schapker was worried about her bonfire.

She was starting fall classes at Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, Ind., where she is a senior studying business

management. She was reporting every day to softball practice for the CCSJ Crimson Waves, and managing her internship with United Way. She was trying to stay on top of things—and she was checking the weather.

The bonfire was to be on Whihala Beach in Whiting's Lakefront Park, looking out over Lake Michigan. The whole school was invited: students, staff and faculty. Schapker, who is the vice president of CCSJ's student government, dreamed that everybody would get together on the beach, sit around the fire or play volleyball, watch the sun go down, and turn into a family.

"The school has a motto, 'You belong,'" she said. "We want everyone to feel that they belong here—rather than just attending classes here."

Schapker is a planner—"I have learned that time management is my friend," she said—but she knew she had no control over the weather, which was looking bad. The forecast was calling for rain and more rain on the night of the bonfire.

"I really wanted it to happen," she said. "We don't have a lot of big events at the school, so we want to take every opportunity to help people feel a sense of community and not feel excluded."

That sense of community was what drew Schapker to CCSJ, which is sponsored by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. The Missionaries founded the college in 1951 to provide a path to college for students who might not otherwise have gone. It remains one of the most diverse

small colleges in the Northwest Indiana region.

Schapker grew up in Bloomington, Ind., in the shadow of Indiana University, but she wanted to attend a small Catholic college. "I was surrounded by IU when I was growing up. I saw the big-school, D1 life, but I knew it wasn't for me," she said. "I knew I would be better in a smaller school. I came here for a visit when I was 17. I ran into the president on the elevator! I've loved it ever since."

Schapker, who has also interned with Habitat for Humanity, wants to use her business management education to help nonprofits thrive. The small college she chose above all others will help her help others—which, through events like the bonfire, she is already doing.

All Gas, No Brakes

Growing up on the opposite end of Indiana from Schapker was Wayne James, a CCSJ alumnus who is now the chief of police at Indiana University Northwest in Gary, Ind. He also serves as chief diversity officer at IU campuses throughout the state.

"I did not like the police when I was growing up on the east side of Gary," James said. "I only saw the negative in them."

James was 17 when a police

officer in his neighborhood suggested that he might make a good officer himself. It wasn't necessarily what James wanted to hear, but he didn't reject it outright. He thought about it. He pictured himself as a force for good in his community. He remembered his grandfather, the Rev. Julius James, a college classmate, roommate and colleague of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"He dedicated his life to serving others," James said. "And I thought that maybe I should do the same thing."

He joined the Lake County Sheriff's Office Explorers, a group that gives young people a closer look at police work. "And that's when I knew what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," James said.

James became the first African-American police officer in New Chicago, Ind., not far from Gary. Later, he went to work for Indiana University Northwest and had risen through the ranks to become a sergeant when the chief at the time told him he'd never go any further without a degree. He was working fulltime, raising a daughter, already completely committed to life as a father and a police officer. College was going to be hard. James said yes.

He enrolled in 2011 in CCSJ's public safety management

program at the age of 32.

"Starting off, I needed some electives. I took a history class and a writing class to get myself back in the flow," he said. "I was in classes with all these kids."

But he enjoyed it. He'd walk into CCSJ's main entrance and stop for a cup of coffee and a bag of peanut M&M's at the school's café, visiting with the students, asking about their lives. He'd show up in his uniform, boots shined, and the students would ask him questions about his work.

"I went to Cal College because I wanted to accelerate through the program. I'm all gas and no brakes; once I took off in the program, there was no stopping," he said. "I enjoyed the experience. I enjoyed the instructors and the staff. They're always glad to see you. They know who you are."

James graduated from CCSJ with distinction and a 3.9 GPA in 2014. He keeps the diploma in his office to show to the young officers on his staff, to encourage them to go to the next level of service. "I tell them, 'If you want to get it done and are serious about it, go to Calumet College. It's demanding, it's intense, but if you're willing to do it, go for it,'" he said.

At IU Northwest, James manages a department of 15 full-time officers, seven part-time and



Chief James with Lt. Monte Davis in the office of campus police. He's been talking with Lt. Davis about the possibility of enrolling at CCSJ.

four support staff, for a campus of nearly 6,000 students, plus Ivy Tech with its 1,500 students, across the street. That's a lot of responsibility, touching a lot of lives, and he feels it. As a police officer he has an obligation to serve all people, but for Wayne that means especially young people. Some of them might be just like him, when he was a kid, and it's a priority for him to stop and talk with them, encourage them.

"I do love this work," he said. "This is what I was meant to do. It's a calling."

In Every Classroom

The concept of a calling, of belonging to something larger than oneself, of an obligation to

serve others in the way that you are served: those are part of the lessons that are taught at Calumet College, said Fr. Kevin Scalf, C.P.P.S., who chairs the college's Humanities Department and is its director of mission effectiveness.

"One of the marks of a CCSJ education is social justice," said Fr. Scalf. The faculty at the college works to weave that throughout all disciplines. Often, students who choose CCSJ have a heart for service when they arrive on campus, Fr. Scalf added; it's not something that must be transplanted.

"They come predisposed to it," he said. "They see the value of community service, of social justice outreach. It's a tremendous blessing. We cultivate what they're bringing to

us already. It's rare that we have to start from the ground up."

That sense of service is part of the Missionaries' tradition. In that way the college, with students from all over the region, the state, and in recent years, the world, is helping to carry out the mission of the Congregation.

"My hope and my belief is that we're highlighting aspects of social justice in every classroom, whether that's math or science or public safety or our religion courses," he said. "It's certainly at the heart of who we are as a Catholic college in the tradition of the C.P.P.S."

Opening Doors

It's a Catholic college that conveys its mission and message to more than just Catholics. Gail Beloff sensed that when she enrolled in CCSJ in 2001. Beloff works in the gaming industry; she'd done well and, like James, had advanced as far as she could go without a college degree. An East Coast native, she'd relocated to Northwest Indiana and her employer offered to send her back to school, an offer she quickly accepted, enrolling in CCSJ as an organization management major. She was 42.

"I loved going back to school. I enjoyed the structure, the engagement with my fellow students. I appreciated the fact

that the college valued my work experience," she said. "I found the school to be very inclusive and accepting. I'm Jewish, and this is a Catholic school, but at no point was I made to feel unwelcome. When it was my turn to offer prayer, I offered it in Hebrew then translated it to English. People appreciated it."

Beloff moved through the college's two-year LEAP program, where she could earn college credits for her life experiences. But LEAP classes move quickly, with little room for error. Beloff was taking a humanities class when, two days before the final, she received a phone call from her father: her brother had committed suicide. "The final day of class was on a Tuesday, the same day as his funeral," she said.

In spite of the challenges, in spite of her grief, Beloff excelled at CCSJ. She was being fitted for a graduation gown, along with a yellow honors cord, when she noticed that some gowns came with a yellow sash. The sash was for an even higher academic honor. "Suddenly, I knew I wanted to present my father with that sash. I wanted to do something special for him," she said.

To gain the necessary credits to earn the sash, Beloff enrolled in another humanities course, this one on grief counseling.

Gail Beloff enjoyed her two years at CCSJ. Serving on the college's board gives her "the chance to pay it forward."



As graduation neared, Beloff got a call from Sr. Michelle Dvorak, then the vice president of academic affairs. "She told me that it was very rewarding to make calls like this, then she told me I was the valedictorian."

That was in 2004. "This school has opened doors for me," Beloff said, and now, wanting to hold the door open for others, she has joined the board of trustees of the college. A busy executive, she rearranges her schedule to participate in board meetings.

"I see a great deal of potential at the college. I see growth," she said. She believes in Dr. Amy McCormack, CCSJ's president, who is "full of energy and new ideas."

In business management, Beloff said, "I try to be as realistic and focused as possible. I have to be cautious. I have to move the

emotions out of it. But accepting a position on the board definitely brought about a blend of emotions: excitement and a sense that I was paying the college back for what it gave me in my two years here. It gives me the chance to pay it forward."

Bringing People Together

Samantha Lopez, a senior at CCSJ, is finishing her time at the college with the full knowledge that she is anything but done with school. A biomedical science major, she wants to be a physical therapist and is now applying to graduate schools where she can move toward her goal.

She grew up in California's San Fernando Valley and came to CCSJ to play softball for the Crimson Wave. "I wanted to go to a small school where I could get

to know the teachers and have a good relationship with them,” she said.

Like Claire Schapker, Lopez got involved with student government as a way to pull her CCSJ classmates together. Diversity is great, but students also have to reach out across self-imposed boundaries to create community. Lopez thought it was important to do that.

Student government works with a budget that is near \$0, requiring creativity. “Last year, we were in charge of homecoming. We had more alumni signed up than current students, so we had to figure out why. We shifted the focus on a lot of fun activities. The week of homecoming, we had events like wear-your-favorite-jersey day. Because people come to CCSJ from all over, there were so many different teams represented. Even the faculty and staff wore jerseys,” she said.

Simple but fun events like jersey day “bring people together,” she said. “It gives us all something to talk about.”

Lopez gets no temporal reward for her work to create community at the college. But it’s also a way to help the school that has helped her learn so much.

“This school has opened my eyes to different kinds of beliefs. It helps you to realize that everybody is different. I



Samantha Lopez, top, with classmates Taylor Elizondo and Monica Clemente in CCSJ’s student government office.

took a class last semester in global religions. In that class were people like me, who are Catholic—but we don’t all think exactly the same. And people who are Jewish don’t all think exactly alike. The classes we take here help you open your eyes to the differences you are going to see in people. You’re always going to meet different people, and you’re not going to agree with all of them. But you will be able to adapt to them and understand them.”

At 12, Lopez suffered a softball injury that required

physical therapy. She saw firsthand how physical therapy can help people recover and get stronger, and that was it for her. That's her life goal. CCSJ will help her get there.

She'll graduate this spring. "It's going by faster than I want it to," she said. "I'm ready to move on but I'm also not ready to leave. I've gotten so close to so many people and made so many connections. But I'm also ready to move forward and use everything I've learned to do the things I'm planning to do."

"Practice What We Preach"

The school's mission is presented to those who walk through its doors, said Br. Ben Basile, C.P.P.S., who has been in ministry at the college for 37 years. It's not forced on anyone. But it's in the air that they breathe; it settles on their skin and into their hearts.

"Kids come to our school who are not necessarily looking at the religious aspects of their education—but something here rubs off on them," said Br. Ben, who teaches math courses at the college. "It's the charism of the Precious Blood community. We try and model our spirituality for others. We practice what we preach and offer it to other people, hoping that they'll say, 'Yeah, that's how I'd like to be.'"

It's offered not only to the students but to the faculty and staff, he said. "In all the years I've been here, I'm constantly humbled and surprised at the fact that the mission of the school is not left to just us Missionaries," he said. "The people here ask about it, they're hungry for it. Nobody's here for the money. They're here for something else. The mission of the institution is primary; it's part of our Community's urban mission. We do good things here."

Perfect Weather

The bonfire at the beach, which Claire Schapker and the CCSJ student government had planned for the first week of the fall term, turned out to be a good thing. Due to threatening weather, it had to be rescheduled for September 27, "and it turned out great!" Schapker said. "The weather was perfect, not too cold or windy, and we had about 100 students, faculty and staff there." Rescheduling the event allowed the bonfire to be the kick-off event for homecoming week.

A turnout of 100 is great for the small school. And a great turnout, as anyone who plans youth ministry events can attest, is a great blessing. And all blessings, great and small, are to be celebrated—and shared.



What is God Calling Me to Do?

The first full week of November is National Vocations Awareness Week, set aside by the Church in the U.S. to focus our attention on and raise awareness of the vocations question. It is a reminder to pray for vocations, but more importantly it is a reminder to talk about vocations. If we are lucky, it is a time to reach greater clarity about the meaning of the word. For too long “having a vocation” was misunderstood to mean only “called to be a priest or a religious.” The fact of the matter is that we all have a vocation. Everyone has a role to play in God’s plan for the world. We are all called to be of service.

A young man I was chatting with recently told me that he thinks about being a priest, but that he’d also love to be a high school teacher or a youth minister. I reminded him that those were not mutually exclusive categories. They could both very well be a part of his vocation. My encouragement to him was that he not simply stumble forward and end up somewhere, but that he actively and prayerfully discern the two central questions of vocations discernment: “Who did God make me to be?” and “What is God calling me to do?”

The first is the question of state in life: priesthood, religious life, marriage or committed singleness. In my own life I moved forward for many years assuming that I was called to marriage. But once I actually took time to pray about it, I discovered that God was pulling me toward priestly ministry. Many of us discover the answer to this question once for our whole lives.

The second question is about what you do, or in some cases what you do now or next. Yes, this may be about career, but it may also be about where and how you donate your time. It may also be about moving so that you can do something important. The “What is God calling me to do?” question never really goes away. We find ourselves asking this question over and over again in our lives. The trick is not just trying to come up with an answer, but to have actually prayed about it and asked God what he wants. That’s discernment.

Vocation isn’t just about state in life, it’s about life. It’s about how each of us responds to God’s call and lives a life of service. Yes, we need priests, brothers and sisters, but we also need husbands, wives and committed single people to live lives of service to the Church. The French writer Leon Bloy once wrote, “The only great tragedy in life is not to become a saint.” Our road to holiness lies in good discernment and learning to hear God’s call.



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



Step Out of the Ordinary



Members of Danza Guadalupeana of Norwalk, Ohio, take part in a procession on Hispanic Sunday.

Pilgrimages at the Sorrowful Mother Shrine help the faithful celebrate their spiritual inheritance

There are two feasts that were served to the people who attended Hispanic Sunday at the Sorrowful Mother Shrine in August. First was the Eucharistic feast, in the shrine's expansive outdoor chapel. Then came the picnic in the grove, where families enjoyed the food they'd brought and could share with others.

Fr. Scott Kramer, C.P.P.S., the shrine's rector, ambled through the grove, greeting the pilgrims. "You're all welcome here, we want you to think of this place as your home," he said. It's what he says to every pilgrim who comes through the gates of the shrine.

Hispanic Sunday, which is an annual event, this year fell on the 20th Sunday in ordinary time, but it was anything but an ordinary day for the people who gathered for the celebration.

"All these years, I've been coming here," said Roberto Valle of Gibsonburg, Ohio. He brought his family, a picnic lunch, and his accordion so he could help with the music at Mass. Originally from Texas, Valle moved with his family to Ohio when he was still a little boy. He grew up, graduated from high school, joined the air force and served in Vietnam. Taking part in a Cursillo retreat in 1974 turned his heart ever more



Fr. Steve Dos Santos presides at Mass on Hispanic Sunday, with Frs. Scott Kramer (left) and Fr Michael Diemer, who concelebrated.

toward God and changed his life, he said.

"The things that have happened in my life have helped me to realize that God has been with me all through the years," Valle said.

He's been coming to the shrine to take part in Hispanic Sunday since 1980. At the shrine, he said, he feels especially close to Mary. "I'm a Mexican-American. The love of Mary is in my blood," he said.

A Call to Conversion

Pilgrims began to arrive at the shrine grounds at 10 a.m. They set up for the picnic that would happen after Mass, then visited with friends or walked the paths of the shrine's 120 acres waiting for Mass to begin. The sound of drumbeats grew louder

as Mass approached; it was time for the procession from the grotto of Our Lady of Guadalupe to the outdoor chapel for the midday Mass.

Groups from throughout northern Ohio took part in the procession, which celebrated the pilgrims' faith in God as well as their cultural heritage. Groups devoted to Our Lady of Guadalupe danced and played percussion

instruments along the shrine's footpaths.

The procession and the pilgrims poured into the outdoor chapel, filling its pews and standing to sing the opening hymn. Fr. Steve Dos Santos, C.P.P.S., presided and preached in Spanish.

On that Sunday, the Church was still moving through the Bread of Life Discourse, which begins with the story of the loaves and the fishes and ends with Jesus telling the people that he is the bread of life.

"They began with five loaves and two fish, and 5,000 people ate," Fr. Dos Santos said in his homily. "The next day, people came looking for Jesus. They were looking for food, but were offered something more than food. Jesus was offering them more than just a meal, something

far greater even than the law. He was offering his very self, a relationship with him. He was offering his body broken his blood poured forth.

“That’s true for us, too.

When we come to Mass, we come not just to partake in a ritual meal, but to participate in a deep relationship with Jesus. It’s a constant call to conversion, a call to live our lives in a new way.”

“Sing With Your Heart”

Leading the music at Mass was Francisco Carrillo of Norwalk, Ohio. He’s used to bringing people together; he’s the pastoral associate for Hispanic ministries at St. Paul Catholic Church in Norwalk.

He carried a banner of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the procession before Mass, he said, an honor that humbled him. “She’s always here with us,” he said. “This is holy ground.”

Carrillo said he appreciates the shrine and its special pilgrimages, because it was at a Hispanic Sunday years ago when he first saw how many others of Hispanic descent are in northern Ohio. “Someone first brought me here for Hispanic Sunday about 30 years ago, and it felt like I was going home,” he said. “On that



Pilgrims and musicians Roberto Valle, top, and Francisco Carrillo, bottom left, at the shrine’s outdoor chapel.

day, about 300 people gathered — and I’d thought I was the only one.”

The pilgrimage is a way for him to express his faith, which he lives by in his ministry. Carrillo has become an advocate for immigrants in northern Ohio,

and people at his church and community have supported his efforts, he said. His visits to the shrine recharge his soul, helping him remember why he does what he does. "After Mass, in the afternoon, we walk and pray the rosary and the Stations of the Cross," he said. "That's one of my favorite parts of the day."

That, and the music. Carrillo wasn't supposed to be the song leader at this year's Hispanic Sunday, and when he stepped up to fill the role, he realized that he'd forgotten a guitar pick. He used his debit card, which was bent and useless by the time Mass was over. It was a small sacrifice, he said.

"When we sing, we pray," he said. "That's how I enjoy the liturgy: through the music. Once you start singing, you really start feeling the mystery of the Eucharist, and it's an awesome feeling. My mom always used to tell me, 'Sing with your heart.'"

Sacred Ground

After Mass, everyone moved from the chapel to the grove, where families sat at picnic tables and shared the food they'd brought. They relaxed for a while in the shade, then it was time for the rosary that they prayed while walking the pathways through the shrine grounds.

Throughout the day, Missionaries were on hand

to hear confessions and greet pilgrims as long-time friends. "In our role as Missionaries of the Precious Blood, we're seen as part of the place," said Fr. Scott Kramer, C.P.P.S., the shrine's rector.

"We're part of the experience, and pilgrims look forward to seeing us, too. Some of them know us, but some may never have met us before. Maybe talking with us gives them an opportunity to open their hearts a little more than they normally would. And that's sacred ground too, just like the shrine itself is sacred ground."

Coming to the shrine on special pilgrimage days like Hispanic Sunday gives people the chance to "step out of the ordinary and into the extraordinary," he said. "That happens when people make the effort to come here, to this special place.

"When people come here, we tell them to expect a miracle. We've got a God who likes to surprise us. Here at the shrine, people have been surprised by what they've experienced. The peace they've found, the insights, the sense that their prayers are being heard. People tell us they feel the presence of God. These special places and special times help us tune in a little better to the ways that God is touching our lives."





Temporary Incorporation: Gregory Evers, C.P.P.S., is now in advanced formation with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, after his temporary incorporation into the Congregation, celebrated on August 18.

Evers has completed special formation, during which he spent several months in the C.P.P.S. mission in Guatemala and served at Immaculate Conception Church in Celina, Ohio.

“For me, it felt very natural to be taking the next step in the formation process,” Evers said. “It feels like a confirmation of how I already have been thinking of myself. It feels like this is where I’m supposed to be.”

Evers is enrolled in a four-year program of advanced studies at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. He is the son of Roger and Mary Evers of Maria Stein, Ohio.



Greg Evers, center, with Fr. Jeffrey Kirch (at left), provincial director; formators and candidates.

Pope Francis Meets Precious Blood Family: A summer gathering of the Precious Blood family in Rome included the Holy Father.

At a special papal audience, Pope Francis spoke with over 4,000 Missionaries of the Precious Blood, Adorers of the Blood of Christ, and lay members of the Union of the Blood of Christ during an audience that was part of a special celebration of the Feast of the Precious Blood.

Pope Francis affirmed the Precious Blood communities’ charism to draw all people near by the Blood of Christ.

“In your mission you are called to reach out to everyone, to make yourselves understood by all, to be ‘popular’ by using a language through which everyone can understand the message of the Gospel,” Pope Francis said. “The recipients of the love and goodness of Jesus are all: neighbors, but above all those who are most distant.”



Pope Francis greets Fr. William Nordenbrock, moderator general.

Shining Light into the Corners

Last summer we were rushing around, getting ready to leave for a family vacation. I'd gone up into our attic to find enough suitcases of the right shape and size. I must have climbed up the folding ladder into the attic before it was fully set, because when I tried to fold the ladder back up, it gave its usual screech and then wouldn't close all the way. The folded ladder was hanging down from the ceiling of our youngest son's room like the lower jawbone of Marley's ghost.

We couldn't leave it like that while we were gone; who really knows what is living up in the attic? So I asked our youngest son to please, please, please take care of the problem while the rest of us moved on to other essential tasks. He found a piece of lumber, a drill and some screws and installed a makeshift wooden bar that held the folding ladder and its wooden cover in place.

It was a great solution for the moment, and we left the house on time. When we returned a week later, I had to confront a new problem: we couldn't get into the attic. But was that really a problem? For years, that attic has been my nemesis. Everything in it seems both junk and treasure at the same time. Was there anything up there that I really needed, now that I had the luggage down? Would it be a bad thing or a good thing if it was closed up forever?

A good solid wooden bar is my preferred way of dealing with problems. But it's contrary to the light of Christ, which shines into every corner: come out. Tell the truth. Sort things out. Set things free. Spiritual freedom means respecting the past without being weighed down by it. We see Jesus in the Gospel stories honoring his heritage and his people, but we don't see him dragging along his trophies from middle school soccer. Whatever he did bring along was worth keeping.

We lived with the attic closed off for a couple of months while I contemplated: what's up there? What do I need? What can I discard? Deep inside, I knew we had to get back up there, because that's where we store Christmas.

Christmas, representing hope, joy, family, traditions. Those are worth keeping. So we hired a contractor who came in and replaced the faulty folding ladder in an afternoon. He hauled off the old folding ladder, bent and unreliable. It was like a miracle.

I wish I could tell you that I went up there immediately, shone the light of truth into every corner, and cleaned out that attic. That hasn't happened yet. One miracle at a time.



At Our House
by Jean Giesige



You Belong

Calumet College of St. Joseph

founded & sponsored by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood



† C.P.P.S. Values † Unity in Diversity † Career Focused † Affordable

*Let
us
hear
from
you*

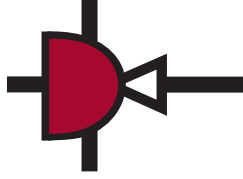
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