



JULY/AUGUST  
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# U.S. PROVINCE C.P.P.S. NEWSLETTER

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

*Ephesians 1: 7a*

## Two Missionaries Arrive in the U.S.

### Both Say Yes To Life and Ministry In a New Culture

*Jean Giesige, editor*

We admire the great missionary, St. Francis Xavier, and take him as our patron—but we may never think about St. Francis Xavier's mother, and how she felt when he set off for India, or his father, or grandmother.

It all starts to hit home when the shore you know best recedes behind you.

Yet two Missionaries of the Precious Blood from the Province of Tanzania are doing their best to learn about ministry in the United States with clear eyes and willing hearts. Fr. Seraphine Lesiriam, C.P.P.S., and Fr. Raymond Kaele, C.P.P.S., arrived in Dayton on July 8 and spent the following weeks learning about and attempting to grow accustomed to their new home in the U.S.

"I did not ever in my life think, 'One day I will be working in America.' This is something new for me—I surprise even myself," said Fr. Seraphine, who later this summer will begin his new

ministry in the C.P.P.S. parishes of Dayton with Fr. Angelo Anthony, C.P.P.S., and Fr. Tony Fortman, C.P.P.S.

"When I think about the distance from my home to America, when I think about all my relationships, my friends and family members, leaving those ties and all your experiences to learn a new experience—for me, it requires bravery."

He found the bravery inside himself—and the commitment. "When I decided to be a Missionary of the Precious Blood, that was one thing I thought about: if one day it happens that I have to leave my own country, will I be able to say yes? I made up my mind at that time that I would."

He and Fr. Raymond have been absorbing the information offered to them through three weeks of orientation, on topics including common feelings they might experience in their acculturation; preach-



**Frs. Raymond Kaele (left) and Seraphine Lesiriam are preparing for new assignments.**

ing and liturgy in the U.S.; the finances and statutes of the U.S. Province; Precious Blood spirituality as lived out in the U.S.; child protection policies; Companions; and the history of the C.P.P.S. in this country. It has been good information, they said, but they realize it is only the beginning.

Fr. Seraphine, 52, who has been active in parish ministry and at the Missionaries' St. Gaspar Referral and Teaching Hospital in Itigi, takes quiet pride in his abilities as a preacher—the parishioners he served in Tanzania often told  
*(Continued on page two)*

# Two Missionaries Arrive in the U.S.

*(Continued from page one)*

him they enjoyed his homilies. Here, he wants to master U.S. pronunciation and idioms so he can connect with people in the same way. It's going to be hard for him if he feels like he is not doing a good job right away—yet he realizes he faces a learning curve.

"My passion is to preach. I know that I have that talent, preaching. I want to do it perfectly, my preaching. But if I don't know the language well, it will be difficult. I need to adjust myself. But one day, I will start dreaming in English and I will preach well," he said. "At home, I feel very confident and well-prepared. I know I preach well. Now, for the time being, I'm worried if I can reach that standard here. I need to be humble with that."

Fr. Raymond, 42, will be learning too—he was involved in parish ministry, but it was at the Missionaries' Dodoma University, a much different kind of parish life than he will experience as part of the staff at Immaculate Conception Parish in Melbourne Beach, Fla., and St. Joseph Church in Palm Bay, Fla.

There, he will minister with C.P.P.S. Frs. Ben Berinti, Tim Knepper, Frankline Rayappa and Vince Wirtner.



**Missionaries meet for lunch in Chicago, left to right, Br. Antonio Sison, Frs. Raymond Kaele, Seraphine Lesiriam and Bill Nordenbrock; Fr. Roger Schroeder, SVD, who led the session on acculturation; and Br. Daryl Charron.**

pa and Vince Wirtner.

In Tanzania, Fr. Raymond was the province's vocations director and earned a degree  
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## Community Notes

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

This newsletter is published monthly by the U.S. 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. Email submissions to [cppscommunications@gmail.com](mailto:cppscommunications@gmail.com) or mail to C.P.P.S. Newsletter 431 E. Second St. Dayton OH 45402-1764

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### Appointment

**Fr. William Nordenbrock, C.P.P.S.**, appointed provincial secretary and treasurer of the United States Province, effective July 11.

### Assignments

**Fr. Seraphine Lesiriam, C.P.P.S.**, assigned to the Dayton parishes for four years, effective August 1.

**Fr. Raymond Kaele, C.P.P.S.**, assigned to the Florida parishes for four years, effective August 1.

### Address Changes

**Fr. Tony Fortman, C.P.P.S.**  
St. Paul Church  
1000 W Wenger Rd  
Englewood, OH 45322-2108

**Fr. Leon Flaherty, C.P.P.S.**  
St. Charles Center  
2860 US Route 127 Apt 315  
Celina, OH 45822-9533  
Effective September 6

**Fr. Frankline Rayappa, C.P.P.S.**  
St. Joseph Church  
5330 Babcock Street NE  
Palm Bay, FL 32905-5016  
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# In the Company of Others, Gazing in the Same Direction

## United States Province Takes Form at 2022 Assembly

**A**t the closing liturgy of the 2022 assembly, held in Indianapolis, Fr. Ben Berinti, C.P.P.S., was the homilist. He preached a message of hope for the new United States Province. He spoke of St. Gaspar, who was born on January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany.

Fr. Berinti drew a line from the Magi to St. Gaspar to the new province.

“Perhaps those starry-eyed travelers (the Magi) can teach us something as we venture forth. How do we find our way? The Magi were in community, wise enough to know that this is the best way to go. All they had to illuminate their terrain was a star. That is where their map began: with a burning light, in the company of others gazing in the same direction.

“Why did they risk it? My only certainty is they were being true to who they were. By remaining faithful to their vocation, they not only carried extravagant gifts, but they also received unbounded gifts.

“As it was for the Magi, as it was for Gaspar, so it is for us. Like them, our first calling is simply to be who we are called to be: Missionaries of the Precious Blood, proclaimers of the Word, the Word that leads to reconciliation and the renewal of the Church and the world.”



**From top: Newly elected leadership team (clockwise from top left, Frs. Joe Nassal, Jeff Kirch, Ben Berinti, Ron Will and Br. Daryl Charron); table discussions; definitively incorporated Greg Evers, C.P.P.S., with parents, Roger and Mary.**

**T**hank you to those who served in leadership in the years leading up to the creation of the United States Province. Your commitment to the conversation blazed a trail for the Precious Blood family to follow. May God bless you for your faithful service.

Fr. Jeffrey Kirch, C.P.P.S.

Fr. Benjamin Berinti, C.P.P.S.

Fr. Timothy McFarland, C.P.P.S.

Fr. Steven Dos Santos, C.P.P.S.

Br. Tom Bohman, C.P.P.S.

Fr. Garry Richmeier, C.P.P.S.

Fr. David Matz, C.P.P.S.

Fr. Keith Branson, C.P.P.S.

Fr. Timothy Armbruster, C.P.P.S.

Br. Daryl Charron, C.P.P.S.



*Photos by Jean Giesige and Cara Keller*



# "A Cloud of Witnesses and Co-Workers"

## Companion Shares Her Commitment To the Community

*(Editor's note: Companion Nancy Clisbee of St. Joseph, Mo., offered the following reflection at the joint assembly in Indianapolis. Nancy is a lifelong member of St. Francis Xavier Church in St. Joseph, which has been served by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood since its founding in 1890. She has been a Companion for 15 years.)*

*Nancy Clisbee, Companion*

As Companions, we share your excitement, your misgivings, your hesitation and your joy as you combine to make a unified, stronger, more resilient province, genuinely responding to the signs of the times today. We are honored to be an integral part of your Community.

Who are we? We are a cloud of co-workers and witnesses to your radical presence in our world. We share your mission to draw all nearer to Christ by his most Precious Blood. We pray, we reach out to, and care for our neighbors. We are food pantry volunteers, communion ministers, social service workers, medical workers, immigration workers, lectors, visitors to the home-bound and more.

At our Companion gatherings, we affirm our solidarity with the mission and the people of the Precious Blood family; we share hospitality, friendship and a mindset that is open to learn. We look beyond our individual concerns to see and



**The Companions of St. Joseph, Mo., at the assembly, with Frs. Lac Pham and Al Ebach. Nancy Clisbee is at right.**

*(Photo by Jean Giesige)*

attempt to respond to the needs of those who remain on the margins of our personal circles and our communities. We draw on the inspiration, the help and the experience of our sponsors and all members of the wider community.

Every Companion's journey is different. But this is my story.

I work with immigrants. After a well-loved career as an art teacher, I stumbled into a run-down building where GED, English as a second language, and citizenship were taught. I offered to volunteer. Two women turned their heads away from me. They returned to face me and asked me if I would take a job, which I have now had for 13 years. That random offer to volunteer has been transformative for me; it has allowed me to much more fully live the charism of the Precious Blood family.

Certainly, I teach. But beyond that, I befriend, I assist, I accompany, and sometimes do things I can't believe I'm doing because I see the face of Christ in a wounded, helpless person.

Our students come from all over the world. Some come to us from the very margins of their original home countries, with no English at all, still in shock from their recent arrival in a completely perplexing world. Some share horrific stories of hardship, the killing of loved ones, years of waiting in the limbo of refugee camps. Their greatest need is simply to recover from their past lives.

Others are anxious to pursue the American dream, to fit in, to see their children well educated; and some will be disappointed with the current reality. Nearly all work back-breaking or menial jobs; for many, these jobs are far below their level of education in their original language. All need English, and to understand the culture of America. If and when they are eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship, I accompany them in that process. Often there are tangled situations to be worked through. And sometimes years to wait, even after the application is submitted.

St. Francis Xavier Parish  
*(Continued on page five)*

# Teutonic Province Celebrates Centennial

## American Province Supported It At Its Beginning

The United States Province offers its congratulations, best wishes and prayerful support to the Missionaries of the Precious Blood of the Teutonic Province, which this year celebrates its 100th anniversary.

The Teutonic Province, which includes Austria, Germany and Liechtenstein, had several celebrations of its milestone anniversary, including on July 2 at its shrine in Baumgärtle, Germany, and July 3 at its Community house in Schellenberg, Liechtenstein. Missionaries and their lay associates took part in these celebrations; Bishop Erwin Kräutler, C.P.P.S., a member of the province, presided at the liturgy in Schellenberg.

The Teutonic Province was established on July 2, 1922, with the help and support of the American Province. There has long been a connection—among the first Missionaries of the Precious Blood to serve in the U.S. was Fr. Francis de Sales Brunner, C.P.P.S., a Swiss priest who in 1844 brought a small band of C.P.P.S. priests and brothers to serve the German-speaking people of west and central Ohio.

While the Teutonic Province was established in 1922, Missionaries have served there since 1898. Fr. Gregory Jussel, C.P.P.S., a member of the American Province, was sent to Schellenberg to serve in 1905, and later became the first provincial director of the

Teutonic Province.

Today, the Missionaries of the Teutonic Province are known for their preaching and teaching, as well as their missionary work in other countries, especially Brazil, now a part of the Latin American Province.

“A special characteristic of the province is certainly its commitment to and long connection with the mission in the north of Brazil,” said Fr. Alois Schlachter, C.P.P.S., a member of the Teutonic Province who also serves on the Missionaries’ general council in Rome. “Three of our confreres were bishops there, the last of whom, Erwin Kräutler, is retired. Bishop Kräutler is known throughout Brazil and also in Europe, especially in his native Austria, because of his fearless commitment to the indigenous population and to nature, the rainforest. And in his homeland, the Mother Province’s many donations have been collected over the years to support the mission in Brazil.”

Fr. Schlachter noted that Missionaries from the German-speaking area also went to Spain and Portugal, and to Poland and Croatia. “In Poland and Croatia, the C.P.P.S. presence began with Missionaries from the Teutonic Province,” he said.

For 65 years, the Missionaries have also been active in Neuenheerse (Bad Driburg, near Paderborn), where they have built a recognized high school. The province is also a partner in publishing the Catholic magazine *Kontinent*.

May God bless the Missionaries of the Teutonic Prov-

ince for their many good works and their faithfulness. May the Precious Blood of Jesus renew and refresh them for their next 100 years.

## A Cloud

*(Continued from page four)*

and our Precious Blood priests and Companions have been a constant source of support for me, and for these immigrants. A friend asked me once why I “mess with those people.” The Precious Blood Community hears their cry with me, and we answer in a chorus. Companions Mike Caruso, Jean and Bernard Verssue, and a number of St. Francis parishioners have volunteered in classes.

Fr. Ron Will, C.P.P.S., has been a champion for newcomers in our Interfaith Alliance for Immigrants. He also spearheaded a grant program that provided beautiful study books to our students.

Fr. Bill Walter, C.P.P.S., and I collaborated to assist a Micronesian couple in straightening out a number of things so they could at long last be married in the Church.

Br. Daryl Charron, C.P.P.S., sat in on my class prior to his time as an ESL teacher in Vietnam. He was an awesome participant in our vocabulary bingo games.

Fr. Al Ebach, C.P.P.S., visited our program this year, along with Bill McMurray, St. Francis organist, also the mayor of St. Joseph at the time.

Fr. Lac Pham, C.P.P.S., and I assisted a couple from Sudan  
*(Continued on page 15)*

# Considine to Direct Schreiter Institute

## Professor Was Mentored by Fr. Robert Schreiter

The Precious Blood Spirituality Institute (PBSI) is pleased to announce the hiring of the first director of the Schreiter Institute at Catholic Theological Union, Dr. Kevin Considine, Ph.D.

Dr. Considine began his work in July. He returns to Catholic Theological Union (CTU) as an alumnus and adjunct assistant professor of systematic theology.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be the inaugural Director of the Schreiter Institute," Considine said. "I knew Fr. Bob Schreiter for more than 15 years, was mentored by him, and look forward to the challenge of integrating the Precious Blood spirituality of reconciliation and peacemaking into the curriculum and lifeblood of CTU."

He has served in education throughout his career. He holds an MA in theology from CTU and a Ph.D from Loyola University. He has taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including at Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, Ind. He is the author of several books and numerous journal articles, book reviews and academic papers.

PBSI is a partnership of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, the Adorers of the Blood of Christ and the Sisters of the Precious Blood of Dayton. Its mission is to promote Precious Blood spirituality to the world.

The Schreiter Institute was

created to collaborate with CTU to offer courses, workshops and support academic research that will advance this spirituality.

Sr. Barbara Reid, O.P., CTU president, commented, "We are thrilled to partner with three Precious Blood communities to establish a new institute at CTU that promotes their charism of justice, reconciliation and peacebuilding."



Dr. Kevin Considine

## The Forum

OPINIONS, COMMENTS  
AND COMMENTARY

### A Proposal to Continue the Conversation

*Joseph Uecker, C.P.P.S.*

In the April issue of the *New Wine Press* and the May issue of the *Cincinnati Province Newsletter*, I wrote an article about waking up to white privilege. After publication, I received several comments. Some strongly suggested follow-up or a proposal to the Community to bring about a greater awareness of white privilege.

I propose that those who are ready and willing begin with a common reading and discussion of the book *Waking Up White*. Author Debby Irving has 46 short chapters. I invite members, Companions, Amici and anyone else who is interested to participate. Those ready and willing could be put into groups of five or six people. One of these could be appointed (pro-tem) leader of the group. This person would set up a preliminary meeting

at which a permanent leader would be chosen.

The group could meet by phone, by Zoom, in person or whatever is possible. I suggest *short* weekly meetings. Each person would have read the designated chapter and would relate the contents of the chapter to their personal experiences. The author gives some discussion starters at the end of each chapter. Each group would tailor this to its own needs. I would be willing to form the various groupings. Being retired, I have the time for that.

I also propose that the new provincial council put the topic of *white privilege* on the agenda for the 2023 Assembly, with a person of note to lead us through a process. That's as much as I can say at this point. Anything further would depend on what happens with this.



# “Just Begin with the Part that You Know”

## Otherwise, We Can Feel Helpless in World's Chaos

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

The daily news that confronts us can be overwhelming. The violence and divisions seem to define who we are as a people. The United States seems to be more the conflicted states or divided states—blue states/red states.

It is not just in the political sphere but has become a national headline. From the horrific mass shootings of Highland Park, Uvalde and Buffalo to the daily drumbeat of death on the streets of our inner cities. Even the Church is embroiled in conflict and mistrust. Once a place of refuge, too often the politics and the divisions profane the sacred spaces that were beacons of safety and hope. It is no wonder that we throw up our arms in disbelief and helplessness.

It is too much. A celebration of the Fourth of July turns into a mass shooting in a matter of seconds. From summertime joy to panic and horror. We are living in troubled times.

Children and parents are afraid to be outside in their own neighborhood parks. Teenagers are carrying guns because they don't feel safe, and don't feel adults have the will or capacity to protect them.

It just seems that the prob-

lems and pain are overwhelming. Even with the deep desire to make a difference, to do something, where does one begin?

And then we hear the Gospel message to love and care for our neighbor. It seems naïve.

I had a math teacher in high school who told me, when I was overwhelmed by the complexity of the math problem, to “just begin with the part that you know. Break it down into small steps.”

Perhaps that is what we hear of Jesus: break it down, take one step at a time. Confront racist remarks instead of letting them slide. Say hello to the person you don't know. Ask yourself, “What can I do today?” And then wake up and do the same tomorrow.

When Jesus is questioned about who my neighbor is, he answers with the story of the Good Samaritan. An ordinary man, who was not of the same faith, background or belief system, stops and seemingly goes out of his way to help the man who fell victim to robbers. An ordinary stranger who didn't just walk by, who stopped, who lent a hand and who made a small step into changing the narrative.

As much as you hear news of violence, there are the modern-day Good Samaritan stories. A young man finds himself on one of the units of Juvenile Detention Center. Typically, it is a frightening time—not knowing

who or what you might encounter. I knew it was this young man's first time just by the look on his face—

he was in an unfamiliar place. But in this instance, one of the youth who had been on the unit for some time approached him and encouraged him to not be afraid. He gave him some of his own property—snacks, soap, etc.—so that he would have what he needed.

Thomas Merton encourages us to live in the present. He says that when you figure and analyze and then figure and analyze some more, you are too exhausted to act. He encourages us to do what is before us—and do it well. The next day, do what is before you and do it well. The Good Samaritan did what was before him and did it well.

The spirituality of the Precious Blood calls us to stand in what Richard Rohr calls the collision of opposites. The joyous celebration of the Fourth of July and the horrific act of violence. It is the place of the cross of Jesus—tragedy and horror give way to new life. Beyond the story of the Highland Park shooting is a fuller picture, with countless moments of bravery, kindness and a community coming together to heal. Strangers opening their doors for people to take refuge. Small steps to be sure, but put together they can become the dominant narrative—a narrative of kinship.

When we take a step toward one another, kinship is born. And it's in this kinship that we find hope. We may not have all the solutions to our problems, but we can begin with what we know. When we allow God to move us to action in our everyday lives, we start to see the radical transformation promised in the Gospel come to life in our world today.



**Precious Blood**  
*Ministry of Reconciliation*

# Nobody Likes A Cold Call

## Suggestions are Better from a Familiar Face

*Steve Dos Santos, C.P.P.S.*

It happened again recently. I was visiting a parish when a parishioner mentioned the name of a young man in the parish that I should talk to. After encouraging him to make sure the pastor knows about the young man, I added that I had just replenished the pamphlet racks of the parish with materials, all of which have my contact information on them and that he should give some of those resources to the young man in question, suggesting the young man reach out to me.



C.P.P.S.  
for  
Tomorrow

VOCATION MINISTRY

This man, who had been the young man's catechist, and knows that he is considering the priesthood said, "I don't really know him that well," and was clearly uncomfortable with the idea of making the suggestion.

I've had similar interactions with a variety of folks over the years, including with our own Precious Blood priests and brothers, who wanted me to begin a conversation with one of their parishioners for them. Raising the question of vocations is always felt as a risk. We are afraid that our suggestion might be off-putting or scare the young man or

woman away. We don't want to come across as too pushy. But a question or a suggestion from someone closer to home is always going to be better received than a cold call from a complete stranger.

The unease people feel at broaching the subject is a result of us not talking enough about vocations in the Church. Too often "vocation" is used only to describe those called to the priesthood or consecrated life, and then maybe only once or twice a year. The idea that every member of the Body of Christ has a God-given vocation, and is uniquely made with their vocation in mind, is not widely taught. The fact that discernment is talked about only as it applies to the priesthood and consecrated life is also part of the problem. Because of all this, we fear bringing up the question of vocation, because the word doesn't seem to apply.

In a perfect world, a young man or woman will have heard regularly about the four vocations (married life, priesthood, religious life and consecrated singleness). They would have heard that each is a unique call to Christian service and the path to holiness for those who are called to it. They will have learned about discernment, and been encouraged to use the tools of discernment in the making of other significant life decisions. They may have even been privy to hearing/watching

their parents discern significant decisions, like a major move or a career change.

All of that work prepares the ground for the seed of an invitation or a call. But even if that hasn't happened, the invitation or suggestion coming from a friendly and familiar face will always be better received than a call out of the blue from me. I am happy to reach out to someone and continue a conversation that has begun locally. I respond to emails and phone calls when they come in from young men who are seeking more information. And I am happy to reach out to someone who is expecting a call from me. But a cold call just isn't the way to begin this conversation.

As priests and brothers get stretched further and further, it's important that we find those opportunities to connect with groups of young men. That they have the opportunity to see more of our life than just Sunday Mass. They need opportunities to see us relaxing and to feel comfortable asking us questions about our life as a Missionary of the Precious Blood. We need to be willing to answer those questions and show these young people our human side. These interactions help possible vocations to flourish.

As we move forward into the U.S. Province, please keep inviting and encouraging. When you can, have longer and deeper conversations with young men and women about their vocation and discernment. When the time is right, suggest that they reach out and make contact. Or if they would prefer, offer to send me their contact info. This ensures that when I reach out to them, it is not a surprise.



# Missionaries Celebrate Their Jubilarians

The Precious Blood family gathered to celebrate its 2022 jubilarians on the Solemnity of the Precious Blood, July 1, during a liturgy at St. Charles Center, Carthage, Ohio.

Jubilarians in attendance were Frs. John Hoying and Edgar Jutte, 60 years; Fr. Jerry Stack, 50 years; Frs. Dennis Chriszt, Joseph Deardorff, David Kelly and Joseph Nassal, 40 years; and Fr. Timothy Guthridge, 25 years.

Unable to attend were Fr. Paul Sanders, 60 years; Fr. Fred Licciardi, 40 years; and Fr. Dien Truong, 25 years.

Fr. Deardorff, now a member of the Latin American Province, was the homilist. "Through Jesus, something new is presented to us, through his Blood a new covenant is created," he said. "This covenant not only unites us to God, but to each other. It is a cove-



**Jubilarians, L-R: Frs. Hoying, Jutte, Stack, Deardorff, Chriszt, Kelly, Nassal and Guthridge.**

nant of unity, through which all are brought near."

As he continued, he could have been talking the Church, or about the new United States Province: "Together, we begin to focus on who we are as community, and we dedicate ourselves to know one another.

What was once a mystery, becomes a relationship. . . . It commits us to dialogue. We share who we are, and what concerns us. Together we move forward, with a clear future based on common values, and finding solutions to bring us ever closer."



## Community Notes

### Address Changes

*(Continued from page 2)*

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### Announcement

Fr. Jayababu Nuthulapati has been granted an indult of departure from the Congregation, effective May 28, 2022.

### Business

The IRS has increased the mileage reimbursement rate. Effective July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, the new mileage rate is 62.5 cents.

# Br. Paul Chase Tends to his Flock

Poultry People from Across the U.S. Come to Him for Birds, Advice

*Jean Giesige, editor*

He talks to his birds as he moves up and down the center aisle of the chicken house at St. Charles Center. "Settle down," he'll say to one little flock, "I'm coming, I'm coming," to another. "Oh, you're showing off," to a rooster standing as tall and proud as a peacock (and he also talks to his peacocks). The birds, as varied and magnificent as anything in God's creation, turn to him and listen.

Br. Paul Chase, C.P.P.S., has been caring for birds at St. Charles, in Carthagen, Ohio, for more than 50 years. His hens lay eggs, and he sells those eggs to St. Charles' neighbors and others who travel for miles to get them, but the eggs are almost beside the point. Br. Paul raises special varieties of chickens and turkeys for people who exhibit them at poultry shows, for 4-H kids who want to take poultry projects to the fair, and for backyard enthusiasts who want to populate their own chicken coops.

He wants them to enjoy his healthy, happy, beautiful birds.

"These are my favorites," he says, as he stops by a pen of Golden Seabright hens and a rooster, their feathers outlined in a pattern that looks like amber stained glass.

"This one's my favorite," he says at a pen that contains a few Frizzled Cochins roosters, their fluffy feathers moving about in the air current. He has pens of newly hatched chicks, pens of chicks that are a little further along in their development, pens of Golden Comet

hens that will work well for people who are just starting out in the hen-and-egg business. They are docile, not demanding, easy to work with. Br. Paul works hard to match his poultry with his people.

He knows poultry people from all across the U.S., and they come to him for birds, for advice or just to talk chickens. With the help of his friend and neighbor, Tom Staugler, he brings birds to auctions and sales.

He's been around livestock and poultry all his life. Br. Paul was born to a farm family in Fairbank ("no S," he says), Iowa. There, he was a happy 4-H'er himself, showing livestock at the county fair. "My dad was the assistant 4-H leader," he said.

When he sensed as a young adult that God was calling him to the consecrated life as a religious brother, he went first to the Glenmary Home Missioners. He was with them for a while, but they helped him discern that he might fit in better with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. "They told me, 'They have cows,'" he said.

Indeed they did. Br. Paul Chase, definitively incorporated as a C.P.P.S. brother in 1966, helped out with the Missionaries' famed Brown Swiss dairy herd. "I worked with Br. Bernie Barga," he said. "He was my first boss—and a great man."

Br. Paul found that he was best with birds. He loves his



**Br. Paul Chase with a chick in the St. Charles chicken house, where he rules the roost.**

life in the poultry barn, among his flock. One might say he knows his flock, and his flock knows him. He's familiar with and observant of every detail in the barn. "There's the UPS truck coming through," he said, listening to a vehicle coming through the barnyard one Tuesday afternoon. Then, listening more closely, "No, that's Mike (Mike Hemmelgarn, maintenance supervisor at St. Charles) coming back from taking a load to the recycling center."

Br. Paul and Tom keep their eye on trends at poultry shows, and raise varieties accordingly. "You can't raise every variety," he said. Cochins are popular right now, so they raise Cochins, among other varieties.

He also keeps learning. He keeps books on poultry in



a wooden filing cabinet in the barn, among them the book of perfection, a gold-lettered guide to how the perfect example of each variety should look and act. He reads up on poultry care, even after all these years.

"You can never learn enough," he said. "When he's not in the barn, he is out and about in his mobility scooter, policing the expansive grounds at St. Charles. He picks up sticks and pinecones ahead of the mowing crew. He picks up trash from the highway. "You can't believe how much trash people throw out," he said.

He visits his peacocks in a barn on the far side of one of St. Charles' lakes. He inherited them from Fr. Albert Gerhards, C.P.P.S., who died in 1980. "They're just beautiful," he said. "How could you resist?"

He is accompanied along the way by a cat he calls Dog, because of her tendency to follow him everywhere he goes. "She likes to walk on my right side," he said.

Dog is the only creature he has named. He does not name his chickens. He has a farmer's practicality, a farmer's pragmatic world view. And there are a lot of chickens.

No names, which they do not need—but his chickens and turkeys and peacocks have everything else they need to live a happy life in the barn until someday, perhaps, they are thrust onto the national stage as a champion.

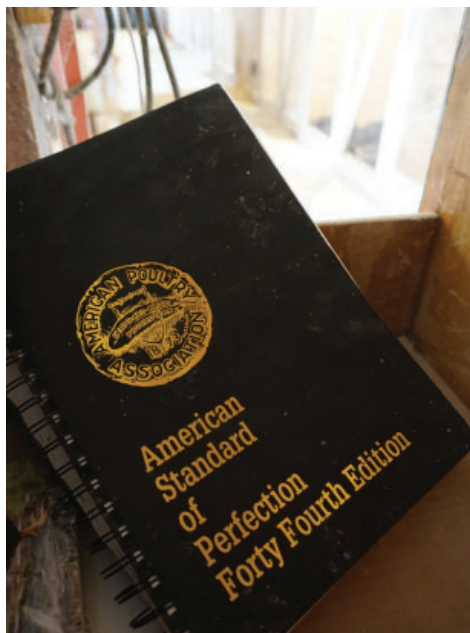
"Some people carry their birds around on their shoulders. I haven't gone that far," he said. Yet he sees in his daily life in the chicken house an echo of St. Francis, who loved all of creation. "Being around them, there are some that you really like."



## No Fuss, All Feathers



*From top, a Black-Tailed Japanese, one of Br. Paul's many varieties of chickens; a slate variety tom turkey; Br. Paul keeps the book of poultry perfection close by in the barn; chicks under the incubator lights; a Golden Seabright rooster and hens, one of Br. Paul's favorite varieties.*



*For more photos of Br. Paul and his chickens, visit our website, [cpps-preciousblood.org/2022/05/brother-faithfully-tends-flock/](http://cpps-preciousblood.org/2022/05/brother-faithfully-tends-flock/)*





# Missionaries Report

NEWS FROM OUR  
MINISTRY SITES

## Outdoor Mass Is a Blessing

*Terry Nufer, C.P.P.S.*

It's summertime and things are looking up at the Sorrowful Mother Shrine.

Our Chaldean Days on July 1-2 both brought in four buses of pilgrims from the Detroit area, mostly Southfield. They arrived with their picnic lunches, attended a Mass, bought (lots and lots) of candles, visited the gift shop and generally enjoyed themselves a great deal. Our first major event of the summer got us off to a great start.



Our new gift shop manager, Shelley Fitzgerald, held a Christmas in July sale from July 6-8. Earlier in the summer, she also organized a raffle of a blue and yellow (the colors of the Ukrainian flag) hand crafted afghan, which brought in \$200 to benefit our Polish Province and their housing of refugees.

July 10 was our Black Catholic Sunday. The Diocese of Toledo is sponsors this event and this year brought in Fr. Joe Brown, a Jesuit from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. With special music and beautiful weather, it was a

great day.

I am not trying to jinx it, but so far this year we have had some wonderful weather for our outdoor Masses. Mask wearing is completely optional and there are those who prefer to be careful in this regard. With new variants being identified on a regular basis, it really does seem like a good idea. Being outside and taking care to distance are also beneficial.

This year we are contracting with outside caterers for pilgrim meals. We have several businesses in the area that have served us and all have been happy with the results. The Seneca County Health Department is not allowing us to use our kitchen for food preparation as was our custom.

We have a new pastor at St. Gaspar and Our Lady of Hope. Fr. Nathan Bockrath has moved on to Kalida and Fr. Joseph Joseph is taking his place. Immaculate Conception in Bellevue also has a new pastor, Fr. Albert Beltz, and Tiffin St. Joseph is now led by Fr. Tony Coci.

While many of us were at the assembly in Indianapolis, a hickory tree near the south shelter house in front of chapel was struck by lightning. As has happened in the past, when it went down it blessedly missed



**Companions during a liturgy in the shrine's expansive outdoor chapel in July.**

doing any damage to our various shrines. And our maintenance team had it cleared up within days. Thanks to Denny and Ron and all who helped with the clean-up.

Other July events included a visit from Bishop Daniel Thomas of the Diocese of Toledo, who was here for a reunion of attendees of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia; Companions day featuring a presentation by Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S., on July 24; and Slovenian Sunday on July 31.

On August 7, members of the Filipino community will grace us with their presence. August 14 will be Hispanic Sunday (with a serving of Czech on the side).

### Is your contact info correct?

Please let us know of changes to your email, phone or mailing address. Send changes to:  
[mission@cpps-preciousblood.org](mailto:mission@cpps-preciousblood.org)

## New, Old Friends Help at “The Castle”

*Dennis Chriszt, C.PPS.*

I came to St. Charles in June 2021, planning to stay in the infirmary for six weeks and then return to Chicago to resume my ministry there. During the fifth week of my stay, complications arose, and I've been here for well over a year now. I've had four surgeries, and one is taking place on August 1. I haven't walked in over a year and won't begin to place any weight on my right foot for at least another eight weeks after this latest surgery. I'm hoping to be able to resume full-time ministry sometime after that.

Many years ago, I dreaded the thought of moving into St. Charles Center. Having lived here for over a year now, I must say that those fears were unwarranted. I have been welcomed by the local community and made new friends among the lay residents. I also learned that many of them refer to the place as “the castle.” Various members help me with my tray in the dining room and with a drink in the community room.

My own family has visited me more often here than in any other place where I've lived in the community, and in many ways, we, too, have grown closer to one another.

In mid-June, many of us traveled to Indianapolis to celebrate the birth of the United States Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. A number of members who a year

ago had not intended to go to the assembly had a change of heart, and we were all blessed by our time together. Our oldest member, Fr. Don Theiman, C.P.P.S., was asked when he returned about the experience. He responded that the best part was just being together, praying together, sharing meals together. Everyone here seemed to agree. While there was important business to do, such as electing the new leadership of the new province, it was being together as members of the new province that was the biggest blessing.

On July 1, as the Community celebrated the Solemnity of the Precious Blood, we also celebrated the jubilee anniversaries of a number of members celebrating 25, 40, 50 and 60 years of priesthood. On July 8, we welcomed two of our brothers from Tanzania—Fr. Seraphine Lesiriam, C.P.P.S., and Fr. Raymond Kaele, C.P.P.S.—as they began their ministry here in the United States Province. I first met Fr. Seraphine when Sr. Donna Liette, CPPS, and I led the community retreats in Tanzania in 2004. Five years later, when I taught for a semester in Tanzania, Fr. Raymond was one of my students in his first year of formation at our house in Morogoro.

In a few weeks, we will celebrate the deacon ordination of Greg Evers, C.P.P.S. I've been his director for the past four years and have been blessed to see how God has been at work in his life. The local community is looking forward to the celebration.

In the 13 months that I have been at St. Charles Center, I've been blessed by the renewed friendships, and by

the constant care of members, staff and residents. While I'm anxious to get back to full time ministry, I do not regret my time here. The people who make up this local community have helped me endure many trial and tribulations as I struggle to recover from the injury to my foot, and for that I will be forever grateful.

## July was Full of Festivals, Parades

*Jim Ballmann, C.P.P.S.*

The CCSJ Family Fun Day was inaugurated this year to replace the summer solstice picnic, which the C.P.P.S. hosted for over 25 years. The day began in the library, with a screening of the 2021 Disney movie, *Encanto*.

Children also painted wooden birdhouses, created hardcover story books that they could take with them, and were invited to play on a six-hole mini golf course with themes of Christmas, Dr. Seuss, Halloween, summertime and CCSJ's Crimson Joe.



## CRIMSON WAVE

The day's events also included music on the lawn of Alumni Park and an afternoon at the Mascot Hall of Fame in Whiting, Ind.

Renovations of the basement for sprint football are progressing. The entire area is being repainted and new flooring installed. The space will

house offices for the head coach and seven assistant coaches.

The space formerly occupied by the food pantry is now the football film/review room. The weight and training rooms are being refurbished and showers are planned.

Many on the football team's roster will participate in a two-week camp at the end of August at St. Joseph College for team building, comradery and practice. Since this is the first year for sprint football, creating team spirit is important for a successful season.

The food pantry is being relocated to the first floor student services wing. Plans for the "new" food pantry include all new equipment, commercial refrigerators/freezers, and a meal preparation area. The \$100,000 project is fully funded by an anonymous donor. This enhanced food pantry will give us a chance to better serve our students.

July was the month of parades and festivals in the area. Over 50 students, employees and their families represented CCSJ at Whiting's 103rd annual July 4 parade. The dance team performed its routines as it marched. The football players looked sharp in their new jerseys, which they received right before the parade. The team and its supporters kept the crowd cool with their sprays of water.

Hammond and Whiting both have summer festivals spanning several days. Hammond's Festival of the Lakes is held at the Wolf Lake recreational center, a mile west of CCSJ. This year CCSJ hosted the Festival of the Lakes senior citizens luncheon at Rittenmeyer Athletic Center.

Whiting's Pierogi Fest is

a mile north of CCSJ and held along the main street of Whiting. Before COVID there were over 200,000 visitors for the three-day event, which includes a parade. CCSJ is looking to defend its trophy for the bartending challenge against Purdue Northwest in the beer garden. Our president and Purdue Northwest's chancellor head teams to see who can serve the most beer.

CCSJ is still hoping to move into its new residence hall on August 31, but plans are in place if it is not ready for occupancy. The building is now covered with the brick façade and interior painting has begun. The area for the parking lot is now being graded and should be paved by the time you read this article.

This year, the CCSJ board of trustees held its annual retreat on campus. The board had a tour of the new residence hall and then conducted its business in the student success center in the library.

CCSJ, in conjunction with Big Shoulders Fund Northwest Indiana and the Diocese of Gary, is investing \$450,000 to offer 10 full scholarships per year for teaching early childhood education, elementary education, secondary education or P-12 education. Applicants must already have earned a bachelor's degree to apply for this transition-to-teaching program, which is 18–24 hours. Students can be fully licensed in a year.

Upon completion of the program, scholarship recipients are likely to be placed in one of the 20 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Gary. They are asked to commit to three years of teaching in the school in which they are placed.

## Condolences from the C.PP.S.

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

The family of **Leland Simmons**, who died on May 15. Leland was the brother of Companion Irene Morrison (Cleveland Western Reserve).

The family of **Barbara Hollinrake**, who died on June 1. She was the daughter of Companion Jean (Albia, Iowa) and Joe Hollinrake.

The family of **Lester Hess**, who died on June 4. Lester was the father of Companion Nathan Hess (Carthage, Ohio), and brother to Companion John Hess (Dayton) and Sr. Edna Hess, CPPS.

The family of **Pete Chaston**, who died on June 15. Pete was the husband of Companion Mary Chaston (Kearney, Mo.)

The Sisters of the Precious Blood and the family of **Sr. Virgine Elking, CPPS**, who died on June 21.

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood and family of **Alan Hartway, C.PP.S.**, who died July 1.

The family of **Lela Siebert**, who died on July 15. She was the mother and mother-in-law of Companions Dan and Sue Siebert (Celina, Ohio).



# Two Missionaries Arrive

*(Continued from page two)*

in business administration. He was integral to the operation of the Missionaries' Radio Mwan-gaza in Dodoma, an evangeli-zation tool for the C.P.P.S. Here, his evangelization will take a new form. He will rely on the people around him to show him the way.

"I'm used to asking ques-tions when I don't know some-thing. I want to be sure I am doing things in the right way," he said.

Ministering in a country far from home was a difficult decision, he said, and initially it was hard for his family to accept. "The yes I said to my provincial wasn't a simple yes. It was a yes with sacrifices. To be far away from home, my relatives, my siblings, we used to meet and talk, to see each other, and now it will be quite different.

"It was difficult to share my decision with my parents, and especially with my grand-ma. The way they reacted, the way I felt – it was hard on my heart. It was not a simple deci-sion. So I knew the sacrifices I would have to make.

"And I am not making these sacrifices for me—I'm making this sacrifice because Jesus himself made sacrifices. Mother Mary, when she said yes, made sacrifices. I'm en-couraged by that—what other saints did. I'm not the first person to go away from home for ministry."

With time, he hopes his family will be at peace with his decision. "When I joined the seminary, it was also a difficult decision. For me, I had

the desire, it was something precious that I preferred. My siblings, my parents, they were opposed at first. But with time, they came to accept it and they supported me. I know with time, they will come to accept this reality."

It may help their families to know how their brothers and sisters in the Precious Blood have welcomed them to the United States. It might make their parents and grandparents feel better to know that Fr. Seraphine and Fr. Raymond are not alone here – that here too, they have family.

"Since day one, (the Mis-sionaries) are making it easier," Fr. Raymond said. "The way they welcomed us, the way they talk to us, encourage us, they know that it is a difficult moment for us, and they are trying to help us feel at home."

# A Cloud

*(Continued from page five)*

in having their three young children baptized at St. Francis this past Christmas day.

If I can, I assist students who need minor legal help, have run afoul of the law, some who are desperately ill, and those who contact me years after I've had them in class with random needs. Each one has the face of Christ, and a place in my heart.

Companions: who are we? We are your brothers and sis-ters, your mothers and fathers. We are your fellow disciples and "the women on the way." We are here for you, and we are part of you. We pray for you, and we will work for you. We extend your reach, and we complete your family.

Congratulations to all as we begin this new creation together.



## Provincial Director's Calendar

**July 30–August 4:** Conference of Major Superiors of Men board meeting and assembly, Buffalo, N.Y.

**August 14–17:** Provincial coun-cil meeting, Chicago.

**August 20:** Diaconate ordina-tion of Gregory Evers, C.P.P.S., St. Charles Center, Carthage, Ohio.

**August 29–September 14:** General Curia retreat, Rome.



## Community Calendar

**August 7:** Philippine Sunday at the Sorrowful Mother Shrine, Bellevue, Ohio.

**August 14–17:** Provincial council meeting, Chicago.

**August 20:** Diaconate ordina-

tion of Gregory Evers, C.P.P.S., St. Charles Center, Carthage, Ohio.

**September 6:** Undergraduate classes begin at Calumet Col-lege of St. Joseph, Whiting, Ind.

# Days of Praise

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

## Celebrating Birthdays In August

- 2 Fr. Yuri Kuzara
- 3 Br. Jerome Schulte
- 4 Fr. Richard Bayuk
- 15 Fr. Mark Miller
- 17 Fr. James Gaynor
- 19 Fr. Joseph Brown
- 22 Fr. William Hoyng
- 24 Fr. Scott Kramer



*Happy birthday,  
Fr. Mark Miller*



*Happy birthday,  
Fr. Yuri Kuzara*

## Celebrating Anniversaries In August

- 3 Fr. Raymond Kaele
- 13 Br. Antonio Sison
- 15 Br. Juan Acuña González
- Br. James Ballmann
- Br. Benjamin Basile
- Br. Paul Chase
- Br. Joseph Fisher
- Br. Nicholas Renner
- Br. Jerome Schulte
- Br. Theophane Woodall
- 16 Fr. Donald Davison
- 18 Fr. Timothy Armbruster
- 19 Br. Brian Boyle
- 29 Br. Matthew Schaefer



*Happy anniversary,  
Fr. Raymond Kaele*

## Celebrating Birthdays In September

- 6 Fr. Jerome Stack
- 11 Fr. Barry Fischer
- 14 Fr. Garry Richmeier
- 15 Fr. Paul Sanders
- 20 Fr. Andrew O'Reilly
- 21 Fr. Mark Hoyng
- 22 Fr. Thomas Hemm
- 24 Fr. James Betzen

## Celebrating Anniversaries In September

- 13 Br. Charles McCafferty
- Br. Robert Reuter

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

July:  
Province of Tanzania  
August:  
Italian Province

*Fill us at daybreak with  
your kindness,  
that we may shout for joy  
and gladness all our days.  
And may the gracious care  
of the LORD our God be ours;  
prosper the work of our hands for us!  
Prosper the work of our hands!*

Ps 90: 14–15, 17

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

**M**issionaries of the Precious Blood 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.

## **AUGUST PRAYER LIST**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Fr. John Wolf                               | 17. Br. Thomas Bohman                               |
| 2. Br Theophane Woodall                        | 18. Br. Brian Boyle                                 |
| 3. Fr. Mark Yates                              | 19. Fr. Keith Branson                               |
| 4. Br. Juan Acuña González                     | 20. Fr. Thomas Brenberger                           |
| 5. Fr. Kenneth Alt                             | 21. Pray for those in formation                     |
| 6. Fr. Angelo Anthony                          | 22. Fr. Harold Brown                                |
| 7. Pray for vocations                          | 23. Fr. Joseph Brown                                |
| 8. Fr. Timothy Armbruster                      | 24. Fr. Nhan (Dominic) Bui                          |
| 9. Br. James Ballmann                          | 25. Br. Timothy Cahill                              |
| 10. Br. Benjamin Basile                        | 26. Br. Daryl Charron                               |
| 11. Fr. Joseph Bathke                          | 27. Most Rev. Joseph Charron                        |
| 12. Fr. Antonio Baus                           | 28. For living and deceased<br>Companions and Amici |
| 13. Fr. Richard Bayuk                          | 29. Br. Paul Chase                                  |
| 14. For living and deceased<br>C.PP.S. members | 30. Fr. Dennis Chriszt                              |
| 15. Fr. Benjamin Berinti                       | 31. Fr. Timothy Coday                               |
| 16. Fr. James Betzen                           |   |

## **SEPTEMBER PRAYER LIST**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Fr. Donald Davison                          | 16. Fr. James Gaynor                                |
| 2. Fr. William Delaney                         | 17. Fr. Juan Gonzalez                               |
| 3. Fr. Stephen Dos Santos                      | 18. Pray for those in formation                     |
| 4. Pray for vocations                          | 19. Fr. Michael Goode                               |
| 5. Fr. James Dugal                             | 20. Fr. Timothy Guthridge                           |
| 6. Fr. Aloys Ebach                             | 21. Fr. Thomas Hemm                                 |
| 7. Fr. Linus Evers                             | 22. Fr. Larry Hemmelgarn                            |
| 8. Greg Evers                                  | 23. Fr. Joseph Hinders                              |
| 9. Fr. Barry Fischer                           | 24. Fr. Tam Minh (Peter) Hoang                      |
| 10. Br. Joseph Fisher                          | 25. For living and deceased<br>Companions and Amici |
| 11. For living and deceased<br>C.PP.S. members | 26. Fr. David Hoying                                |
| 12. Fr. Leon Flaherty                          | 27. Fr. John Hoying                                 |
| 13. Fr. Anthony Fortman                        | 28. Fr. Mark Hoying                                 |
| 14. Fr. James Franck                           | 29. Fr. William Hoyng                               |
| 15. Fr. Richard Friebe                         | 30. Fr. William Hubmann                             |





O LORD,  
pour out  
your blessings  
on our new  
United States Province.



*Greg Evers, C.P.P.S., center, with formators, L-R,  
Fr. Dennis Chriszt, Br. Daryl Charron, Frs. Steve  
Dos Santos, Tim McFarland and Lac Pham.*



*Fr. Emanuele Lupi, C.P.P.S., second from left,  
participates in table discussions.*

*Photos by Jean Giesige and Cara Keller*

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