

FALL 2020

C P P S T O D A Y

MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD



BROUGHT NEAR

*Wealth of Voices at Calumet College
Enriches the Conversation*

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Breaking ground at SPPS.

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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Inside and Outside the Classroom Walls

My family has been in the construction business for generations. We know firsthand that you have to start any project with a good plan. The plan has to be solid and based on a good foundation. At the same time, it has to be flexible because in construction, anything that can go wrong, will go wrong. You had better be prepared to revisit and maybe rework the plan.

Few people are more flexible than those involved in education ministry. Whether you are in charge of a classroom or a whole school, you had better be able to plan, follow the plan, and, at times, come at the plan from a different direction. All the while keeping the mission of the school focused on educating and forming young disciples.

Our C.P.P.S. priests, brothers and lay associates in education ministry are innovative thinkers who are committed to helping students and schools succeed. Usually the focus is on what is going on inside the walls of the school, such as at Calumet College of St. Joseph, which our Missionaries founded in 1951 to serve working-class families in Northwest Indiana. This small-but-mighty college has earned a reputation for welcoming people of all backgrounds. It has one of the most diverse student bodies in the Midwest. It strives to carry out its mission to bring all people near through the Blood of Christ. You can read about how its mission is finding a home in the hearts of its students in our cover story.

Sometimes, administrators have to focus on the walls themselves (not to mention furnaces, windows, doors and plumbing). The people of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Ottawa, Ohio, have been fundraising for many years to expand their thriving Catholic school. This fall, they broke ground on a school expansion project that will bring all classes, K8, under the same roof. And, it includes a new gym that will give basketball and volleyball teams a little more room to breathe.

What students learn, and how they learn, depends somewhat on their surroundings. But even more it relies on the good and patient people who are there to help them learn and grow. We thank God for all educators, especially at Catholic schools, colleges and universities, and especially in this year when it has been so difficult to plan and to stick to a plan. May God continue to provide them with the inspiration and strength of character to be good role models for the young people they are teaching and reaching every day.

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





BROUGHT NEAR

*Wealth of Voices at Calumet College
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**YOU WHO WERE FAR OFF HAVE BEEN BROUGHT
NEAR THROUGH THE BLOOD OF CHRIST** Eph 2: 13

When people gathered around Jesus, they may have stuck with the people they knew best, but Jesus himself did not seem to group them that way. He was famous—infamous, at times—for welcoming all into the sphere of his concern, barriers falling sometimes with a crash that startled and confounded many.

To this day, the people of God are of all shapes and sizes; they come in all skin-and-hair color combinations; they grow up speaking many different languages and singing songs that float on the wind of their own culture. They hear God's call through ears attuned to many different pitches, or even just vibrations.

"But now in Christ Jesus you who were far off have been brought near through the Blood of Christ," Paul proclaims in Ephesians. How and where are we brought near? When we pray and worship together, certainly; through our family and friends; in neighborhoods and on street corners; at parks and in schools, including a small college on New York Avenue in Whiting, Ind.

Calumet College of St. Joseph was designed to include everyone and draw them near. Founded by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in 1951, it was intended to serve students from the working-

class families who lived between Gary, Ind., and Chicago. Many of its students worked full-time at a factory or foundry then came to class at night; some still do.

In its nearly 70 years, the college has grown to offer 19 majors, including several master's degree programs. But its mission is still based on the belief that all people can be brought near through the Blood of Christ. "You Belong" is the college's tagline; it appears on its website, brochures and billboards. It's also lived out as faculty and staff welcome students each year from many different cultures and backgrounds, offering each of them a home away from home.

"One of the great benefits that Calumet College offers is being in an environment where people from many backgrounds can learn together and search for truth with different perspectives," said CCSJ President Amy McCormack, who cringes when she hears the word "they" to describe a particular group of people. That word "they" can do a lot of harm, she believes, when it's used to put people into a box. A small school like Calumet College allows people to step out of such boxes and get to know each other as individuals, as sons and daughters of God.

“When you’re with folks in a safe environment, an environment where you are encouraged to be who you are, transformation can happen,” said Fr. Kevin Scalf, C.P.P.S., the college’s director of mission and ministry who also is the humanities chairperson. “I see it happening all the time here.”

Kristen

It’s happening for Kristen Maldonado, a 29-year-old who was raised in East Chicago. She is majoring in early elementary education, hoping to become a pre-school or kindergarten teacher.

“The world can be unfair at times and it is up to us as individuals to make the world a better, more peaceful place,” she said. “We need to open our eyes, ears and mouths when it comes to justice in the world, justice for men and women of all races.

“We live in a multi-cultural environment, Earth. When we subject ourselves to one town, one race, we are limiting our ability to connect with the world entirely. The connections we make with those who are different from us make us stronger, more complex people. Experiencing diversity also makes us more peaceful and



kind, something the world really needs right now.”

It’s not something you can put on the syllabus: “Open your mind and hearts to others.” But it’s likely to happen in a small school that is consistently ranked as one of the most diverse in the region—and supports a Catholic worldview on social justice issues and respect for all.

“When you have an authentic relationship with someone of

a different race, nationality, ethnicity, that will guide and overshadow in a positive way any potential negative feelings that you may have had going into a conversation or situation," McCormack said. "It will allow you to go a little deeper into a conversation of understanding."

At the college, those relationships may develop inside or outside of the classroom, on one of its sports teams or during a group project. Because at Calumet College, she added, "if you're in a group project, it's very unlikely that you're going to wind up in a group with people all of the same background and perspective."

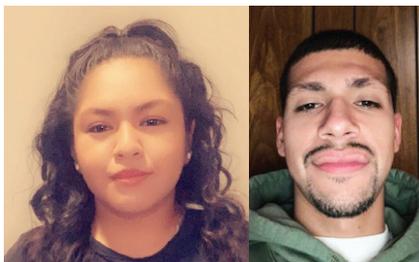
Joshua

That's fine with Joshua Brownlee, a CCSJ senior who says each class at the college, whether theology or math, allows for open discussion. "I love CCSJ for that," said Brownlee, a business administration major. "All classes here at CCSJ allow you to speak your mind, and if you don't want to speak in that particular classroom, there is always a faculty member who is willing to set up a meeting to discuss your feelings."

An example, he said, is his current theology course, Search for Ultimate Meaning, taught by

Fr. Scalf. There, he said, "I have a group of great classmates who say things that I ponder on for the rest of the day. The open freedom to discuss allows my peers to say things that can relate to all of us college students. Since being in that class, I've had added values to my life due to a few things my peers spoke about in class."

Fr. Scalf is the head of the theology department at CCSJ. He's also responsible for spelling out and guiding the college's mission. As a Catholic institution, Calumet College



aims to give students a quality education, of course, but there's something more. The college hopes not just to teach but to form its students, to send them into the world with a deeper appreciation of the gifts that God has given to them, and to see and appreciate God's light shining through their fellow students and all the people they meet.

The college, then, lives as a part of the Missionaries' larger mission to preach the Good News and promote the power of the Precious Blood of Jesus to redeem and reconcile the children of God.

"Just as the design of a chalice is open and welcoming at the top, Precious Blood spirituality tracks along similar lines," Fr. Scalf said. "Our students and employees often tell us that the culture at Calumet College is open and welcoming as we greet persons by name, ask about their day, celebrate victories, accompany them through loss, point out instances of God's grace, and never dismiss anyone for any illegitimate reason. The values of this Precious Blood ministry make us very grateful for whoever walks through our doors. And we hope they stay for a while."

Chasity

Chasity Burns plans to stay at CCSJ for a while. A 32-year-old education major, Burns dreams of earning a master's degree and someday opening her own private school that offers a quality education free to families that can't afford tuition. "After all, education is the key that opens many doors, and I want to give all children the chance to dream and have huge goals and watch them conquer them all," she said.

Burns began her college education at a large state university but has found a home



at CCSJ, where she said the students and faculty “are honestly amazing. They make you feel comfortable and feel safe enough to speak your mind, especially the faculty. They are truly down-to-earth people. . . they have a way of keeping you grounded but it’s nothing harsh. It’s with love and you feel they genuinely care.”

The college’s diverse student body has helped her learn a lot, she said. “I love seeing different points of view from mine. It’s okay that we don’t support the same political candidates; we are not supposed to think the same and be cookie-cutter versions of one another. If that were the case, God would not have made us as diverse as he did. It’s a blessing to be around people who are different from you. That gives you space to grow.”

Space to grow is what the small college hopes to provide, Fr. Scalf said. “When we talk about our Precious Blood apostolates at their best, I really think we are carrying them out in tangible terms at the college. Our mission here is a lived reality,” he said. “The vision of St. Gaspar (the founder of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood), his vision of Precious Blood spirituality, really does get collected in the great chalice that is this institution. And we’ve been at it since 1951.”



Blanca

Blanca Guerrero may never have heard about the vision St. Gaspar for his religious community. But she’s feeling the results. A 21-year-old native of East Chicago, she is hoping to earn a bachelor’s degree in digital and studio arts, with a long-term goal of working for Disney.

“I can see myself carrying what I learn at CCSJ into the real world, because I can teach and lead others with a wonderful meaning,” she said. “The world can benefit from others who have fully experienced diversity and multi-cultural environments. People can learn from others and help make the world more equal. We can have a better environment if we all unite as one.”



Praying Where People Can See It

When I was a sophomore in high school, I had an after school job at my parish, St. Barnabas in Alameda, Calif. I helped the custodian clean up at the school as well as the church. I remember distinctly one day seeing the pastor, Fr. John Klopke, C.P.P.S., as he paced up and down the sidewalk that ran along the space between the rectory and the church. He had a black book in his hand.

I asked him what he was doing. He looked up from the book and said, "Praying my breviary," and immediately returned to the task. I had no idea what that meant, and I didn't think to ask. Nor did he seem to want to explain it to me. Years later I discovered the Liturgy of the Hours as a rich font for prayer and reflection.

I share this story not to embarrass Fr. John. I am honored to use his mission crucifix and Community ring. I share this story because we (Catholics) have a tendency to think the faith is handed down by osmosis. That may have been true in previous eras, where the Church dominated in the social milieu. But even back in the early 80's, that was no longer the case, and it is definitely not true today. If we want successive generations to know our faith and our faith traditions, we must make an explicit effort to pass them on.

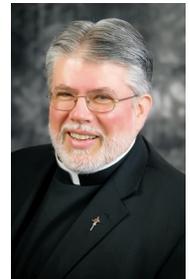
It was great that Fr. John prayed his breviary in public. It would have been greater if he had taken a couple of minutes to sit down with me and explain what the breviary is.

Much like Fr. John, my mother held pieces of her prayer life rather secret. I knew that she prayed the rosary pretty regularly, and every time we were on a long driving trip. What I didn't know until after her death was that she had a strong devotion to St. Anthony of Lisbon (you might know him as "of Padua"). We discovered her Chaplet of St. Anthony and other prayer books when we were going through her things.

If we want to hand on our faith to our children and grandchildren, they need to see us praying and living out our faith. They need to learn to pray with us. We need to be even more explicit today than in years past. The more we pray and live our faith with our children and grandchildren, the stronger their faith can be as they grow.



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



Faith Under

CONSTRUCTION



First graders at Sts. Peter and Paul School in Ottawa, Ohio, after the school's groundbreaking Mass.

If you had shown up at Sts. Peter and Paul Elementary School in Ottawa, Ohio, on Wednesday, September 9, you would almost certainly have been handed a bright yellow hard hat. It was that kind of a day.

Not because things were falling from the sky, but because things were coming up from the ground: specifically, the school's expansion project, which will include classrooms and a big, bright gym. On September 9, the parish's new pastor, Fr. Scott Kramer, C.P.P.S., presided at an outdoor Mass to celebrate the groundbreaking of the project.

After the final blessing, Principal Connie Niese had to collect herself for a moment as she came forward to say a few

words to the faculty, students and staff assembled on the school grounds, facing the building project. It had been so long since they'd all been together, the 2019–20 school year having been truncated by the coronavirus. Even when the children returned to school on August 25, there were strict protocols in place to keep them distanced when indoors. The groundbreaking Mass was the first time they'd all been together for many months, and, Niese said, it was a beautiful sight.

"It fills my heart with joy to see us all together," she told the Sts. Peter and Paul family. "This is a great day."

As with most great days, there had been a lot of

preparation, going back years. The K-8 school in Putnam County, Ohio, had been hit hard by flooding in 2007. "Water was about hip-high in here," said Niese during a tour of the newer of the school's buildings, the one on N. Locust Street, just east of the church. "The people raised money to rehabilitate the buildings after the flood, and when there was money left over, they decided that what they really needed to do was build on."

A Plan Takes Shape

The addition would help with a question of what to do with an older school building on Fourth Street. That building, which houses grades K-2, was even harder hit by the flooding. "The bottom floor of that building has been unusable since the flood," Niese said. A glimpse into the space reveals a sad sense of loss from that disaster, something irredeemable. That didn't sit well with the people of Sts. Peter and Paul; if there's anything our faith teaches us, it's that nothing is irredeemable.

And so the building plan took shape, to build on to the N. Locust street building, and eventually take down the Fourth Street building, which may make room for a parish activity center connected to the church. In the



First grade is in session in the school's gym.

"We're one big family, but we're living separately right now. It's going to be great to be in one building. I can't wait."

—Principal Connie Niese

meantime, the Fourth Street building continues to serve its purpose, with first graders learning in the old gym. It's really too small for 21st century volleyball and basketball, but it provides enough room to spread the little ones out, Niese said.

To walk through the Fourth Street building is to time travel to when Catholic education was earnest and plain. Classrooms are large and serviceable, with high ceilings and tall windows; stairways are broad but arduous; tiled halls are dark and cool. The 100-year-old building served honorably, but its time has passed.

Good to be Under One Roof

The theme for the current school year is “Faith Under Construction,” in honor of the building project. Everywhere in the school, on every bulletin board and in all the halls, are yellow hard hats, and plenty of real hard hats too, handed out to help people feel a part of the project.

“It will be good when we’re all connected under one roof,” said Brock, a third grader in Susan Kuhlman’s classroom. Currently, the little ones have to walk across Locust Street to get to the cafeteria in the newer building. Sts. Peter and Paul students are looking forward to a time when they will see their big or little brothers and sisters in the halls during the school day.

“We’re one big family, but we’re living separately right now,” Niese said. “It’s going to be great to be in one building. I can’t wait.”

“And the gym won’t have bumps in the floor!” added third-grader Aidan.

“And if you play volleyball, you don’t have to stand against the wall to serve!” said Mrs. Kuhlman.

The big, bright new gym is like a dream floating in the distance—a dream that’s coming true. “Everybody’s so excited because we can finally see the project taking shape,” Niese said. “For so long, it was just a red line on a thermometer in front of the school” as planning started 12 years ago and fund raising took just over two years.

A Year of Improvisation

To move forward with the building project added layers of advanced planning. Dirt was brought in from a nearby property, owned by parishioners, to raise the building site above the flood plain. With the construction going on, the school had to adjust its drop-off and pick-up protocols.

Nothing can be done about the incredible distraction of a construction site right outside elementary school windows, but there were plenty of other things to worry about, namely trying to keep everyone safe and healthy during a pandemic. In the N. Locust Street building, classrooms were shifted around



Fr. Scott Kramer, Sts. Peter and Paul pastor, distributes communion during the groundbreaking Mass.

and improvised. The former technology room and music room are now classrooms. The technology teacher has an office backstage in the school's auditorium.

Niese said Catholic school administrators from throughout the Diocese of Toledo conferred and compared plans to help each other through this unique year. "There was a lot of collaboration, and with the Putnam County health department too," she said. "There was a lot of listening, then determining what would work best."

Good People Working Hard

The school year is proceeding, the building is going up. Fr. Kramer is looking on in amazement. "The people here have the project so well organized. It feels like the hard part is done," he said. The silver lining of the pandemic was that

construction costs went down, "so it was decided that we could do the gym too," he added. "We had to raise a little more money, but the people did it."

At the groundbreaking Mass, he told the students that the rising walls of the project are signs of faith and commitment. "As you see your school building going up, as you see good people working hard, think about your parents and grandparents who gave to make this happen," he said during the homily. "And what are we building? How are we sharing our gifts? Jesus wants to work through you—he does not want us to hide our gifts. He wants us to work together to build a better world.

"So just like the school walls go up, we can say, 'Let's you and I work hard, let's all be under construction to become the best people we can be.'"





IN MEMORIAM: Fr. Gerald Dreiling, C.P.P.S., 92, died on June 4, 2020, in Lima, Peru, where he had made his home for nearly 50 years. He was born on January 21, 1928, in Kansas City, to Jerome and Alma Dreiling. He served in the U.S. Navy before entering the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in 1950 at Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind. He was ordained on June 1, 1958.

For 60 years, Fr. Dreiling served in Chile and Peru, primarily in Lima, where he helped found Nuestra Señora de la Luz Parish in Santa Luzmila, a working-class neighborhood to the north of the city.



Fr. Dreiling

Fr. Dreiling was also the founder and director of the *Asociación Cultural San Jerónimo*, a non-profit initiative providing scholarly articles, resources and tools for educators in Peru. He continued to write for and edit its publication until his death.

Fr. Maximo Mesia, C.P.P.S., the provincial director of the Missionaries' Latin American Province, described Fr. Dreiling: "He invested his priestly ministry in defense of the life and personal dignity of the poor. He left his country to come to Latin America, especially to Peru, where he gave his life every day to favor the people of God who were assigned to him. Fr. Geraldo was a good example to other priests, especially his own C.P.P.S. brothers in the Blood of Christ."

A funeral Mass was celebrated on June 5 in Lima. It was Fr. Dreiling's wish that he be cremated and his cremains be buried next to his mother in St. Fidelis Cemetery in Victoria, Kan. His wishes will be carried out once the pandemic has ended.

In Memoriam: Fr. Frederick Lang, C.P.P.S., died on June 8, 2020, in the infirmary of St. Charles Center, Carthagen, Ohio, where he made his home. He was 91.

He was born on July 13, 1928, in Randolph, Ohio, to Richard and Agnes Lang. He entered the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in 1942 at Brunnerdale, the Missionaries' former minor seminary near Canton, Ohio and was ordained on May 15, 1954.

Fr. Lang was in parish ministry before pursuing graduate studies. He earned a master's degree at the University of Michigan and a doctorate from the American University in Rome.

In 1962, Fr. Lang was assigned to Saint Joseph's College in

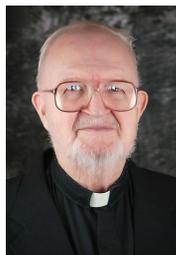
Rensselaer, Ind. He later taught and served as academic dean at Cardinal Newman College in Normandy, Mo. In 1981, he returned to Saint Joseph's College and was also pastor of St. Henry Parish in Medaryville, Ind., and St. Francis Parish in Francisville, Ind.

In 1985, Fr. Lang was appointed pastor of Our Lady of the Pines Parish in Black Forest, Colorado Springs, Colo. For many years he also served as an auxiliary chaplain at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

He retired to St. Charles Center in May 2009.

Fr. Lang enjoyed his life as a priest. "Everyone who knew him liked him," said his nephew, John Lang. "He was ebullient—he truly seemed to be a happy person. And he brought that happiness to those around him. Or maybe I should say joy."

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on June 12 at St. Charles Center. Burial followed in the Community cemetery.



Fr. Lang

In Memoriam: Fr. Alphonse Spilly, C.P.P.S., 80, died on July 27, 2020. He had been in failing health.

He was born in Hammond, Ind., on November 12, 1939, to Alphonse and Helen Spilly. He entered the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in 1953 at Brunnerdale and was ordained on June 3, 1967.



Throughout his more than 50 years as a priest, Fr. Spilly was involved in education ministry and communications for the wider Church.

A scholar of the Old Testament, Fr. Spilly taught at the Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago and at Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Ill.

In 1984, he was appointed a special assistant to Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, archbishop of Chicago. After the cardinal's death in 1996, he served as special assistant to Francis Cardinal George for two years and then director of the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Center for Theology and Ministry at CTU.

Fr. Spilly wrote two volumes on Maccabees in the Collegeville Bible Commentary series and edited a two-volume compilation, *Selected Works of Joseph Cardinal Bernardin*.

In 2002, Fr. Spilly joined the faculty of Calumet College of Saint Joseph in Whiting, Ind., as an associate professor of religious studies. He also assisted at four parishes in Whiting.

In 2013, Fr. Spilly became a special assistant to Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S., of the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

Poor health forced his retirement to St. Charles Center, Carthagen, Ohio, in 2017, but he continued to work remotely with Archbishop Garcia-Siller.

As a teacher and scholar, Fr. Spilly led people of all backgrounds through the Scriptures guiding them through what was obviously familiar territory for him, and helping them see it in a new light, with new eyes.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated privately on August 3. Burial followed in the Community cemetery.

In Memoriam: Fr. William Beuth, C.P.P.S., 88, died on September 29, 2020, at his home in La Labor, Guatemala, where he had ministered for many years.

He was born on August 15, 1932, in Springdale, Pa., to William and Marcella (Clous) Beuth, Sr. He entered the Congregation in 1946 at Brunnerdale and was ordained on May 31, 1959.

Fr. Beuth served as a missionary to Peru and Guatemala for most of his life as a priest. In 1962 he traveled to the C.P.P.S. mission in Peru, where he served for over 25 years. He ministered first in La Oroya, a mining town far above the tree line in the Andes, then was appointed pastor of the newly established parish of San Francisco de Borja in Lima. He ministered there for 18 years, and was integral in building the parish church and its large school. From 1981–83 he was also director of the Peruvian mission.

Fr. Beuth returned to the U.S. in 1986 to be closer to his ailing mother, and served as associate pastor of St. Anthony Church in Manteca, Calif.

He returned to Latin America in 1992, becoming part of the C.P.P.S. mission in Guatemala. He was appointed pastor of Sangre de Cristo Parish in La Labor, Guatemala and also served as the director of that mission from 2000–2002.

Fr. Beuth served in La Labor for the rest of his life. He ministered to the spiritual needs of the people, but also worked with them to improve their daily lives. He helped establish a well that provided drinking water in the community, then, working with the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, was instrumental in founding a school and a health clinic, both of which are still flourishing.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on September 30 in the parish. Fr. Beuth was buried in Guatemala.



Fr. Beuth



To Store or to Use

I want to tell a story about a disservice I have done to someone I love very much, an aunt who has gone to the heavenly reward she so richly deserved after a lifetime of caring for others in a truly excellent though humble way. I never want her to know about this, and I dread that somehow the souls who have passed away can still read publications. It's really hard to get off our mailing list.

When my husband and I married, this aunt presented us with a quilt embroidered with butterflies. Every stitch was meticulous, and every stitch was her own. Being a poor but enthusiastic seamstress, I knew the effort that went into the quilt and was overwhelmed. "It's too good to go on our bed!" I blurted out, thinking of our greasy heads rubbing up against the spotless quilt. My aunt did not approve of this.

"It's meant to be used," she said.

But I didn't listen. I carefully folded the quilt and put it away.

For months now we've been moving out of our family home. In the process, I found the quilt, hidden away in a closet for over 30 years. It was unstained but also unused. How disappointing that would have been to my dear aunt.

In a box of baby keepsakes up in the attic, I found some things I had forgotten: bibs made by my aunt for each of our children, embroidered with a little bear or a kitten or puppy, expertly edged in bias tape of blue or pink. These had clearly been used, rice cereal and pureed peach stains baked in by the heat of the attic. I washed them and hung them in the sun, which only served to throw the stains into sharper relief. Alas, I discarded the bibs; I had thought our children might use them for their children, but they would not have understood the sentiment enough to overlook the stains.

Now I ask you, which would have pleased my aunt more: a quilt that was never used, or bibs that had been loved to death? I think I know. It's a variation on the parable of the good steward who uses gifts and resources wisely.

I'm a good steward sometimes. Other times I am careless or choose poorly. I waste time and opportunities. It's my belief that God wants us to use up some of his gifts: objects, time, our own talents. And perhaps God wants us to preserve and protect other gifts: the people we love, the people who love us, people we have never met. A good steward sorts and saves. A good steward knows what's what. A good steward says thank you, and I'm sorry.

At Our House
by Jean Giesige



You Belong

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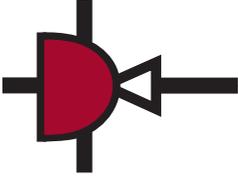
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