



# MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

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July 22, 2021

Dear Friend,

In June, we gathered as a Precious Blood family to say goodbye to Fr. Robert Schreiter, C.P.P.S., who died at age 73. He was arguably our most famous Missionary, though you may have never heard of him. He was a theologian who traveled to trouble spots around the globe, at the invitation of local bishops who asked him to come share his message about the peace, healing and reconciliation offered to all God's children through the Precious Blood of Jesus.

Fr. Bob, who never served in a parish, taught for over 40 years at Catholic Theological Union, a seminary in Chicago, and wrote publications that have been printed in 20 languages. What he helped do for our Congregation was articulate our spirituality. He helped us define what we are called to do as Missionaries of the Precious Blood on this Earth.

It is not as easy as it sounds to define your mission. If I were to ask you to state the mission of your family, could you do it? Yet you have one—we all do, given to us by God. The Church of which we are a living part has a mission as well, or as one of my theology professors put it, the Church IS a mission.

Our mission as a religious congregation is to reassure people who are searching for answers that the answers can be found in our God: a Father Creator who loves us always, a Son who sacrificed everything for us, and a Holy Spirit who gives us strength and a voice to share our story with others. Through our preaching and our other ministries, in word and deed, we reach out to God's people, especially those on the margins of society. If you are hurt, feel helpless or abandoned, poor and all alone, we want to help you experience God's mercy through the eternal sacrifice of his Son.



**Our candidates spend years living into our mission as a Congregation before they are ordained as priests or professed as religious brothers.**

(Please detach from letter and return with your gift in the envelope provided.)

*Yes, I would like to support the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.*

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I \_\_\_ have or \_\_\_ wish to include the Missionaries in my estate planning.

That is our mission. As in your family, it is vitally important for us to pass the essence of this mission along to a new generation. For that, we need good men who work as formators of our candidates who will become priests and brothers. Formators serve as mentors and guides. Just like you in your family, we take this responsibility very seriously. The formation process to become a Missionary of the Precious Blood is long—usually six to eight years to become either a priest or religious brother. It is also very expensive, costing approximately \$50,000 per candidate per year for tuition, room and board. Candidates live in our Community formation house and earn advanced degrees. Along the way, they participate in ministries that will help prepare them for a life of service in the Church.

Year by year, we want to see our candidates growing in knowledge but more than that, to be formed in the image of Christ, who accepted his mission on Earth and gave himself completely to it. Christ in turn formed and encouraged disciples who would carry on that mission—the beginning of a long line of disciples that reaches all the way through the years to you and me.

It is not unusual for our candidates to become discouraged along the way. One of our priests recalls a time when, as a seminarian, he made an appointment to see Fr. Bob in his office at the Catholic Theological Union. The priest-candidate was feeling doubts about his path toward priesthood, which he poured out to Fr. Bob. Fr. Bob was able to walk him through it and reassure him: “I would be a lot more worried about you if you did not have any doubts.” The candidate went away from that conversation feeling that his formator had heard him and helped him get back to the path. He once was lost but then was found, an experience that many of us have in life.

We are hoping that you will help us in our efforts to form young men as Missionaries of the Precious Blood. Your gift will help us guide them in the path that God has set before them. Will you support our mission to bring the healing power of Christ’s Precious Blood to people who feel lost and forsaken? Will you help us advance that mission to a new generation of Missionaries?

Every community needs young people who, with new eyes, have a new way of looking at the world. Every community needs older people who will help the young understand and accept what it means to be a disciple of Christ. May God bless our Precious Blood family, and your family, with generations of good and faithful people who will listen to God’s call, and answer with a resounding yes.

Sincerely in the Blood of Christ,

*V. Rev. Jeffrey S. Kirch, C.P.P.S.*

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Provincial Director

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