

MAY 2021  
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# CINCINNATI C.P.P.S. NEWSLETTER

*In Christ, through the  
shedding of his blood,  
we have redemption and  
forgiveness of our sins.*

*Ephesians 1: 7a*

***National Religious Brothers Day is May 1***

## C.P.P.S. Brothers on a Mission

**T**he woods are lovely, dark and deep. And Br. Nick Renner, C.P.P.S., wants to keep it that way.

Br. Nick has filed paperwork to enter 66 acres of woods and an adjoining 13 acres of farmland that the Community owns into a nature conser-

### **Saving Woodlands For Generations To Come**



***Br. Nick at a corner post of  
the Community's woodland.***

vancy that will preserve it far into the future. The woods and farmland are within view of St. Charles Center in Carthage, Ohio.

The property was originally purchased in 1870 by Fr. Joseph Dwenger, C.P.P.S., then St. Charles Seminary rector who later became bishop of Fort Wayne.

"You never know — any law can be changed — but this agreement is intended

to be forever," Br. Nick said. He is proposing the property be entered into the West Central Ohio Land Conservancy, a nonprofit organization that

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**W**hen Br. Antonio Sison, C.P.P.S., took part in the Procession of the Black Nazarene in the Philippines, he was transported, and not just by his feet.

He'd seen the famous annual procession on television, but never was part of it before he traveled to Manila in 2018 while he was on sabbatical.

"It was life-changing," he said, "to experience the way that people live their theology." And not only in his native Philippines, but also in Nairobi, Mexico and Spain.

"I went to those places to immerse myself in local religious practices, to see the people's religious art. And

I found that the religious images I saw became portals for me into theological reflection," he said.

The result of his five-year pilgrimage is his book *The Art of Indigenous Inculturation: Grace on the Edge of Genius*. Published by Orbis, the book will be available in June.

The book is his passion project, "an exciting journey, not just sitting and writing a book. I went to these places alone, almost literally backpacking

*(Continued on page 53)*

### **Finding Creative Windows into Indigenous Faith**



***Br. Ton's book searches for genius in marginalized cultures.***

# Leadership to be Elected at Assembly

## New Province Likely To Be Created in December or January

At an April 12 joint meeting of the Cincinnati and Kansas City provincial councils via Zoom, the moderator general, Fr. Emanuele Lupi, C.P.P.S., joined the meeting for a discussion on the timeline for the formation of the new U.S. province.

It was decided that elections for the new province's leadership would be held at the upcoming joint provincial assembly, October 18–21 in Indianapolis. The new provincial director and council will take office at the creation of the new province at a date to be deter-

mined, probably in December or early January.

"This is not the end of the journey, but it is an important step forward as we live into the dreams we have fostered for the new creation. Between now and October, we will enter

into a leadership discernment process. . . . As we continue together in the bond of charity, be assured of our prayers," said a statement from the provincial directors, Frs. Jeffrey Kirch and Garry Richmeier.



## Community Notes

### Assignments

**Fr. Tony Fortman, C.P.P.S.**, reappointed pastor for one year at St. John the Baptist Church, Glandorf, Ohio, effective July 1, 2021.

**Fr. Mark Hoying, C.P.P.S.**, reappointed pastor for one year, at St. Michael Church, Kalida, Ohio, and St. John the Baptist Church, Continental, Ohio, effective July 1, 2021.

**Fr. William Nordenbrock, C.P.P.S.**, reassigned to retreat and reconciliation ministry for one year, with continued residence in Chicago, effective July 1, 2021.

**Fr. Andy O'Reilly, C.P.P.S.**, granted retirement with residence at St. Charles Center, Carthage, Ohio, effective June 1, 2021.

**Fr. Kevin Scalf, C.P.P.S.**, appointed chaplain of Archbishop McNicholas High

School, Cincinnati, with residence at the Cathedral rectory, effective July 1, 2021.

**Br. Jerry Schweiterman, C.P.P.S.** granted retirement with residence at Heritage Manor, Minster, Ohio, effective April 1, 2021.

### Address Change

**Fr. Kevin Scalf, C.P.P.S.**  
Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains  
325 W 8th St  
Cincinnati OH 45202  
Effective May 10, 2021

**Br. Jerry Schweiterman, C.P.P.S.**  
Heritage Manor  
24 N Hamilton St  
Minster OH 45865

### Reminder

Members, please be sure your power of attorney, medical power of attorney, and will are up to date and on file at the provincial office. Contact Cindy Sipes for forms.

## Cincinnati C.P.P.S. Newsletter

This newsletter is published monthly by the Cincinnati Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. It is sent to all incorporated members, Companions, Amici and friends of the province upon request. Your input is welcome. Deadline for submissions is the tenth of every month. Email submissions to [cppscommunications@gmail.com](mailto:cppscommunications@gmail.com) or mail to C.P.P.S. Cincinnati Newsletter, 431 E. Second St., Dayton, OH 45402-1764, or fax to 937-228-6878

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The joint provincial assembly will be held  
October 18–24 in Indianapolis.

# Councilors Converse with Companions

There's an urgent need to pass along the message of the Precious Blood—and that message can and should be spread far and wide by both Missionaries and lay associates, said Fr. Emanuele Lupi, C.P.P.S., moderator general.

Fr. Lupi, along with two other members of the general council, spoke with Companions via Zoom on March 25. In the expansive conversation, he spoke about the Congregation, past, present and future, and his own dreams for the Precious Blood family.

"I would like it if other people would join us, to be part of the dream," he said. "My dream is that we can continue to make this (Precious Blood spirituality) known, and that those who come after us receive from us what we have received from those who came before. It is a moral obligation (to pass it along).

"Somebody welcomed me into this family; I have to welcome someone else into this family. In this way, we continue the dream, and the dream continues. But if it is to continue, it depends on us. So we must stay faithful, stay consistent, and make it better than we received it."

Fr. Lupi talked about his dream that the lay associate movement grows in many units of the Congregation. He is proposing another worldwide meeting of lay associates, this time planned not by the general council but by the lay associates themselves.

Dozens of Companions and members participated in the conversation, which was coordinated by Companions Director Vicky Otto. Also par-

ticipating were Br. Juan Acuña, C.P.P.S., secretary general and treasurer, and Fr. Alois Schlachter, C.P.P.S., a member of the general council who is from the Teutonic Province.

All three said they grew up among the Missionaries, Fr. Lupi in Italy, Fr. Schlachter in Germany and Br. Juan in Chile.

Fr. Lupi was educated by the Missionaries from a very early age. Ordained in 2001, he has ministered in, Peru, Tanzania and India. "Wherever I was, among the Missionaries I always felt at home.

And that's what makes me excited about my family—my family name is C.P.P.S. My parents know how I feel, and they're not jealous about it," he said. "I really feel that I am married with this Congregation. I see the children growing. I see the brothers and sisters in Christ, Precious Blood men and women. And wherever they are, I think, 'There is my house, there is my family.'"

Fr. Schlachter was born in Bavaria, Germany, near the border of Austria and Switzerland. He was raised in a diocesan parish, but there was a C.P.P.S. mission house nearby, and he was baptized by a Missionary of the Precious Blood. He felt drawn to the Congregation, and as a young man was told, "You can be a Missionary of the Precious Blood as a youth—you don't have to wait until ordination."

"Perhaps this is a link to how you feel as Companions,"



*Fr. Schlachter, Fr. Lupi, Br. Juan Acuña*

"I see the brothers and sisters in Christ, Precious Blood men and women. And wherever they are, I think, 'There is my house, there is my family.'"

— Fr. Emanuele Lupi,  
moderator general

he said. "It's something we have experienced from the beginning of our Congregation, when we were diocesan priests living together. But we knew we also had a different vocation. My first vocation is to be a Missionary of the Precious Blood. And I am glad for that. My second vocation is to be a priest. And I am glad for that."

Br. Juan said he also considered being a Missionary, but was not sure he was being called to the priesthood. Then while working at the generalate on its website, he met Br. Tom Bohman, C.P.P.S., in Rome for a general assembly. "He was the first religious brother I met, and it triggered my curiosity. For me, the idea of being a brother started right here in this house," the generalate.

Br. Juan was the first brother elected to serve on the general council. Trained as a civil engineer, he hopes he can be an  
(Continued on page 64)

# New Edition of Chriszt Book Available

Jean Giesige, Editor

The new edition of a book by Fr. Dennis Chriszt, C.P.P.S., is meant to help lay staff and volunteers put together an effective and spiritually fruitful RCIA program in a parish.

The second edition of *Creating an Effective Mystagogy: A Handbook for Catechumenate Leaders* is available from Liturgy Training Publications.

The book, originally published in 2002 by Resource Publications, was Fr. Chriszt's doctoral thesis project when he was earning a doctor of ministry degree in liturgy from Chicago Theological Union. The publisher at that time changed only two words in the entire 215 pages of the first edition, Fr. Chriszt said.

This time around, the publisher requested more revisions because "we had a different audience in mind," he said. "The first edition, because it was a thesis project, needed to be more academically rigorous. The second edition is meant for people who do Christian initiation in their parishes, most of whom do not have masters degrees in theology and many of whom are volunteers."

What they'll find in *Creating Effective Mystagogy* is a guide to giving people a meaningful introduction and entry into the Church. "The most important thing about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is that we're handing on the faith," Fr. Chriszt said. "That is far greater than simply handing on the doctrine of the Church. It's not just about the head, it's about the head and the heart. It's not just

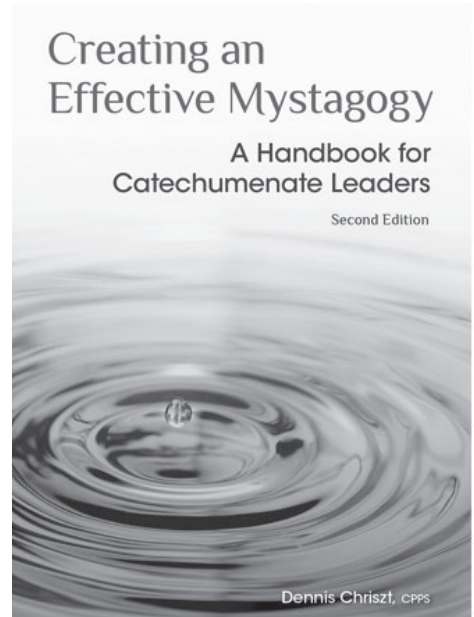
about knowing about God, it's about coming into relationship with the God who knows us intimately.

"If the faith doesn't touch our hearts, we might baptize people into the Church who then within a few years cease participating in the life of the Church because their mind may believe, but their heart doesn't draw them to gather with fellow Christians."

People come to Christian Initiation of Adults from many different backgrounds. They are of different ages and have widely varying experiences in their faith lives.

"The focus of my work has been on mystagogy, which is about learning to reflect on the presence of God in my life today," Fr. Chriszt said. "So if I'm an inquirer, I might be somebody who doesn't know much about God, or I might be somebody who has been a Christian all my life but not a Catholic. Of each, we would ask, 'Where have I already seen God at work in my life?' And how do we help them see that? The reality is that one size doesn't fit everybody."

Fr. Chriszt, who is the Missionaries' director of advanced formation and lives in Chicago, was previously involved in parish ministry. He has seen firsthand the power and richness of the Christian Initiation of Adults. He hopes the new edition of his book "helps more people have a wider vision of Christian initiation of adults, helps them see that it does not end with the Easter Vigil, and that one does not 'graduate' from Christian initiation, one just enters more deeply into it.



"For the rest of my life and the rest of their lives, the journey continues of growing closer and closer to Jesus Christ, to the Father and the Spirit, to the larger Christian community, both living and deceased. That somehow, we feel united with believers from generations before us, as well as those who are with us now, and those who might follow us in the future."

The book is available from [ltp.org](http://ltp.org).



## Condolences

The prayers and sympathy of the Precious Blood family are extended to:

The family of **Companion Frank Delinck** (Whiting, Ind.), who died April 3. Frank was the husband of Companion Betty Delinck.

The Latin American Province and the family of **Fr. Lucas Rodriguez Fuertes, C.P.P.S.,**

# Finding Creative Windows

(Continued from page 49)

and time-traveling, finding the people's cultural identity through religious art and ritual," he said. "It was such a rich experience, such a heady activity for me."

At each stop along his journey—a journey that began in Chicago, where he makes his home at San Felice, the Community's formation house, and teaches at the Catholic Theological Union—Br. Antonio serendipitously found a piece of religious art that opened the door for him into a wider, deeper world of faith.

"The very first object I studied was a mural in the Latino community of Chicago," he said. "It was a three-panel mural on the side of a laundromat, a part of ordinary life in that neighborhood."

One spiritual discovery led to another. "Each piece of art would lead me to another, through many surprising turns, and each became a theological reflection."

In Mexico, he experienced the devotional fervor surrounding the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. From there, he traveled to Extremadura, Spain, where he visited the "Old World" Guadalupe Virgin, the namesake of the Mexican image. On a trip to Nairobi, his reflection was sparked by "Hekima Christus," an altar piece depicting the resurrection of an African Christ.

"That opened a window for me to look into the ancestral heritage of the indigenous culture," he said. Window after window opened through religious art around the world.

The resulting reflections

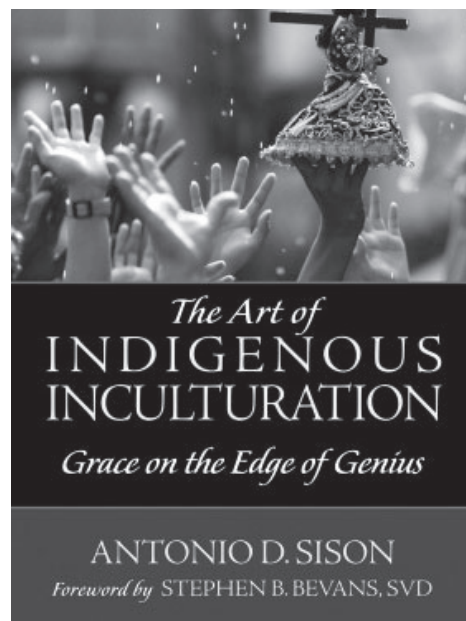
were based on how a local culture, often mistreated or forced into a new faith by missionaries, would find in the Gospel message something illuminating, something they could love and make their own. "The nature of the Gospel is prophetic," Br. Antonio said. "In the Gospel the people found salvation for themselves and it resonated for them. That cannot be denied. Even if it was forced on them, they still found pockets of grace in it."

"It was so moving. In many of my travels, I was in tears when I discovered the sheer grace in people who have suffered a lot, but find incredible ways to affirm who they are. It's a beautiful journey."

Books on inculturation "are mostly written by scholars from the U.S. and Europe," he said. "The ones who have a higher stake are the ones who received the Gospel (from missionaries). It's ironic that their voices have not been sufficiently heard."

Readers are invited along in a work that Br. Antonio hopes is accessible enough for a spillover readership beyond academia. "The book is as much personal as it is academic. I hope this is noticeable by the reader," he said. "I know that theology is dry as dust for most people. I tried to be creative in the way that I wrote."

He poured himself into the book, and the pandemic helped. While it was more than seven years in the making, he did have a writing deadline of May 15, 2020. He beat the deadline because "I had nowhere else to go. Like the rest of the world, I was stuck."



Every part of it—the traveling, the research, the writing—was rewarding, he said. "This is my passion project. I put everything into this effort," he said. "I was joking with Bob (Fr. Robert Schreiter, C.P.P.S., his CTU colleague and mentor), 'I can die now that I have written this book.' Hopefully, I won't!"

Br. Antonio chose to submit his manuscript to Orbis Books, the publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, because he knew Orbis would produce a book that would be affordable. It will sell for \$30.

"Some of my friends were suggesting university presses, for the prestige. I understand that mindset because that's how academics think," he said. "But my dream for the book is that it reaches Third World scholars and theologians. I've been there; I was that scholar. Most of the theology books are photocopied because such books are so expensive. From the beginning I was thinking, 'This has to be an Orbis book.'"



# St. Charles to Host Lay Formation Classes

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati will offer its lay ecclesial ministry program beginning in September at St. Charles Center in Carthage, Ohio.

The two-year program includes Saturday courses in such topics as Old and New Testament Scripture; Church history; basic doctrine; and morality and justice in Catholic life.

The program is a starting point for men who are discerning a call to the permanent diaconate; and offers formation for parish staff members and others who work for the Church, and lay volunteers. People can enroll for individual classes, or for the entire program. Adult Catholics of all ages and backgrounds are welcome, including those who simply want to learn more about their Catholic faith.

And there's one other thing that Dr. Susan Fleming McGurgan, director of lay ecclesial formation for the archdiocese's School of Theology, wants you to know.

"It's fun!" she said.

People who go through the entire program really get to know and appreciate each other, she said. "Especially in the northern area, there's a camaraderie in our classes. People really form a community and often become lifelong friends," she said.

The archdiocese offers the program at its Mount St. Mary's Seminary and School of Theology in Cincinnati, and concurrently at a location in its northern region. Currently, the program is wrapping up in Tipp City.

Offering the classes at St. Charles will allow lay people in

the St. Marys and Sidney Deaneries relatively easy access to quality classes, Dr. McGurgan said.

"These classes are substantial. They are taught at the undergraduate level by very qualified instructors," she said.

At the same time, no one should be intimidated by the coursework, which includes reading, writing papers and completing ministerial requirements. "We offer a lot of support. Nobody fails," Dr. McGurgan said. "I have worked with literally hundreds of participants in this program. We have people who struggled in high school, to actual rocket scientists, and everybody in between. They all do well because they are learning what they love.

"Also, age is not a limitation. We currently have two women over the age of 70 at our main campus who are working on their masters."

At this point, Fr. Ryan Ruiz, dean of the School of Theology, is planning for most of the fall classes to be offered in person. Some courses may be offered online.

Tom Kueterman, the director of the St. Mary's Deanery training center at St. Charles, is working with Mount St. Mary's to bring the program there. He sees the satellite program as a real boon both to St. Charles and to lay people in the northern area, making it much more accessible for people who would find travel to Cincinnati difficult if not impossible.

"There are a lot of people



The Archdiocese of Cincinnati is bringing its lay ecclesial ministry classes back to St. Charles Center. For more information, contact Dr. Susan McGurgan at [smcgurgan@athenaeum.edu](mailto:smcgurgan@athenaeum.edu) or 513-233-6127.

who probably could not make that trip: farmers, or people with three or four kids at home, for instance," he said.

Working with the Missionaries, he dreams of making St. Charles a distance-learning center with new equipment and greater digital capabilities. That would benefit the Missionaries, no matter where they live, and their neighboring faith communities, he said.

In the meantime, lay people are encouraged to consider the lay ecclesial ministry program. Enrollees may take courses for credit, or simply audit them. Those who audit the classes would not write papers or complete other assignments outside of class.

The application process begins with a personal interview, conducted via Zoom. Applications for those who intend to complete the entire program *(Continued on page 60)*

# Saint Joe's Starting Small, Reaching Out

It has been a struggle for all of higher education in the U.S. to make its way through this time of COVID. That's no secret. Schools are looking every day for a way forward.

It has been a particular impediment for Saint Joseph's College, which continues to look for ways to bring life to its campus in Rensselaer, Ind. COVID put on hold the partnerships that Saint Joseph's had hoped to form with accredited schools, said Beth Graf, SJC's director of communications and development.

In the meantime, Saint Joseph's is finding some success in offering classes in the medical field. "COVID was not much of a roadblock to our certificate program," Graf said. "They are the kind of classes that need to be in person."

That includes classes for certified clinical medical assistants (CCMA); certified nursing assistants (CNA); and phlebotomists, who specialize in drawing blood, currently being held in the college's Core building on campus.

"Those (medical certification) programs are going on, and are doing really well," Graf said.

The director of the medical certification program, Hali Chapman, is looking into expanding into other areas of health care. "One possibility is medical billing and coding. We'd like to offer that as soon as possible—we're now waiting on state approval," she said. SJC's goal is to offer its new medical billing and coding certification classes in fall 2021.

Another niche that SJC can fill right now is to offer a welding program. "There's a real

need for that in our community," Graf said. "We're working with local industry people to develop that program. We're at the very beginning of the process, talking with local employers. They tell us they need certified welders yesterday."

One step toward that program is to find the right place to offer it on campus. One local company has already offered to bring its own equipment to the training sessions, "because there's such a need," Graf said.

Future plans, of course, include resuming talks with accredited colleges and universities. "Higher education is changing—it's been changing for a while," Graf said. "COVID really put us in a position where we need to develop new programs and think outside the box. Until other institutions can figure out where they're going, we can't really expand" to offer traditional college courses.

As was announced in the March 2021 *Newsletter*, the college is partnering with the House of Grace on its campus. The House of Grace is a faith-based organization that provides housing, educational opportunities and a safe environment for women who struggle with drug and alcohol addiction and are coming out of jail or prison.

The House of Grace is renting one of the SJC apartments in what was formerly student housing, and is looking to hire staff that would oversee a second apartment. "There's a strong need in our area for this kind of housing for women," Graf said.

The college's small steps forward are already bearing

"We are listening to the educational needs of the communities around us. We are working with them to give opportunities for fruitful lives to people no one else seemed able to help."

—Fr. William Stang

fruit, said Fr. William Stang, C.P.P.S., a member of the SJC board of trustees. "Ultimately, in this Easter season, SJC is in its own process of resurrection," he said. "To do so, it has returned to its roots, starting small, reaching out to the needy on the margins of society, and grateful for God's blessing in the form of the people supporting our efforts."

"We are listening to the educational needs of the communities around us. We are working with them to give opportunities for fruitful lives to people no one else seemed able to help. Right now, this involves certifications to enable people to work with their hands, and programs to rebuild broken lives. The next step will be helping them gain college credits while leading busy lives."

"COVID slowed us down but did not stop us; the seeds we have been planting are sprouting. You see this in classes once again taking place in the Core building. And we see many more such seeds to plant."



# Saving Woodlands for Generations

(Continued from page 49)

works with the federal government to preserve woods and cropland. The Community will continue to own the acreage, but if it is sold at any time in the future, the woods and farmland will still be protected by the agreement.

"No houses or buildings, no development will be allowed on it, but it can be managed for woods care," meaning that property owners can sell selected trees for lumber, Br. Nick said.

It's not certain that the acreage will be admitted into the conservancy. The application process is long and arduous. Br. Nick, who admits he does not usually enjoy paperwork, sweated through pages of the application. But it will be worth it if the woods will be preserved.

"I had to do a lot of research," Br. Nick said, beginning with obtaining the original deed from the Mercer County recorder's office, signed by Fr. Dwenger himself. "It took a couple of months to get the application ready, and a lot of homework. The application has been submitted, but it could take five or six months to hear back." Throughout the application process, Br. Nick worked with an attorney plus volunteers from the conservancy, as well as other members from St. Charles. Last fall, he received the go-ahead from the provincial council to pursue the application process.

On a recent April afternoon, Br. Nick walked through the woods pointing out strong and healthy trees. He measured the stump of an old oak,

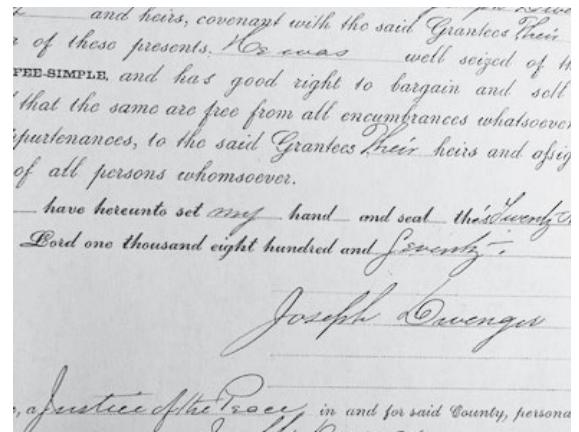
timbered the last time he sold lumber from the woods, to see if it might have been standing when Fr. Dwenger bought the property. The stump was four feet across, and yielded a 40-foot log that was hauled out in two sections.

Br. Nick is judicious about selling lumber, but it's a way for the woods pay its own way. Even if it is ultimately put into a conservancy, the Community will continue to pay property taxes on it. Occasionally selling a few big trees also allows sunshine into the woods so that young trees can thrive and grow.

Most of the trees live and die in the woods on God's schedule. Many trees die on their own and are left to enrich the soil. Br. Nick also uses the woods as a source of trees to adorn the grounds at St. Charles. He estimates that 80-100 saplings from the woods have been replanted at St. Charles in recent years.

It's likely that they are not the first trees to travel from the woods to St. Charles; Br. Nick believes but can't prove that timbers from the woods were used in the construction of St. Charles' Assumption Chapel.

Some Community members wander through the woods, but there are no trails and few signs of human life there, which is how Br. Nick likes it. Somehow trash in a woods attracts more trash. He spends about a week each year working around the parameter of the woods, trimming branches that get in the way of farming, keeping the



**Fr. (later Bishop) Joseph Dwenger's signature on the deed of the acreage.**

woods from edging toward neighboring property.

Br. Nick knows all the neighbors around the woods, and as he walks around its edges, he tells stories about families going back generations. Also about the woods themselves, how early settlers in the area encountered woods just like these and had to clear them to create farmland. How Br. Oliver Weaver, C.P.P.S., planted a few pine trees in the woods, pointing out the ones that remain. How he still works with a chain saw owned by the late Br. Don Fisher, C.P.P.S., who worked the St. Charles farmland with him for many years.

In fact, Br. Nick said, he and Br. Don talked long ago about conserving the woods, not just this woods but all the Community-owned woodland. "Don and Jude (Br. Jude Brown, C.P.P.S.) and I had this idea over 60 years ago, that we would always keep our woods. We talked about it around the table: agreed? Agreed," he said. "We didn't know why back then, but we knew that some-

(Continued on page 57)

# Time to Gear Up for the Year Ahead

Steve Dos Santos, C.PP.S.

Every day, the light at the end of the COVID tunnel gets a little bit bigger and a little bit brighter. We will soon be nearing the end of our COVID exile. People are getting vaccinated, infections are coming under control, and restrictions are being eased. As a Community we are planning an event in June, and it looks like the joint provincial assembly will happen in October.



C.PP.S.  
for  
Tomorrow

## VOCATION MINISTRY

In the vocation office, I'm beginning to plan for a few summer events, but I'm also looking ahead to the 2021-22 program year. What will I do? Where will I go? And when? One important element of my ministry is attending larger events where I can promote our Community to people who may not have had direct contact with one of our Missionaries before.

College vocation fairs are great opportunities for us to send a couple of members to share our story with students who are actively discerning their vocation. Busy student retreats allow me to go onto a college campus to minister and build relationships. Men's conferences are also great events to attend. While the primary audience is married men, they often bring their sons with them, and it's an opportunity to send our spirituality home

with them. While I've not attended Eucharistic congresses before, I know a number of vocation directors who include these on their calendar.

In short, there are a ton of possible events and activities, and I'd love to build a list. But to do that, I need your help. I kind of know what's nearby where I am or have visited regularly, but we are in places where I don't know the surrounding area. This is where you come in. Your knowledge can help me create a bigger broader list.

If you could recommend places and events that I should consider, that would be a big help. What am I looking for?

- Is there a Catholic college or a Catholic campus ministry program within 90 minutes of you? What's the name and location of the school?
- Does your diocese hold youth and/or young adult conferences or other large events? What's the name of the diocese and of the event?
- Is there a popular men's conference in your area? What's the name of the event?
- Are you aware of a Eucharistic or Marian congress in your area? What's the name of the event?
- Are there other Catholic events where you think we should consider getting a booth to tell our story? What's the name of the event, when and where is it held?

One example of an event I already attend that fits in this last category is The Fest in Cleveland. It's a Sunday afternoon music festival that is free and open to the public. The day always ends with a large

outdoor Mass and fireworks. Another example is a parish in a Chicago suburb that has traditionally hosted a vocations fair for Catholic high school students in the area.

Please tell me about anything that you think could be a candidate for the list. Too many suggestions are better than too few. Also, I don't need you to do much more than to give me a few names and locations. I can research the rest.

Finally, don't assume that I already know about an event. I'd rather get the same name five times than not at all. Please e-mail me your ideas and suggestions at [vocation@cpps-preciousblood.org](mailto:vocation@cpps-preciousblood.org) and thanks in advance for your help.



## Saving

*(Continued from page 56)*

how Mother Nature needs a balance. And so we never took any woods down for 60 years.

"Now, we're starting to understand why we shouldn't take woods down. Sometimes, you don't know why, but you know the right thing to do."

To push a woods off is to take a bulldozer to it, knocking down the trees and all living things to clear the land for other uses. Plenty of woods in the neighborhood were pushed off over the years, Br. Nick said, but not as many lately. People are beginning to understand the intrinsic value of a woods. "If we can get it into this conservancy, our wishes will have to be respected," he said.



# Joseph, the “Quiet Man,” an Inspiration

*During this Year of St. Joseph, we're asking Missionaries who are named Joseph about their connection to the saint. This month, we talked with Fr. Joseph Nassal, C.P.P.S., a member of the Kansas City Province. An author and former provincial director, he is engaged in retreat and renewal ministry.*

**How or why did your parents choose the name Joseph for you?**

Joseph was my father's name and his father's name. My dad's father died when my dad was only four years old, so we knew very little about him. As we were growing up, I was rummaging through a box of old photographs and found a picture of my paternal grandfather holding my father when my dad was one or two years old. Looking at my grandfather's face, I finally found out where I got my nose!

I was mostly called Joe as I was growing up and throughout my life, though I knew I was in trouble when I heard Mom call me, “Joseph!” This happened recently when I was home to visit Mom. Since she is 93 and no longer drives, I did the grocery shopping and found most everything on her list. But as she was making a sandwich for lunch, I heard her yell from the kitchen, “Joseph!” Turns out the head of lettuce I

thought I was buying was actually a head of cabbage. Being her resourceful self, Mom shrugged and made coleslaw.

**Do you consider Joseph a personal patron saint? Can you describe the connection that you feel with St. Joseph?**

I do consider Joseph my patron saint and have relied on his witness of faith throughout my life. Though I didn't make the connection at the time, one of my favorite assignments was as a deacon at our parish in St. Joseph, Mo. The parish is named for the patron saint of



**Fr. Joe Nassal, right, with his mother and his brother, Bob.**

the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, St. Francis Xavier. Inspired by these two patrons, those six months were marked by the founding of the House of Bread, a food pantry that continues to serve the needs of the poor and homeless more  
*(Continued on page 59)*

## JOSEPH'S CANTICLE, by Fr. Joseph Nassal

Someone once gave me a card from the Sisters of St. Joseph of La-Grange with a picture of this quiet man and dreamer. It depicts Joseph holding the child Jesus while Mary is asleep on the straw. Joseph holds the baby tenderly in his strong arms and rugged hands, and a slight smile of gratitude creases his face. Inspired by this picture, I wrote *Joseph's Canticle*. I can almost hear the quiet man say softly:

My hands hold God's great gift to the earth,  
My arms form a cradle for the savior of the world.  
These callused hands and scarred arms  
Now hold the One who will heal our wounds  
And make us whole again.

Blessed are You, God of all life,  
For you have looked with love upon this lowly carpenter  
And given me the privilege to provide and protect  
Your only Son and his beautiful mother.  
My humble life proclaims your greatness.

Though I have no words to speak  
May I always seek your way, your truth, your life—  
The one I hold in my hands this day.  
May the dreams you give me guide me always  
And lead all your people safely home to you.

**The Year of  
St. Joseph**

# Nutrition Project Resumes in La Labor

After a brief pause due to COVID-19 restrictions, the nutrition program in the La Labor region of Guatemala is up and running once again—though temporarily in a new form.

Before the arrival of COVID-19, volunteer cooks gathered twice a week in the La Laguneta community outside of La Labor, where they prepared a wholesome lunch for as many as 90 children.

When Guatemalan health authorities issued restrictions on large gatherings last year, those meals had to be suspended. The death in September of Fr. Bill Beuth, C.P.P.S., who oversaw the program, was also a blow.

Now, the pastor of Sangre de Cristo Parish in La Labor, Fr. Abel Cruz, C.P.P.S., is pitching in to get the program on track. With the help of Jose Luis Jolón, and parish volunteers, they are delivering food monthly to the families in the program so that meals can be prepared at home. Families receive beans, rice, sugar, eggs, corn meal and cooking oil.

Volunteers continue to track the weight of children in the program.

"This is a temporary bridge while COVID restrictions are still in place," said Mark Giesige, director of mission advancement for the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, Cincinnati Province. "The volunteers intend to go back to preparing meals once restrictions are lifted.

"Thanks to the many donors who support this wonderful program," he added. "We're hoping to expand this program into other communities. It really makes a difference."



**Clockwise from top:**  
A volunteer assists in distributing food at the parish in La Labor; Fr. Abel Cruz leads volunteers in prayer before distributing food to families; food will make a real difference in the lives of families with young children.

*Photos by Jose Luis Jolón*



## St. Joseph, the "Quiet Man"

*(Continued from page 58)*  
than 40 years later.

My two favorite images of Joseph from the Scriptures remain a constant source of inspiration for me. The first is Joseph as the original "Quiet Man." He doesn't say a word. In fact, when he learns his beloved Mary is pregnant, because he loves her and doesn't want to expose her to ridicule and shame or worse—the law said a woman in Mary's condition should be stoned to death—he "decided to divorce her quietly." Everything about Joseph is quiet.

Though he is mentioned often in the infancy narratives of Luke, Joseph never speaks. John's father, Zechariah, rendered speechless because of his

lack of trust, once his tongue is freed waxes eloquently in the canticle that we pray every morning in the Liturgy of the Hours. Mary sings her Magnificat in response to the angel telling her she would be the mother of Jesus. Even old Simeon who meets the couple when they bring their newborn child to the temple is given a canticle in Luke's Gospel.

But in response to the angel's words to him, Joseph is silent. He doesn't say a word. The Gospel of Matthew even tells the story about the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. It begins with the genealogy that places Jesus in the line of King David and tells of three  
*(Continued on page 64)*

# Remaining Hopeful During these Times

## To See Beyond The Pain and Hurt to Goodness of People

*Dave Kelly, C.P.P.S.*

Even at 102 years old, Timuel Black is an activist. He recently sat with a group of youth from PBMR in a series called "Conversations with the Elders." One young man among the group kept looking at Timuel's hands. He would later remark that he could only imagine all the things those hands had done; the multitude of times and realities this one man has experienced.

Timuel's attitude was one of appreciation for the opportunity to speak with the youth of today; he valued these young men who gathered with him in his home on the south side of Chicago. Timuel carries a long legacy of social activism, but what carries him is a deeply rooted belief in the goodness of people. He recalled his long fight for justice; and the ways he never gave up hope that the true nature of people would one day overwhelm the negativity and division. After all that he had witnessed, even at the age of 102, he still exuberates hope.

The young people who gathered didn't see an aged activist, but, rather, the embodiment of hope. Like the risen Jesus, he carries many scars,

some visible and many not seen, but these marks of pain only remind us that the story is still unfolding toward justice.

During these turbulent times, it is this sort of hope that carries us. It doesn't deny the pain and the disappointment of the violence and betrayal, but sees beyond the brokenness to the possibility of a new reality. It is important to recognize the injustices and wrongs that are all around us, but not to allow those injustices to define us.

Today, I sat with a young man who lost his sister to gun violence. As he sat there, overwhelmed by the senselessness and cruelty of that violence, words failed him. His emotions were all over the place. His reflections were full of "why's" and the "what if's." His heart and mind were heavy with the inexplicable pain of a stolen life.

In the evening, a number of us from PBMR joined with his friends and family for a vigil honoring his sister; tomorrow, there will be another prayer and march at the site of the killing of a 13-year old shot by police. We seem to go from one prayer service to another, march after march. As a nation, we struggle to grapple with tragedy after tragedy, mass shooting after mass shooting. There will be those who argue for and against this issue or that. There will be posturing and empty statements, followed by more of the same political verbiage.

How will we respond to the pain, chaos, and injustices that encompass our current

reality? Retreating or giving in to hopelessness cannot be our response. Pointing fingers and blame is self-defeating. And inaction, of course, gets us nowhere.

At 102 years old, Timuel Black still believes in the goodness of people. I have to believe that he maintains this hope because he sees something beyond the pain and the hurt. I have to believe he can see through the hatred and poison-like language to our common humanity. As those youngsters who gathered around him recognized, he is a man who took his wounds and transformed them through a lifetime of service and action.

My prayer for those youth, as well as us all, is that we never lose this hope. I pray, like Timuel, that we can embrace our call to be builders of justice and peace and together, build the beloved community.



## Archdiocese

*(Continued from page 54)*  
should be completed by early July. (Tuition assistance may also be available to those who intend to complete the entire two-year program.)

Those who want to sign up for a single course or to audit courses may register up to two weeks before classes begin in September.

For more information, contact Dr. McGurgan at [smcgurgan@athenaeum.edu](mailto:smcgurgan@athenaeum.edu) or 513-233-6127.



**Precious Blood**  
*Ministry of Reconciliation*



# Missionaries Report

NEWS FROM OUR  
MINISTRY SITES

## Library Project Moves Ahead

*Benjamin Basile, C.PP.S.*

New furniture for the college library was installed over spring break, completing part



**CRIMSON  
WAVE**

two of the overall refurbishing of the space. The project, which began over the Christmas break, was funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment.

The *Northwest Indiana Times* ran an article on April 2 under the headline “Calumet College of St. Joseph unveils new, ‘more collaborative,’ library space.” According to the article, renovation plans for the library, considered a hub for the commuter campus, began last summer, as the college

looked to upgrade the space to make it more inviting to students. (See photos on page 62.)

Dr. Amy McCormack, CCSJ president, told *The Times*, “This entire space used to be books and stacks. . . . We wanted a place that offered a variety of study spaces for students. We were trying to bring together tutoring . . . library services, study areas, disability support services to make this a space where we can have cross-

## CCSJ Initiates Calumet Commitment

Calumet College of St. Joseph has announced its Calumet Commitment, a new institutional scholarship that offers students who meet certain requirements the opportunity to have their senior-year tuition paid in full.

All first-time freshman students who register for classes beginning this fall are automatically eligible. To earn the scholarship, the student must enter CCSJ as a freshman; reach their senior year by the seventh semester from the start of freshman year; and maintain a 3.3 GPA.

“CCSJ is a small college with a low student-faculty ratio. This empowers us to truly know our community of students, understand their individual academic and personal needs and create programs that will best serve them,” said Johnny Craig, senior vice president of enrollment, marketing and athletics.

“Currently, young adults—particularly low-income, first-generation college students and students of color—are taking longer than ever to submit their college applications,” Craig said. “Frankly, it is scary for them to take on the expense in the face of such uncertainty. While 94 percent of our traditional students receive financial aid, we recognize the need to do even more if we are to resist the widening education gap and

continue to make college affordable and accessible. That is why, in addition to the increased financial assistance this program will provide, we are equally dedicated to ensuring our students receive the support they need to complete their degree and secure a job in their field.”

To help students successfully earn the Calumet Commitment scholarship, the college offers a number of academic support services. The Student Success Center provides services such as free tutoring, Career Services aids in internship planning and assistance, and faculty and staff serve as mentors to enrolled students. To meet students’ personal needs, CCSJ provides social services ranging from counseling to an on-site food pantry.

“COVID-19 has further exposed inequities that have long existed among our students and their families. And as the only Catholic college in Northwest Indiana, our commitment to social justice, service and community specifically calls us to do all we can to address these challenges,” Craig said. “The Calumet Commitment is our promise to continue investing in our diverse population of students by offering them the support—financially, academically and personally—they need to succeed.”



functional areas.”

New semi-private rooms, which are on the library’s first floor and made of glass, allow students to study alone, or work together in groups, as well as attend class via Zoom, McCormack said, noting the college currently has a mixture of Zoom, hybrid and in-person classes. Other changes include moveable whiteboards, new soft furniture, casual and bar seating and honeycomb computer workstations.

Under the title “Let’s Give Mom Some Love (Mother Earth, that is),” CCSJ campus ministry and the Freshman Experience office sponsored Earth Week activities the week of April 19. Activities included cleaning up the campus grounds, painting curbs (yellow, no-parking), planting flowers, tending to the native garden, and cleaning and painting picnic tables. In addition to students, volunteers included staff and faculty members. Thursday, April 22, Earth Day, was devoted to activities along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Whiting and Wihala Beach parks. These activities are part of our Year of Service during the Year of St. Joseph declared by Pope Francis, and also are very much in line with the commitment of Pope Francis to care for the Earth.

In March, CCSJ announced the launch of a scholarship initiative named the Calumet Commitment. As part of the college’s mission to provide access and support for typically under-served students, the commitment provides free senior-year tuition for students meeting the criteria. More about this mission-based program can be found on page 61.

During its April 21 meet-

ing, the faculty senate honored two long-serving faculty members on their retirement at the end of this term. Walter J. Skiba, associate professor in arts, and Br. Benjamin Basile, C.P.P.S., associate professor in mathematics, have served 50 and 40 years, respectively, on the faculty of CCSJ. Both were awarded emeritus status. On behalf of the college, Dr.

McCormack thanked them for their contributions to the college and presented each with a chair bearing the college seal.

On Saturday, April 24, the college’s annual Scholarship Gala was held virtually. The program, minus the usual dinner, included presentation of awards, testimonials by students, and a silent auction, all benefiting scholarships.



**Several views of CCSJ’s newly renovated library: semi-private study rooms, top left; comfortable furniture and well-designed spaces, below.**



## New Season At the Shrine

*James Seibert, C.PP.S.*

The coronavirus has slowed activity at the Sorrowful Mother Shrine, but now with spring here, we anticipate new life with a new season. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to cancel all of our ethnic days last year. There were no buses and very little day-to-day activity because people were simply not traveling. We celebrated weekend Masses in both the indoor chapel and the Pilgrim Center cafeteria throughout the colder months in order to accommodate the visitors and maintain social distancing.



*Sorrowful  
Mother Shrine*

Last month, Fr. Yuri Kuzara, C.PP.S., conducted a Day of Recollection here at the shrine entitled: A Journey into



**Fr. Yuri Kuzara**

the Eastern Catholic Church. Fr. Yuri is the only Missionary of the Precious Blood who is bi-ritual (Latin and Ukrainian Catholic). His presentation was very well received. It was both informative and spiritually nourishing. Fr. Yuri will be celebrating an Eastern Catholic Divine Liturgy here on June 13 at 11 a.m. in our shrine chapel. We look forward to sharing in the reverence and beauty of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

We will move outdoors to our Pieta Chapel on the weekend of May 15–16. With caution still in the air about COVID-19, we welcome the extra space and open-air feeling that the outdoor chapel affords. We also look forward to seeing our pilgrim friends again during our ethnic weekends and other special celebrations throughout the summer and fall.

Both of our parking lots need resurfaced, but first we need to address our drainage system. Most of the present system is made up of old clay tiles, which are either filled with tree roots or broken. Consequently, whenever it rains, we have ponding in several places throughout the grounds.

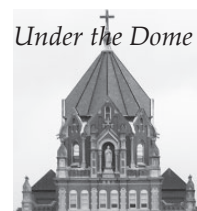
Finally, I wish to invite you to come and visit us at the shrine. The grounds are beautiful, the atmosphere is healing and the peace is tangible!

## Dogwoods Planted Near Infirmary

*Patrick Patterson, C.PP.S.*

On April 15, a couple of flowering red dogwood trees were planted on the east side of the infirmary at St. Charles Center. The tree closer to the road is named Guadalupe in

honor of Our Lady, who in 1531 appeared to Juan Diego in Tepeyac (Mexico). In 1946, Pope Pius XII declared Our Lady of Guadalupe to be the Patroness of the Americas.



*Under the Dome*

The tree closer to the building is named Juan Diego. According to tradition, at the time of the apparitions Juan Diego was caring for his sick uncle. The uncle was later cured through Mary's intercession.



**Frs. Tom Hemm and Pat Patterson with the newly planted dogwood trees.**

*(Photo by Br. Tim Hemm, C.PP.S.)*

**Applications are available  
for the 2021–22  
Fr. Brunner  
Peace and Justice grants on  
our website,  
[cpps-preciousblood.org](http://cpps-preciousblood.org).  
Applications are available in  
English and Spanish.  
Application deadline  
is July 1.**

# St. Joseph, the “Quiet Man”

(Continued from page 59)

dreams given to Joseph. Which brings me to the second image of Joseph the dreamer.

In the first dream, the angel tells him that Mary hasn't betrayed him but rather her pregnancy is the result of the Holy Spirit, so Joseph should trust in God and take Mary as his wife. After the birth of Jesus, an angel appears to Joseph in another dream and tells him that King Herod is on a rampage. He should take Mary and Jesus to Egypt until Herod finishes his slaughter of the innocents. Then when Herod dies, Joseph has a third dream in which the angel tells him to take the Holy Family home where the Scriptures notes "he settled in a town

called Nazareth."

Like his namesake in the book of Genesis, Joseph was a dreamer. Though he doesn't wear a multi-colored cloak and his hands are rough and calloused, Joseph trusted in the power of his dreams. The three words that define Joseph in the Scriptures are: "When Joseph awoke." When Joseph woke up from his dream, he did as God had commanded him. He acted on the dreams God had communicated to him through the angel. Though he could not comprehend all the implications, Joseph trusted in the promises of God.

I have heard that Pope Francis places his prayer intentions at a statue of a sleeping St. Joseph that he has near his bed. He often tells people he will let St. Joseph sleep on their intentions because when Joseph wakes up, God's will be done.

At times when we face difficult decisions, we sometimes say, "I'll sleep on it." With the morning's light, new clarity may come. So, St. Joseph "slept on it" and in his dreams he found his answer to his prayer.

Blessed are we when we remember our dreams and act on them.



## Councilors

(Continued from page 51)

example for other young professionals discerning a religious vocation. Why not consider life as a religious brother and a Missionary of the Precious Blood?

"I would love to see our Community growing," he said. "That's my dream, to see the whole Precious Blood family flourishing. I'm convinced that our charism is very relevant for the world today. We have something to give to the world with our spirituality. It's our responsibility to share that gift. I hope that if we do that work, our Community will flourish. It's work we all can do—we're all Precious Blood people, called to share our charism."



## Provincial Director's Calendar

**May 3:** Pastoral planning meeting via Zoom.

**May 6:** Renewal of Greg Evers' temporary incorporation, Chicago.

**May 13:** Saint Joseph's College board of trustees meeting, Rensselaer, Ind.

**May 18:** Meeting for members

in pastoral ministry regarding COVID, St. Charles Center, Carthagen, Ohio.

**May 19:** Provincial council meeting via Zoom.

**May 20:** CMSM meeting via Zoom.

**May 27:** CMSM formation committee meeting via Zoom.



## Community Calendar

**May 18:** Meeting for members in parish ministry to compare notes on COVID-19, St. Charles Center, Carthagen, Ohio.

**May 22:** Commencement, Calumet College of St. Joseph,

Whiting, Ind.

**June 14–16:** Pastoral planning and leadership discernment gathering, St. Louis.

**October 18–24:** Joint provincial assembly, Indianapolis.

**The C.P.P.S. major superiors request that all members and lay associates pray each month for a different unit of the Congregation.**

**May: Kansas City Province**

# Days of Praise

Celebrating Special Days  
With C.P.P.S. Members

## Celebrating Birthdays In June

- 10 Fr. Jayababu Nuthulapati
- 12 Fr. Kevin Scalf  
Fr. Louis Schmit
- 17 Fr. John Hoying
- 20 Fr. David Hoying
- 21 Fr. Benjamin Berinti
- 22 Fr. Alfred Naseman
- 24 Br. Thomas Bohman
- 28 Fr. Matthew Jozefiak
- 29 Fr. James Dugal
- 30 Fr. Angelo Anthony

## Celebrating Anniversaries In June

- 1 Fr. James McCabe
- 2 Fr. James Dugal
- 3 Fr. Denny Kinderman
- 4 Fr. Thomas Brenberger  
Fr. Donald Thieman
- 5 Fr. Patrick Patterson  
Fr. Kenneth Schroeder
- 8 Fr. Joseph Hinders  
Fr. Louis Schmit
- 9 Fr. Larry Hemmelgarn  
Fr. John Hoying  
Fr. Edgar Jutte  
Fr. Matthew Keller  
Fr. Scott Kramer  
Fr. Joseph Rodak
- 10 Fr. Leon Flaherty  
Fr. William Hoyng
- 12 Fr. Dennis Chriszt  
Fr. David Kelly  
Fr. Vincent Wirtner
- 13 Fr. Kevin Scalf
- 14 Fr. Timothy Knepper
- 15 Fr. Jerome Steinbrunner

- 16 Fr. Kenneth Schnipke
- 18 Fr. David Hoying  
Fr. Timothy McFarland
- 19 Fr. Ralph Verdi
- 21 Fr. Eugene Schnipke  
Fr. Robert Schreiter
- 22 Fr. Benjamin Berinti  
Fr. Mark Hoying

- 24 Fr. Kenneth Alt  
Fr. Angelo Anthony  
Fr. Yuri Kuzara  
Fr. Jerome Stack
- 26 Fr. Jeffrey Kirch
- 29 Fr. Joseph Brown
- 30 Br. Jerry Schwieterman

## *Please Pray Every Day for a Missionary of the Precious Blood*

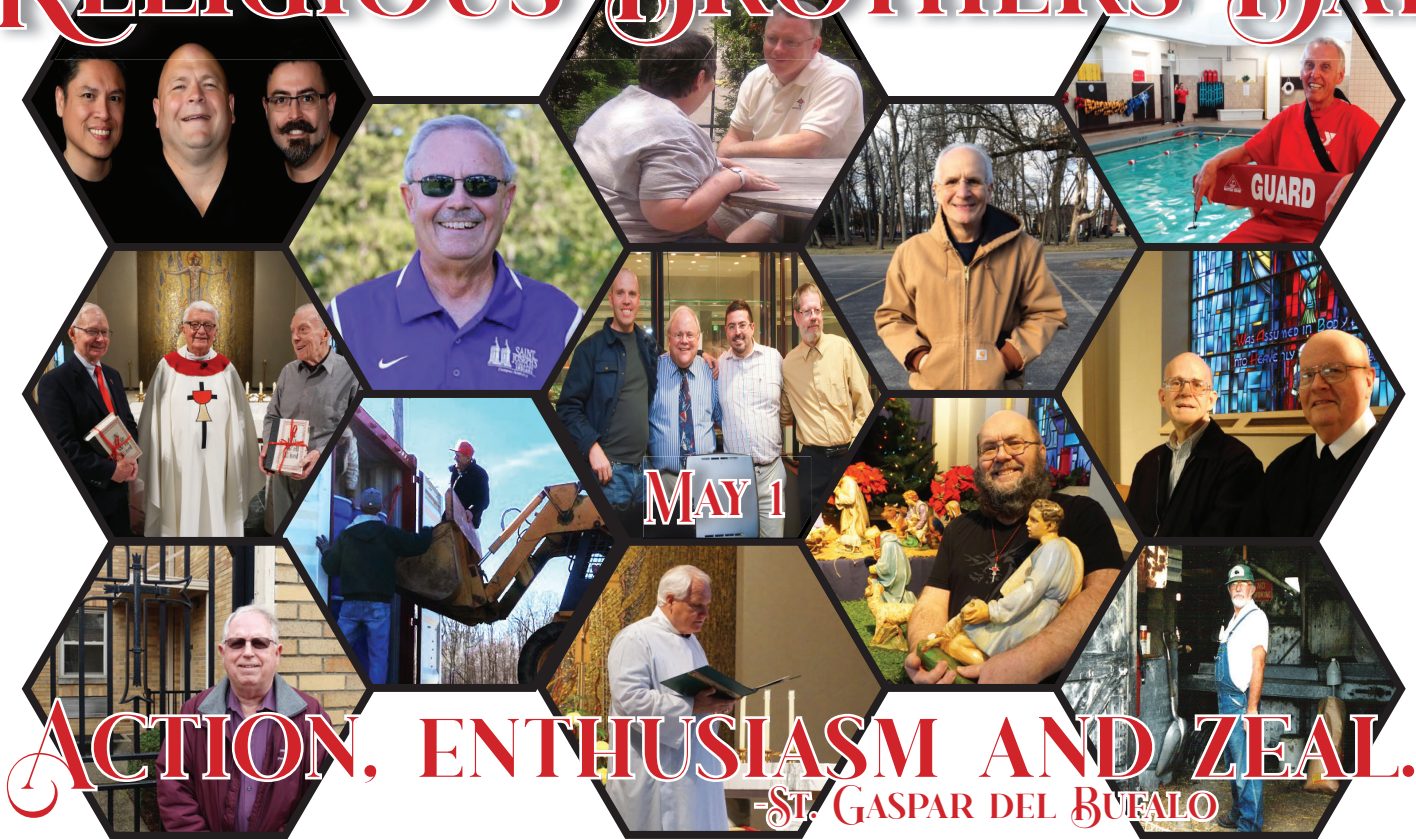
Missionaries of the Precious Blood of the Cincinnati Province are in ministries of prayer, preaching, teaching, parish work and other apostolates, following their call to serve God's people. Please support them in prayer each day, lifting them up for God's blessing.

Prayer suggestion: O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name), act in him, speak in him and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul, take over his entire personality and life. Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving, pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. Amen.

### JUNE PRAYER LIST

- 1. Br. Charles McCafferty
- 2. Fr. Timothy McFarland
- 3. Fr. John Mencsik
- 4. Fr. LeRoy Moreeuw
- 5. Fr. Charles Mullen
- 6. Pray for vocations
- 7. Fr. Alfred Naseman
- 8. Fr. Bill Nordenbrock
- 9. Br. Terrence Nufer
- 10. Fr. Jayababu Nuthulapati
- 11. Fr. William O'Donnell
- 12. Fr. Andrew O'Reilly
- 13. For living and deceased  
C.P.P.S. members
- 14. Fr. Patrick Patterson
- 15. Fr. Mark Peres
- 16. Fr. Kenneth Pleiman
- 17. Fr. Frankline Rayappa
- 18. Br. Nicholas Renner
- 19. Br. Robert Reuter
- 20. Pray for those in formation
- 21. Fr. Joseph Rodak
- 22. Fr. Kevin Scalf
- 23. Br. Matthew Schaefer
- 24. Fr. Louis Schmit
- 25. Fr. Eugene Schnipke
- 26. Fr. Kenneth Schnipke
- 27. For living and deceased  
Companions & Amici
- 28. Fr. Robert Schreiter
- 29. Fr. Kenneth Schroeder
- 30. Br. Jerome Schulte

# RELIGIOUS BROTHERS DAY



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