

FALL 2019

C.P.P.S. T.O.D.A.Y.

MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

Two C.P.P.S. Brothers Celebrate a Combined

100 YEARS



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

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Adapting to Thrive

In 1859, Charles Darwin wrote his famous treatise *On the Origin of Species*. In it he lays the basis for our understanding of modern-day evolutionary biology. A key component of Darwin's thought was that animals adapt to their environment in order to thrive. Giraffes have long necks to reach the rich, lush leaves at the top of the trees. Owls have perfect eyesight because they hunt at night.

This issue of *C.P.P.S. Today* could be subtitled: *Adapting to Thrive*. It highlights how, in different ways, four Missionaries of the Precious Blood have been called to adapt to new situations. This adaptation has led not only to their own personal growth, but has led to a growth in the vitality of the Congregation.

Brothers Ben Basile and Jim Ballmann are celebrating their 50th anniversaries as Precious Blood brothers. Both have been in ministry at Calumet College of St. Joseph for many years. In this issue, we hear of how they have had to adapt their ministry to the changing face of Catholic higher education, to the growth of technology, and the changing demographics of their students. Yet as they have changed with the times, their commitment to their students, their dedication to their ministry, and their love of God has remained unchanged.

Fr. Angelo Anthony and Brother Juan Acuña are also profiled in this issue. They too have felt the need to adapt to changing ministries. Through his former role as provincial director, Fr. Angelo became well acquainted with the need to respond to issues that call for a change of plans or outlook. He'll put that adaptability to use in his new role as vice moderator general of our Congregation. He will need to adapt to video conferences, long flights, and encounters with a variety of cultures all while continuing his parish ministry in Dayton.

Brother Juan is also an expert in adaptation. He began early in formation when he moved from Chile to the United States and he has continued to do what is necessary for the support of the Congregation. Shortly after a cross-country move from Chicago to begin a new assignment in Los Angeles, he was elected to the General Council and will be moving to Rome.

The thread that runs through all four of these Missionaries' lives isn't just changing and adapting. More importantly, each Missionary has changed and adapted to stay true to the Congregation's mission of proclaiming the redeeming power of the Precious Blood. It is this dedication to the mission that will ensure that the Congregation continues to thrive well into the future.

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





Two C.P.P.S. Brothers Celebrate a Combined

100 YEARS



Brothers Ben Basile and Jim Ballmann in the procession at the beginning of their celebration Mass.

St. Adalbert Church in Whiting, Ind., was full on Saturday, August 24, the night that had been chosen to honor Brother Ben Basile, C.PP.S., and Brother Jim Ballmann, C.PP.S., for the 50th anniversary of their profession as religious brothers.

As the organ rang out with the opening hymn, "O God Beyond All Praising," the congregation turned toward the center aisle, where the presider, Fr. Jeffrey Kirch, C.PP.S., was making his way toward the sanctuary along with Deacon Leo Baron, Msgr. Joseph Semanckek, Fr. Kevin Scaff, C.PP.S., and the two faithful brothers, who slipped into pews up front with family members and friends.

Fifty years earlier, they had been incorporated as Missionaries of the Precious Blood and religious brothers. Both have ministered for many years at Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, Ind., which was founded and is sponsored by the Missionaries.

Brother Ben, a native of Mount Holly, N.J., had first encountered the Missionaries when they sent a mission band to his town. Something about the way they spoke and acted appealed to him. They seemed authentic, genuinely happy in their vocation. He was just a kid then. Years later, when he attended Saint Joseph's College

in Rensselaer, Ind., he decided to follow a vocational call of his own as a religious brother. He taught at Brunnerdale, the Missionaries' former high school seminary near Canton, Ohio, and now for many years at Calumet College, where he has also served in the administration.

Brother Jim, a native of Dayton, was assigned to work in the dairy at St. Charles Center when he first became a brother. Later, while ministering at Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue, Ohio, he enrolled in computer courses. That clicked. Br. Jim, who received an assignment to Calumet College of St. Joseph in 1984, assisted Br. Gerald Hall, C.PP.S., in helping the small college set up its database, earned a master's degree in education, instructional design and went on to serve as an adjunct instructor in its computer information systems program.

Both also minister in many other ways. Brother Ben, a talented musician, was the music director at the Cathedral of the Holy Angels in Gary. Brother Jim is also a swimming instructor at the Whiting, Ind., YMCA, teaching people of all ages and abilities to get comfortable in the water.

With a combined 100 years of ministry and counting, they began another academic year this fall at Calumet College, which

hosted a reception in their honor after the August 24 Mass. In our conversation with the brothers, we talked about what has changed and what has remained the same in their education ministry over the years.

What were you thinking about, during the celebration Mass?

Brother Ben Basile: I was thinking that I'm the same guy inside that I was 50 years ago. I read something once that inside every older guy is a younger guy wondering, "What happened?" I've grown in the way that I approach things, but basically I don't feel that I've changed. What has changed is the whole sphere I'm operating in. I'm the old sage now.

When I was first professed (as a religious brother), I went back to Saint Joseph's College for a year to finish college, then went back to Brunnerdale to teach. After a year or two, I realized we (religious brothers) are signs or symbols to people. They attach a meaning to us and to our commitment. It counts for something. We have been able to be present to people, and it has given them hope and challenge. Being a Missionary of the Precious Blood means being a peacemaker. We've been a reconciling presence at the

college and other spheres we've operated in.

Brother Jim Ballmann: What I was thinking was mostly thanks. Thanks to God, and grateful that so many people attended the Mass, not only the parishioners who were so good to be part of the celebration, but so many who had made the trip. There were my family members, CPPS sisters, and a lot of our fellow Missionaries, including Fr. Bob Schreiter, who was a class ahead of me at Brunnerdale. I'm 12 days older than him and we've always been good friends. And other priests and brothers, our seminarians and lay associates. I was so thankful to see all of them.

And then after the big celebration, it was back to work. Another school year had started. What is it like, approaching another school year?

Brother Ben: You do all your preparation, then you meet a whole bunch of new people for the first time. They're always the same age, and you get older.

I usually tell them, I live for this stuff (math). It may not be something you do around the house every day, but I live for it.

I like what I do, and I like the students that I teach. I know that teaching is about more than just the subject matter. It's also about



Brother Ben and Brother Jim acknowledge applause from the congregation at the Mass at St. Adalbert.

your interactions with people. Over the years, you see results, sometimes unexpectedly. There will be times when someone comes back to campus, someone you worked with years before, and you get to see where they are now, and they say something to you about what you did for them. Even though you may not have actually been thinking about doing something great at the time. It's a continual surprise.

So that's part of the payoff of a career in teaching?

Brother Jim: It's always gratifying when former students come back and tell you how much your class helped them.

For me, that often means

my database or computer literacy class. Originally, all of our students were required to take computer literacy. As they became more computer literate, they learned more about what was going on behind the scenes with the computer. And I think that really helped them. They all knew how to go in and send an email—but what was happening behind the scenes that made it work? I wanted them to understand more about what they were doing, not just going through the steps.

How has teaching at the college has changed over the years?

Brother Jim: Before 2000, we did

not have athletics at Calumet College. The college was more focused on non-traditional students, so the median age was 36 or 37. We had very dedicated people who worked fulltime then came to class. In the evenings, classrooms were crowded—our students had families, they worked and they came to class.

In 2000, the college started its athletic program, and now the median age of our students is in the 20s. Our day classes are all full, and our evening classes don't have nearly as many students. I see a difference in those day students—it can be much more difficult to reach them. They are used to social media, using electronic devices. In the classroom, it's normal for them to want to be constantly on their tablet or cellphone. They've grown up with that.

Brother Ben: When you're looking at traditional college-age students, nothing has really changed with the life tasks that they have to do: they have to define themselves, figure out who they are, test out their belief systems. I don't think that's changed. But what they bring to it has changed.

We talk about millennials, who were born from 1985-2000, and we compare them to what's now called the iGeneration or Generation Z (born in the early 2000s, they are now reaching

college age). The millennials' and the iGeneration's approach to life tasks appear to be different. With the iGeneration, often their attitude is that every question has already been answered—the answer is out there somewhere—and they just need to find the answer on their phone.

One place this has shown up for us as faculty members is something that we might have once called plagerism. But it's not quite that. There are apps on your phone—you have a math problem, you go to the app, the app gives you the answer and the steps to get to the answer. We used to think of that as cheating. But they grew up using these apps. They don't think of it as cheating—they know the answer is already out there and they are discovering it.

Part of our job as educators is understanding where people are coming from. We want them to learn. What constitutes learning? We're wrestling with that; the whole faculty is wrestling with it still. We have not finished the answer to that question. What constitutes learning versus just being able to discover things? What abilities do students need to have in order to go out into the world, get what they need and process it? It's not just a matter of getting the information on your tablet or phone—what do you do with it?



Brother Jim Ballmann talks with Regina Aguirre and John Cruz at Calumet College during the reception following the Mass.

After you’ve been teaching for decades, how do you keep up with all those changes?

Brother Jim: Just as with our students, it’s all about maintaining our current skills while obtaining new ones. As the marketplace changes, you have to get new skills. That takes work and preparation.

Before a course begins, I always get the latest edition of the textbook and go through it the whole way, to learn it, to be sure I’m on top of it. That way, 99 percent of the time, I can answer any question the students might have. I spend three to four times the amount of time in preparation than I do with the students in the classroom. That’s probably true

for most teachers.

You’re bringing something more to the classroom—your identity as a Missionary, as a religious brother.

Brother Jim: My vocation has definitely changed over the years. When I was a seminarian, after my profession (in 1969), I wanted to work in the St. Charles dairy with Brother Bernie Barga, C.P.P.S. Brother Bernie was the one who really forced me to start thinking about my future... If you had told me at that time that I’d be teaching one day, I would have said, “You’re nuts!” But with constant introspection, I experienced a gradual shift. It took me a while to find a niche—

but I've really enjoyed it.

I don't feel I've done anything heroic—I'm just doing my job. I feel the most important thing I offer students, faculty and staff is a ministry of presence. In fact, two or three years ago, they rewrote my job description and added that, "a ministry of presence." It doesn't matter so much what I do here—it matters that people know I'm here for them.

Brother Ben: As a teacher, you

have to be continually adapting. Nobody goes into classroom without some preparation. We learn the material and also decide how to lead others to learn it. That ties in with our Community's mission too—we provide people with a means to grow where they need to grow. God provides the growth. Our mission is to be present to them where they are. Having done the introspection ourselves, we can lead them to do the same.



Group Focuses on Colleges' Catholic Identity

Fr. Kevin Scalf, C.P.P.S., is director of mission and ministry and chair of the humanities department at Calumet College, Whiting, Ind. He is also a contributing member of a new project sponsored by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU), Washington, DC.

Fr. Scalf was invited by ACCU to join a design team whose purpose was to develop a comprehensive formation program for leaders in Catholic higher education. This program would introduce them to important dimensions of mission through videos, workshops and retreats. This program is targeted to senior executives, aspiring presidents and new presidents at Catholic colleges and universities.



Fr. Scalf

The videos, of which he has presented two, cover a variety of topics from canon law to the sacramental worldview. "This initiative resembles a robust RCIA for current and aspiring leaders in Catholic high education. It will offer them a distinctive portfolio of competencies as they seek promotion within the academy," he said.

The goal of this initiative is to strengthen the Catholic identity of these colleges and universities, which in turn will help students learn more about the Church and its mission.

The Other 51 Weeks

The first week of November was National Vocations Awareness Week. Each year, this week is set aside by the Church as a time to focus our attention on the question of priestly and religious vocations. It's a great time for priests and deacons to preach on vocations and for parishes to offer vocations-related lessons in religious education, and maybe even put together a vocations panel where young people get a chance to hear about the different vocations from people who are living them.

National Vocations Awareness Week 2019 provided a great opportunity to talk about vocations, but there are 52 weeks in a year. What are we supposed to do the rest of the year? My answer is that we need to keep the conversation going. One vocation talk a year is insufficient to sustaining priestly and religious vocations. Young people need to be constantly encouraged to be open to a possible vocation. But how can the average person do that?

Here are some simple things you can do to help promote vocations in your family, at your parish and in your community:

- Pray, pray, pray: I would encourage you to pray boldly for vocations. Pray for individuals, that they might discover their vocations. Or that the Lord might call them to the priesthood, or religious life.
- Encourage, encourage, encourage: Become the voice of the Holy Spirit. Tell young people the gifts you see in them and encourage them to consider the priesthood or religious life.
- Volunteer: Does your parish have a vocations committee? Is there a Serra Club in your area? Ask your pastor if there is something you can do to help promote vocations.
- Talk about vocation: Use the word regularly, and not just to talk about priesthood and religious life.
- Help create opportunities for interaction. Work to bring speakers to your parish who speak about their vocation, and encourage young people to consider theirs.
- Highlight and promote positive news stories about priests and religious.
- Befriend priests and religious in the area. This will be a blessing to them and create opportunities

This list is by no means complete, but I hope it gives you some things to look for as you tend the Lord's garden and keep your eye out for the men and women God is calling to service in his Church.



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



Leading The C.P.P.S. Worldwide

Two Missionaries
from the U.S. take on
leadership roles with
the worldwide Congregation.

Fr. Angelo Anthony, C.P.P.S., who served three terms as provincial director of the Cincinnati Province, has taken on a new role with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood: vice moderator general of the worldwide religious congregation.

Fr. Anthony will continue as pastor of Dayton's Region Seven parishes, which include Holy Trinity, Emmanuel and St. Joseph.

He was chosen as part of the new leadership team of the Missionaries worldwide during their general assembly in September in Częstochowa, Poland. Present at the general assembly were priests, religious brothers and representatives from the Congregation's lay associate



Fr. Angelo Anthony presides at Mass during the General Assembly in Poland.

groups around the world. There, Fr. Emanuele Lupi, C.P.P.S., of the Italian Province was chosen to serve as moderator general.

Fr. William Nordenbrock, C.P.P.S., the former moderator general who has completed his term, will return to the U.S. this fall.

Fr. Lupi, a member of the Italian Province, previously served as vice moderator general and secretary general. Prior to that, he ministered in the Missionaries' mission in Peru.

Fr. Anthony has traveled extensively to C.P.P.S. ministry sites. As provincial director, he

made frequent visits to Chile, Peru, Guatemala and Colombia. He also formerly served as a mentor to Missionaries in the Indian Vicariate.

As vice moderator general, he will also serve on the Missionaries' general council, which also includes Fr. Augusto Menichelli, C.PP.S., of the Atlantic Province; Brother Juan Acuña, C.PP.S., of the Cincinnati Province; and Fr. Alois Schlachter, C.PP.S., of the Teutonic Province.

Missionaries around the world face different challenges in their ministries and their cultures, and respond in different ways to bring the healing powers of Precious Blood spirituality to the world. "A large part of my role will be listening to what the members are saying, to what's going on in their unit," Fr. Anthony said. "I'll be learning more and more about the international presence of our Community, the local realities that shape our role and our Community life in the countries where we serve.

"As a worldwide congregation, it's important that we continue to have a dialogue about our cultures and about our spirituality. How do we respond to the Gospel message in each particular place?"

The key to that is listening, he said. "That's in my skillset," he said. "When we listen to each

other, we learn the story behind the story. In listening, we learn from each other and help the Community grow."

He could have opted to live in Rome—a prospect that his parishioners in Dayton sweated out over the three-week course of the assembly in Poland. But Fr. Anthony said he thought he would be more valuable to the general council as a Missionary who is experiencing ministry among the people of God, not only in leadership.

"As a worldwide congregation, it's important that we continue to have a dialogue about our cultures and about our spirituality. How do we respond to the Gospel message in each particular place?"

"For me, it's a better use of my gifts to continue to work on the local scene. I have some international experience, but I don't know a second language and I've not lived outside the U.S. for an extended period, all of those things that happen when a Missionary leaves his country and gets to know another culture," he said. "Being a non-



Fr. Emanuele Lupi, C.P.P.S., front row, center, will lead the Missionaries as moderator general. On his council are (left to right) Frs. Angelo Anthony, Alois Schlachter, Augusto Menichelli and Brother Juan Acuña.

resident councilor will help me stay grounded in the local issues that our Missionaries are seeking to respond to every day. Sometimes in a leadership role your focus shifts because you are ministering to the ministers. And you're not always tuned in with what's going on at the grassroots."

At the general assembly, Missionaries contemplated the idea of being "living chalices," who receive, hold and pour out the Precious Blood of Jesus. "A word that came up a lot in our discussions was hospitality—how Precious Blood spirituality is really about hospitality," he said. "The Blood of Christ is poured out for all people—do we have hearts that are open to receive one another? How do we demonstrate the hospitality that allows us to receive others and to walk with them?"

Brother Juan Will Be Moving To Rome

In August, Brother Juan Acuña, C.P.P.S., wrote a heartfelt article about how he probably wouldn't get to wear the new winter coat he'd purchased on clearance last year. At the request of his religious congregation, he was moving from Chicago, where the coat would be *muy necesario*, to St. Agnes Parish in Los Angeles, where the coat would hang in his closet.

And now he is packing to move to Rome.

In September, Brother Juan became the first religious brother elected by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood to serve on their general council. The general

council, along with the moderator general, provide leadership and animation to Missionaries in 20 countries around the world.

A native of Santiago, Chile, Brother Juan completed a master's degree in nonprofit administration from the University of Notre Dame in May. His technical, artistic and organizational skills will be put to good use at the C.PP.S. Generalate, where he will live and work.

"I can have my own plan for my life, but we are Missionaries, and we have to listen to the will of God," said Brother Juan, who was elected by his brothers in Community during a three-week general assembly in Częstochowa, Poland.

After his election, he received well wishes from many Missionaries, especially other religious brother and members from Latin America. "They're happy for me," he said.

And so is his family in Chile, though they will have to change their travel plans. They had hoped to visit him in Los Angeles and take a side trip to Disneyland. "I told them they'll have to come to Rome instead," he said.

Brother Juan will also serve as treasurer and secretary general, keeping track of finances, correspondence and documents. He will accompany Fr. Emanuele



*Brother Juan,
Fr. Lupi at
the assembly.*

Lupi, C.PP.S., the new moderator general, on some trips to visit C.PP.S. ministry sites around the world.

He has worked at the Generalate before, but only temporarily. "This will be different. I already know some Italian, so I can manage, but I'll take Italian classes. But I don't think I'll drive much—driving in Rome can be scary," he said.

A Missionary for nine years, he'll get to know the Community in a new way. "I'll be able to minister to the C.PP.S. at large, and I'll have the opportunity to get to know many more members. All people come through Rome," he said.

And, since Rome's nighttime lows can dip to freezing in the winter, he may even get to wear his new coat.





In Memoriam: Fr. Richard Nieberding, C.PP.S., died suddenly of a cardiac tamponade on July 20, 2019, in the rectory of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Montezuma, Ohio, where he was the pastor. He was 66.

He was born on January 19, 1953, in Dayton, to Edward and Mary (Jutte) Nieberding. He attended Precious Blood School then entered Brunnerdale, the minor seminary of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, in Canton, Ohio, in 1967. He was ordained on June 28, 1980.

His first assignment was to Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Ottawa, Ohio. In 1985, he became an associate pastor at St. Augustine Parish, Minster, Ohio.



**Fr. Richard
Nieberding**

Fr. Nieberding became the youth program director at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein in 1990. Working with Brother Bernie Barga, C.PP.S., he organized programs and led retreats and parish missions with a focus on the youth.

He was appointed chaplain at St. Francis de Sales High School and associate pastor at St. James the Less Parish in Columbus in 1997, becoming pastor of St. James the Less in 1999.

In 2005, he returned to St. Augustine as its pastor, also ministering at St. Joseph Parish in Egypt, Ohio. On June 4, 2019, he became the pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Throughout his life as a priest, Fr. Nieberding was drawn to youth ministry, even as he oversaw many other aspects of parish life. He planned events for youth that helped them see that they were an important part of the parish. Above all, he was a gifted storyteller, skillfully using humor to illustrate a point. He was named Citizen of the Year in Minster in 2009.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Charles Center, Carthage, Ohio, on July 26, with Fr. Ken Schnipke, C.PP.S., vice provincial director, presiding. The homilist was Fr. Don Davison, C.PP.S.

A second Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on July 27, at St. Augustine with Fr. Ken Schnipke presiding. The homilist was Fr. Gene Schnipke, C.PP.S. Burial followed in the St. Augustine Cemetery.

May he rest in peace.

In Memoriam: Fr. Tomás Chamaya Alva, C.P.P.S., of the Peruvian mission, died on September 20, 2019, at the age of 48. He had struggled with health issues in recent months.



Fr. Chamaya

He was born on December 20, 1970, in Cavalti, Peru. He was first professed as a brother in January 2003 and was ordained a priest in 2018.

Fr. Chamaya (then Br. Tomás) served as director of the Peruvian Mission in 2011–12. He was ordained to the diaconate in 2013. He was ordained a priest on April 7, 2018.

He was then assigned as associate pastor at *Nuestra Señora de la Luz* (Our Lady of the Light) Parish in Lima. He also assisted at San Francisco de Borja Parish.

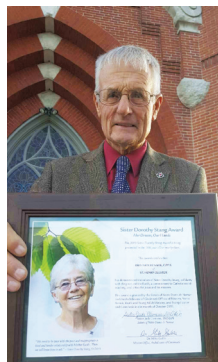
On September 21, after his death, many people from every place where Fr. Chamaya had served gathered at San Francisco de Borja Parish. “They came to honor him and give thanks for his ministry and his accompaniment in many ways as a Missionary and a priest,” said Fr. Maximo Mesia, C.P.P.S., director of the Peruvian Mission. A funeral Mass was celebrated in the parish that evening. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on September 23 in Cavalti. Burial followed in the central cemetery there.

May he rest in peace.

Spirit of Sr. Dorothy Stang: Brother Nick Renner, C.P.P.S., was honored with the Spirit of Sr. Dorothy Stang Award from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for a lifetime of ministry, in serving the poor and protecting the Earth.

The award was presented during a Mass on October 19 at St. Henry Parish in St. Henry, Ohio, where Brother Nick is in ministry. Sr. Dorothy Stang, SND, was killed in 2005 in the Brazilian Amazon as she fought for the rights of indigenous people there.

“Brother Nick is known for his hard work, wisdom and prayerfulness,” said Fr. William O’Donnell, C.P.P.S., the pastor of the St. Henry cluster of parishes. “He has more friends than one can count and he is highly respected as a member of our local community. He is an inspiration to the farming community and by his willingness to reach out to the marginalized in developing countries. No one is more worthy, in my opinion, to receive this recognition than Brother Nick, who lives and serves in the spirit of Sister Dorothy Stang.”



Brother Nick



Magic in the Donation Box

Are you a nosy Nellie, like me? When you visit a parish, do you poke around in its liturgy rack, read its bulletin, check out the fliers on the bulletin board?

We were traveling this summer and had the privilege of visiting a parish that was brand new to us. There was a greeter in the vestibule, drat it, so I didn't investigate as thoroughly as I might have when left to my own devices. But I did sneak a glance into the donation box for the parish food pantry and instantly recognized a mythical object from my childhood: Jiffy Pop Popcorn.

Jiffy Pop was a heavily advertised brand when I was a kid: "Jiffy Pop, Jiffy Pop, the magic treat, as much fun to make as it is to eat." It was a bit of popcorn in a foil pan that expanded to the size of a chef's hat when heated on a stove. When the foil was torn open on top in the commercial, we could almost smell the fluffy white kernels, so different than those popped in our old pan at home. Of course they were different. They were magical.

It seemed like an odd thing to find in a food donation box, which is usually a place for bags of noodles, peanut butter and canned corn. What had the donor been thinking? It costs more than regular popcorn, and creates a lot of waste. It certainly wasn't practical.

But then I thought about a kid whose family was going through hard times, with parents who had to depend on a food pantry to put meals on the table. That's not an easy life, and often there is no money left over for magic. What if, on an otherwise ordinary Tuesday night, that kid and his or her brothers and sisters get to crowd around a stove and watch a foil pan of popcorn rise toward the heavens? Keep shaking the pan, kid! Don't let it burn! Then to tear through the foil to the steaming popcorn below, so fragrant, so delicious, the family's load of worries lightened for the time it took the popcorn to pop.

Back in our own parish the next week, we were tasked with learning a new hymn, "A Place at the Table" by Joy F. Patterson. The first line of the refrain is, "And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace." Justice and joy are two words we don't often see together. Fighting for justice can seem like such grim, unending work. Injustice grinds us down. But there they were, justice and joy together. It made me think of the Jiffy Pop. Somebody out there had caught the message about Jesus' yoke being easy, the burden light.



**At Our House
by Jean Giesige**



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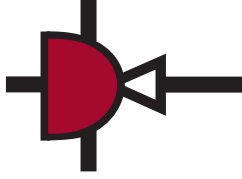
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Permit No. 2