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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

Where We've Been, Where We're Going

Jeffrey Kirch, C.P.P.S.

There are times in life when old adages ring true. The adage that I have been thinking about over the past few months is, "You can't see the forest for the trees." Sometimes when we are deeply involved in a complex project, we can get wrapped up in the details and lose focus on the overall goal.

In September 2017, Missionaries and Companions from the Kansas City Province and Cincinnati Province gathered at Techny, Ill., to pray, dialogue and discern how we can live our spirituality and Community life into the future. Those who were present discerned that we are being called to form a new, single province in the United States. From this gathering, the two provincial councils began a process which we named the "new creation." A commission was formed that began the initial work.

Forty-four Missionaries gathered in St. Louis in February 2019 to focus on our mission into the future. Where are we hearing the cry of the Blood? Our dialogue and discernment coalesced around several broad areas, including reconciliation, evangelization, immigration, lay formation and revitalized parish life.



Missionaries and Companions in Techny in 2017

Later that year, at their respective assemblies, the two provinces voted overwhelmingly to form a single province. Work began on drafting statutes and policies, which was required by the General Curia. At the 2019 General Assembly in Poland, the major superiors approved the creation of a new United States Province.

In the midst of all of this, the world came to a screeching halt with the onset of the pandemic. Our plans for joint assemblies were postponed and we shifted to having Zoom gatherings. We were able to gather in June 2021 at St. Louis again. Our gathering had three goals, first to continue to build relationships; second, to dia-

logue around the Core Values from the General Assembly; and finally, to begin a discernment process for the election of new leadership. As we did at Techny in 2017, in 2021 we drafted a brief statement that helped us in the discernment process.

In addition to these various gatherings, the two provincial councils have been meeting regularly to guide the provinces into the new creation. We outlined a discernment process for the upcoming elections, which included a third gathering in St. Louis in February 2022 for a discernment retreat, worked with a facilitator to prepare for a pastoral plan-
(Continued on page 72)

Where We've Been, Where We're Going

(Continued from page 71)

ning process in the future, and handled the regular day-to-day work of the councils.

There has been significant work done to get us to this point. Dialogue, discernment, Zoom meetings, district meetings, reviewing policies and statutes, gatherings in St. Louis, all of these have helped us get to where we are. And much of this was done in the midst of the pandemic.

I share this with you because if we concentrate on all of these steps, which were necessary, we might fail to see the bigger picture. We can miss the forest for the trees. When we gathered in Techny in 2017, our goal was not to work on policies and statutes. When we

gathered in St. Louis, we were not just putting together new corporation documents. Certainly, a lot of tasks have been accomplished, but the reason why we embarked on this journey was so that we could be more effective in our mission.

At Techny we said, "We believe that this new creation, in the form of a single province, will provide us with the energy, creativity and vitality

to share our spirituality in our changing context. As a new creation we will continue our mission of the proclamation of the Word, the renewal of the Church, and the ministry of reconciliation."

And last year in St. Louis we said, "We are missionary disciples of reconciliation and renewal, embodying the vision of the Second Vatican Council."

(Continued on page 85)



Community Notes

Assignments

Fr. Leon Flaherty, C.P.P.S., assigned to St. Charles Center for retirement, effective September 1, 2022.

Fr. Benjamin Berinti, C.P.P.S., pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Melbourne Beach, Fla., and St. Joseph Church, Palm Bay, Fla., for six years, effective July 1, 2022.

Fr. Timothy Knepper, C.P.P.S., parochial vicar of St. Joseph Church, Palm Bay, Fla., for four years, effective August 1, 2022.

Fr. Frankline Rayappa, C.P.P.S., parochial vicar of St. Joseph Church, Palm Bay, Fla., for four years, effective August 1, 2022.

Gregory Evers, C.P.P.S., St. Augustine Church, Cleveland, for a summer assignment, effective July 1–August 15, 2022.

Fr. Matthew Jozefiak, C.P.P.S., parochial vicar of Northwest 8 Family of Parishes (Marion Catholic Community, Minster, and New Bremen) for four years, effective July 1, 2022.

Fr. William Stang, C.P.P.S., assigned to regular sacramental assistance for the Dayton parishes for one year, effective July 1, 2022.

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 at the provincial office for forms.

Business

The IRS mileage rate is 58.5 cents per mile.

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 or mail to Cincinnati C.P.P.S. Newsletter, 431 E. Second St., Dayton OH 45402-1764

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Gregory Evers to be Ordained a Deacon

Gregory Evers, C.P.P.S., will be ordained to the transitional diaconate on Saturday, August 20 at 11 a.m. EDT in Assumption Chapel at St. Charles Center, Carthagen, Ohio. Archbishop Dennis Schnurr of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will preside.

Greg graduated from Catholic Theological Union on May 26.

He recently completed a Bible study trip with a group from CTU and had a profound experience in Jerusalem.

"There was a moment when our group was outside of the old city looking out at the Mount of Olives," he said. "It became real for me how small the Incarnation really was, not in its implication for us, but in the humanity of Jesus. The whole area where Jerusalem is built is very hilly, almost mountainous. It occurred to me

how small God had to become in order to take on our own being and to dwell among us."

Greg is now on another journey, as he heads first to St. Augustine, Cleveland, for a month, then ordination then service as a deacon at St. James the Less Church in Columbus.

Ordination brings on a sense of excitement but also nervousness, he said.

"Excitement because I'm moving on to something new other than another set of classrooms and that the assignment I am headed to has a good community. I'm also excited to finally just get out into the field and start working and building relationships with people and applying what I have learned.

"Nervousness because I am transitioning from the classroom into a setting where I will be a very public figure and be in a position of leadership. It's



Greg Evers in front of the Agora in Athens.

a position I have never had before. There is also the fear that I have to be the perfect minister and that I have to be all things for all people. I try to remind myself that it will take time to live into this new identity as a minister and that I will make mistakes from time to time, and that's okay."



Sr. Mūmbi Professes Final Vows as CPPS Sister

Sr. Mūmbi Kīgūtha, CPPS, professed final vows as a member of the Sisters of the Precious Blood during a liturgy on April 23 at the chapel at Salem Heights, the religious community's central house in Dayton.

Several of Sr. Mūmbi's family and friends attended the ceremony and celebrations, as did sisters from across the U.S. and Guatemala. Readings and songs during the Mass were conducted in Kikuyu and Swahili as well as English, and a choir in Kenya participated in the liturgy virtually.

Sr. Mūmbi grew up in Njoro, a small town in Kenya, where her mother was a professor at Egerton University and

her father worked as a doctor.

Serving currently as the organizing secretary for the Pan-African Catholic Theology and Pastoral Network, she is engaged in activism, public speaking and writing on various social justice issues.

Sr. Mūmbi also serves as a reconciliation consultant for organizations such as Jesuit Refugee Services.

She also serves on the board of trustees of Catholic Theological Union, a leading Roman Catholic graduate school of theology in Chicago. She is the first woman religious graduate of CTU to be appointed to the board.



Sr. Mūmbi Kīgūtha

PBSI Board Meets to Dream and Plan

Board Sets Priorities for the Institute's Initial Year

Bill Nordenbrock, C.PP.S.

The board of directors of the Precious Blood Spirituality Institute (PBSI) gathered for its first annual planning retreat on April 19–20 at St. Benedict Inn in Beech Grove, Ind. The board members represent the three sponsoring congregations, the Sisters of the Precious Blood (Dayton), the Adorers of the Blood of Christ and the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. This new collaborative ministry was created to coordinate the efforts of the congregations to share our unique charisms as facets of the universal gift of a spirituality of the Precious Blood.

Our planning process focused around these two questions: What is the fruitfulness and success of PBSI that we hope we will see five years from now? To begin to realize that vision, what are the priorities for our first year?

We had an engaging and enthusiastic discussion in which we fearlessly articulated a bold vision of a dynamic ministry and a hopeful dream of how we will be a catalyst for renewal and reconciliation. Bringing together the shared efforts of our members and associates, we want to foster communion in a fractured Church. We want to be a motivator for solidarity with the marginalized of society and coordinate an active and compassionate response to their

needs. Through our partnership with Catholic Theological Union and as a resource to our international membership, we will have a worldwide impact.

I share just two of our first-year priorities. We recognize that a spirituality of the Precious Blood is multifaceted and through the unique contribution of our founders, different charisms or expressions of the spirituality have flourished. One goal for this first year will be to foster a greater awareness and appreciation of these unique charisms and through dialogue begin to weave a tapestry that fashions an articulation of Precious Blood spirituality.

A second priority is that we want to bring the healing power of the Blood of Christ to a fractured Church. We will develop a program for pastors and parochial staffs that offers them both spiritual support and practical tools for parochial ministry in these difficult ecclesial times.

A final and important part of our gathering was the opportunity for the board to meet and work with Vicky Otto. Vicky has accepted the position of executive director and she will formally begin in this position on July 1, the Feast of the Precious Blood. We used time at this gathering to dialogue about the desired working relationship and some practical concerns as she transitions into her position. We ended the retreat in prayerful gratitude for our time together and by blessing and commissioning Vicky as our newest partner in this ministry.

The board of directors is comprised of two representatives appointed by the three member congregations. The Precious Blood Sisters of Dayton appointed Sr. Karen Elliott, CPPS, and Phil Hartke, their director of finance. The Adorers of the Blood of Christ appointed Sr. Diana Rawlings, ASC, and Sr. Maria Hughes, ASC. The Missionaries of the Precious Blood appointed Fr. David Kelly, C.PP.S., and Sr. Joni Belford, CPPS, a Precious Blood sister of O'Fallon, Mo.

As interim executive director, Fr. Bill Nordenbrock, C.PP.S., is an ex officio board member until Vicky Otto takes office. The board of directors met for the first time in December and will meet quarterly going forward. The board will meet with the presidents of the three congregations annually.



**Applications
are available
for the 2022–23
Fr. Brunner
Peace and Justice grants
on our website,
cpps-preciousblood.org.
Applications
are available
in English and Spanish.
Application deadline
is July 1.**

“To Be a More Welcoming Presence”

Vicky Otto Prepares For New Role With PBSI

The newly formed Precious Blood Spirituality Institute (PBSI) has a lot to offer to people of faith, says its newly appointed executive director, Vicky Otto. One of the most valuable might be creating a space where people can meet each other in a place where all are valued, all can speak freely about their faith, and all feel accepted as children of God.

“Our first dreams are, how do we begin to look at where we are as a community and as a Church today,” said Otto, who will assume her new role with the PBSI on July 1. “Let’s face it, we’re in a hot mess. We need a place for people to talk and share stories. We need to talk to the people who are walking away—we want to hear why. We need to help rebuild those relationships.”

Drawing people near is an important part of Precious Blood spirituality, she said: “We as a Church need to have a more welcoming presence. Your local (church) community might be doing quite well, but we need to challenge ourselves to look around and see who’s not there.”

Congratulations to Vicky Otto, who on May 21 graduated with her doctor of ministry degree from Fordham University.

Welcoming those who feel estranged, offering reconciliation to those who suffer from the divisions in our Church and our society, giving ministers a place where they can feel encouraged and enlivened: those are some of the goals of the new institute. Otto will work alongside the PBSI board, made up of representatives from the three founding congregations, the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, the Sisters of the Precious Blood and the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

Priorities for PBSI’s first year include: fostering a greater awareness and appreciation of the charisms of the congregations that share Precious Blood spirituality; and developing a program for pastors and parochial staffs that offers them support for parochial ministry in these difficult ecclesial times.

The PBSI does not yet have a physical office—Otto will work out of her home in Kansas City “until we figure out what’s needed,” she said. Its programs may be offered in several locations to reach as many people as possible.

Otto, who for the past eight years was the director of Companions (lay associates) for the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, said she will also place a priority on visiting the mission sites of the sponsoring congregations. “I want to reach out to the Adorers and the CPPS sisters to get to know them



Vicky Otto (far right) with newly covenanted Companions in 2016.

better,” she said.

She will also be working with the Catholic Theological Union (CTU), which is the host institution of the PBSI at CTU. “I imagine a lot of trips back and forth to Chicago,” to CTU’s campus in Hyde Park, she said.

A native of Tucson, Otto has worked for parishes and for religious congregations. She is equally comfortable talking with bishops, religious, and lay people—and academics. Otto recently completed her doctor of ministry degree from Fordham University. She also holds an MBA from Golden Gate University in San Francisco.

She resisted the doctorate program because she didn’t want to write a dissertation, she said. But she got enough nudges from the Holy Spirit that eventually she said, “Okay, God, I guess you want me to do this.” Her dissertation, on a topic she knows well, is “The Changing Role of Lay Associates in the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.”

Ultimately, she said, “I felt like I needed to do this because I have more to say, and as a lay (Continued on page 84)

Presenting a Merciful Face to the World

Missionaries of Mercy Sent by Pope Francis

In one sense, all Missionaries of the Precious Blood, just by the nature of their charism, are missionaries of mercy. But in 2016, Pope Francis opened the door to priests becoming a Missionary of Mercy, taking on a special role in the Church. And now, that opportunity has been extended to even more priests who are nominated by their religious superior for this role.

"Pope Francis sees this as a way to present the merciful face of the Church to the world, as a way of evangelizing," said Fr. Steve Dos Santos, C.P.P.S., who is one of four Missionaries of Mercy in the Cincinnati Province. Pope Francis first commissioned the Missionaries of Mercy in 2016, when he proclaimed the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Those original Missionaries of Mercy were recommissioned in 2018, if they wished to retain the title and its faculties. Now, Pope Francis has extended the role—and is allowing other priests to join their ranks.

"When he addressed us in 2018, after he'd made the decision to extend the faculty into perpetuity, he told us that we are ambassadors for Christ. That's the image that Francis uses when he describes a Missionary of Mercy. And that's what Missionaries of the Precious Blood are," Fr. Dos Santos said. "There's a natural connection to who we already are as Missionaries of the Pre-

cious Blood."

Other current Missionaries of Mercy in the Cincinnati Province are Frs. Tim Knepper, Yuri Kuzara and Kevin Scalf.

Earlier this spring, Fr. Dos Santos was one of 400 Missionaries of Mercy to attend a meeting in Rome. "One of the things that was emphasized

was to use the faculty abundantly," he said. "We are to be like the father of the Prodigal Son, and forgive abundantly."

For him, the role of Missionary of Mercy has meant "trying to be more present and more compassionate in the confessional," he said. "Just as we take time to prepare for preaching, I try to take time to prepare for being in the confessional. To me, that is what being a Missionary of Mercy is all about."

This is both spiritual and practical; like many confessors, Fr. Steve notes an uptick in people confessing a weakness for pornography. "This is a huge plague—pornography is a pandemic right now," said Fr. Steve, who attended a four-day clergy-intensive workshop organized by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to help those who are working with people struggling with a pornography addiction.

"For me as a confessor, that means reading, studying, learning about this phenomenon, and trying to find the



Fr. Steve Dos Santos, right, with Br. Juan Acuña and Greg Evers in Rome this spring.

best practices so that both your counsel and your penance is actually helpful. Seeing this great need, and learning what I can to help address that need—it's no different than how a preacher looks out at the world in which he lives and the community that he serves as he asks, 'How does this Scripture speak to us today?'"

Regardless of what sins people are confessing, Fr. Steve said that as a Missionary of Mercy he tries to bring a compassionate attitude with him into the confessional. "It can be as simple as reminding yourself to smile in the confessional," he said. "I try to sound happy when I say the words of absolution—in the hopes that even those who are on the other side of a screen can hear the happiness in my voice."

He enters gladly into the role of confessor, and especially as a Missionary of Mercy. He urges other C.P.P.S. priests to consider it. "This program of Pope Francis ties in with our spirituality and our charism in (Continued on page 85)

God Does Not Give Up on What God Begins

William O'Donnell, C.P.P.S.

The first book of the Bible is the book of Genesis, and the first story in the book of Genesis is the great story of creation where God makes all things in seven days. The last book of the Bible is the book of Revelation, and the last great scene in the book of Revelation is the second reading for the fifth Sunday of Easter. In it the apostle John beholds a new heaven and a new earth.

This is an image of a new creation where evil is eliminated, where there is no more death or crying out or mourning or pain. These two stories in Genesis and Revelation frame the Bible with creation and a new creation. This framing tells us something very

important about God. But if we are going to understand that truth, we must first understand in what sense is the new creation new.

Within a few weeks the Missionaries of the Precious Blood will begin a new chapter in our service to the Church and God's people. We will initiate the life of the United States Province and elect leadership to show us the way forward guided, we believe, by the Holy Spirit.

As we have planned and discussed and met over this new creation, many have asked, and rightfully so, what is new about the new creation? The last 20 years in our life together has been difficult and challenging. All the metrics we traditionally have used to measure our life together in ministry and to inspire our future have grown ambiguous and left us questioning our future. Lack of vocations, an aging and shrinking membership and letting go of many of our ministries have taken a toll on all of us.

The new creation we speak of and hope for at this moment is not new in the sense that God is giving us another creation or an alternate creation. It is new in the sense that God takes this creation, the original creation, and transforms and renews it.

The story then is a story of God's faithfulness to what God has made. This is what we learn about God from the frame that holds the Bible

together. God does not give up on what God begins. Since God has made all things, God remains faithful to all things. God is committed to transform life as it is given to us into the kingdom of God.

If we can accept this vision that Genesis and Revelation form around the Bible, it can and should change the way we live and plan for the future. If our world, if this creation, is not only made by God but also has a future and is moving toward a new creation then everything about the journey should be respected. We cannot hide or deny the doubts and fears with which radical change confronts us, no matter how strong our faith or visionary our outlook. Some of us welcome with enthusiasm the future and the changes the times will require. Some hold on to the past with determination. And most of us are somewhere in the middle. But as men and women of faith, we are called to trust God and to live the transparent hope the risen Lord makes possible. The times require it if we are to embrace the future not with desperation but joy.

My training as a hospital chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Chicago was a cherished time in my formation that I remember with joy and gratitude. On a fall Monday afternoon, a truck driver was brought into the emergency room after a crash on the Dan Ryan Expressway. The accident was caused
(Continued on page 85)

We offer *The Forum* for Newsletter readers to share their views on topics related to faith. The opinions printed here are those of individuals and are not necessarily shared by the province. We invite others to respond to these essays, or write on topics of their own. All submissions must share a tone of respect for the Church, for our Community, and for each other. Submissions should be **800 words or less**.

Send submissions to cppscommunications@gmail.com or to Editor Jean Giesige, 431 E. Second St., Dayton, OH 45402-1764.

“The Shepherd Will Lay Down his Life for his Sheep”

The Short Life and Sacrificial Death of Fr. Richard Schwieterman, C.PP.S.

Following is the fourth installment of the account of the death of Fr. Richard Schwieterman, C.PP.S., whose shocking murder took place in Minster, Ohio, where he had been named pastor of St. Augustine Church shortly before he was killed. His heroic outreach—even at great personal risk—to one who certainly was suffering from addiction and mental anguish is marked in this, the 100th anniversary of his death in 1922. This history was written by Fr. David A. Hoying, C.PP.S., who researched and synthesized many newspaper accounts of the day to bring Fr. Schwieterman’s story to light. This is the final installment.

Part Four: Redemption in the Aftermath

In the weeks and days before the commencing of the trial of Charles Piening for the murder of Fr. Richard Schwieterman, C.PP.S., on February 14, 1922, and even after it began, sentiments about Charles and the trial were expressed in the local newspapers.

All the statements were spiteful of Charles. The papers demanded Charles be met with the full force of the punishment merited by his crime. It was stated his crime was clearly premeditated, citing as reasons: Charles was angry with Fr. Richard for being spurned, Charles was not actually sick and had no need for a priest, he demanded that Fr. Richard not postpone his visit, and his weapons were loaded and

waiting.

Others claimed Charles’ outrageous behavior and his playing dumb were ruses to deflect from his actual intentions, for he was adept at “playing possum” to fool others.

Many held the belief Charles was no crazier than anyone else. Some

hoped the jury would not be taken in by him and would be intelligent enough to read between his lines.

In the end, it was agreed Charles was a bad man because he willed to be bad.

The Trial Begins

The trial began on Monday, April 17, in the Auglaize County Court of Common Pleas, with Judge Fernando Coello Layton presiding. The prosecuting attorney was Karl Timmermeister. He was assisted by Lawrence Brodbeck of St. Marys, who was hired by some Minster residents to ensure justice was accomplished. The lawyer for the defense was Roy Everett Layton. Although he was the son of the presiding judge, Attorney Layton was not made to recuse himself.

Layton had been adjutant



Auglaize County Courthouse, built in 1894, where Charles Piening’s trial was held.

general for the State of Ohio in Columbus and had just returned to Wapakoneta to practice law. Layton took upon himself the gallant task to save Charles’ life, for conviction of first-degree murder entailed a death sentence.

The court had first to seat a jury. A venire of 36 candidates had been called up. Of the questions asked each candidate, two were of note: what was their religious practice and what was their attitude toward the death penalty? How the last question was answered determined who sat on the jury. Those not supporting the death penalty were quickly excused. A jury of 12 was empaneled, with two women and ten men. None of the jurors were Catholic and none were from Minster. Calling of the witnesses began at 3:30 p.m.

The prosecution tried

mightily to prove Charles had murdered Fr. Richard with malice, deliberateness and premeditation, using the reasons cited above. Charles was sedate during questioning, but his testimony was often disjointed and he most frequently stated he had no memory concerning what was asked.

Charles' full testimony was printed in the newspapers. Of that testimony the newspapers opined: Charles attempted to show the jury he was not mentally responsible. "As is common with bad men," the newspapers further explained, they lay the blame on others instead of themselves.

The defense countered this reasoning, saying that even as Charles admitted firing the shotgun that killed Fr. Richard, he could not be held mentally responsible and legally accountable for the murder. Layton said there was such a combination of circumstances that had come upon Charles. Because of drinking the poison known as hootch, Charles was a wrecked and destroyed man. However, drinking hootch was not the cause of his mental collapse and temporary insanity. He was ill, plagued by hallucinations and delusions, because he stopped drinking! He was suffering the effects of alcohol withdrawal.

The defense called as an expert witness Dr. William H. Pritchard, an alienist (a psychiatrist who specializes in the legal aspects of psychiatry, such as determining insanity) at the Columbus Asylum for the Insane. Dr. Pritchard testified as to Charles' state of mind. Delirium tremens was the most severe manifestation of alcohol withdrawal, being more dangerous and lethal than intoxication itself. This

condition caused for the victim intense perceptual disturbances, as Charles experienced.

The Jury Deliberates

After a week of testimony, the jury began deliberation a little past 11 a.m. on Friday. The deliberation lasted six hours and for most of it, the jury was divided. Only at the very end, at 5:15 p.m., was there unanimity.

It was announced a verdict had been reached, and it was returned to court at 5:50 p.m. Charles was convicted of first-degree murder, with no recommendation for mercy. On the second indictment, a verdict of not guilty was rendered.

Of his conviction the newspapers related: "the state demanded Charles Piening's life as a recompense for the life of another," and the jury had decided this demand be respected.

The following Monday, Charles' lawyer, Roy Layton, filed an appeal, asking the verdict to be vacated and Charles be retried. Charles was going nowhere, and the electric chair remained cold. Some of the reasons Layton gave for the appeal were: the verdict was not sustained by the evidence, which was insufficient; the verdict was contrary to the evidence and to the law; the court erred in rejecting the defendant's evidence, and in admitting the plaintiff's evidence; and it erred in charging the jury. Besides further errors of law, there was also new evidence. The appeal was admitted, and the hearing scheduled for May 18.

At the Appeal

The appeal hearing in the Court of Common Pleas on

May 18 moved swiftly, and its conclusion overwhelmed those supporting the verdict of guilty. Judge Layton presided over this hearing, as his son, the attorney, waltzed with the law. Judge Layton ruled in favor of the appeal, setting aside the verdict, and ensuring a new trial for Charles. The judge said the evidence given at trial was insufficient to support the allegation of deliberation and premeditation, and therefore could not sustain the verdict of first-degree murder.

Moving quickly, Attorney Layton asked the court's permission for Charles to change his plea from not guilty to guilty, and he also asked for the court to wave the holding of another trial by jury. This was accepted by Judge Layton, and it fell upon him to pass judgment on Charles. Judge Layton convicted Charles of second-degree murder. T his verdict entailed imprisonment, and even the possibility of parole.

Judge Layton spoke to Charles from the bench. As Charles stood, he asked Charles if he had anything to say. Charles answered he did not do it intentionally, and then was silenced by his lawyer. Judge Layton told Charles that even though his life spared, he would never again be a free man. The judge admonished Charles to properly use his prison sentence and make peace with his Maker. Charles was informed there were many spiritual services available in prison of which he could avail himself in preparing to meet his God. Judge Layton said to Charles in closing, may God have mercy on your soul.

If his plan had not worked, Attorney Layton had a supple-
(Continued on page 84)

Caring Adults Make All the Difference

Dave Kelly, C.P.P.S.

During June, we celebrate and honor all those who are fathers, grandfathers and all men who take on the responsibility of being a caring adult in someone's life. In a community where too many fathers are unable to provide for their children, we especially honor the men—young and old—who are shining examples of commitment and care for their children and their community.

Having been raised by a strong and loving father, I know the impact of having a strong male who is always there to care for and love his children without question. Children should not have to earn love; but simply be loved and cared for. They need an unconditional love—even and especially when they mess up. And as someone who has “raised” several young people myself, I know that authentic fatherly love is not always easy. It has been one of the hardest things I have ever done, but certainly is one of the most rewarding.

I see this unconditional care and support in our men of PBMR. Our mentors spend countless hours building and strengthening relationships with our youth. This type of accompaniment is the cornerstone of our work. In these mentor-mentee relationships, I see the relentless love of authentic fatherhood, an unfailing

caring presence even amidst life's bumps and bruises. They are there for the youth unquestioningly: from cheering at a Saturday night basketball game, to hospital visits, to drop-offs and pick-ups, to ensuring kids get to school in the morning.

I think of Mac, our youth mentor coordinator. Mac works with other mentors to ensure every youth has a caring adult in his or her corner. (You can never have enough!) This winter, three of our youth were shot on their walk home after helping out at a neighborhood church.

All three survived, but the youngest was shot three times in his legs, shattering his femur bone. The hospital patched him up and returned him home to heal, but ordered no physical therapy or follow up. Before the shooting, he was one of the best players on the basketball court, and months after, he was limping in pain, unable to run on the court.

Mac recognized the toll it took on him—not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually as well. Basketball was more than just a pastime; it was something that kept him focused and resilient to trauma while growing up on the south side of Chicago.

After seeking help from the hospital, Mac proposed that PBMR help him get access to the physical therapy he

needed. When we proposed this plan to the youth, his face lit up. Just the prospect that he might regain



PBMR mentors, so essential to PBMR youth, ready for a special event.

some of the movement that the bullets took from him gave him hope. And so, for the past six weeks, the two have been religiously attending sessions together. And his body is responding, his condition is improving, and his spirits are lifting.

A caring adult makes all the difference.

I am sure that every staff member would say that our youth are our treasure. And so there was no missing the excitement when five of our mentors and five of our youth were invited to attend a black-tie event for Black men of all ages. For weeks leading up to the event, they were preparing—getting measured for their suits, picking out their ties and wondering what's up with these shoes—to their dismay, formal wear doesn't include Nike shoes!

A few days before the big
(Continued on page 85)



Precious Blood
Ministry of Reconciliation

PBMR Receives Berrigan-McAlister Award

At PBMR, Voices Of the Community Can Be Heard

The Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation (PBMR), one of the ministry sites of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, is the 2022 recipient of the Berrigan-McAlister Award from DePaul University in Chicago. Created last year, the award honors those whose acts of Christian nonviolence—like those practiced by Fr. Daniel Berrigan, S.J., Phillip Berrigan and Elizabeth McAlister—that resist injustice, transform conflict, foster reconciliation and seek justice and peace for all.

The award was presented at the university on May 10. Fr. David Kelly, C.P.P.S., PBMR's executive director, accepted the award.

PBMR, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, is recognized as an innovator in nonviolent conflict resolution; de-escalation of street violence and cycles of retribution; and work with victims, offenders and their neighbors in mending and reintegrating communities.

The organization brings together community members and advocates in working to provide peaceable solutions and healing, especially for youth and young adults, mothers and families, and formerly incarcerated citizens. PBMR's approach focuses on providing radical hospitality, hope and healing that creates safe spaces for persons affected by violence while nurturing healing within their communities.

"Peacemaking, reconciliation and personal and communal restoration are fundamental to the vision of gospel nonviolence," said Michael L. Budde, chair of the Berrigan-McAlister Award committee and a professor in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

"The slow, patient and demanding work done by everyone associated with the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation happens away from media attention and publicity, helping to address both the causes and consequences of violence in Chicago."

Bill Cavanaugh, a professor of Catholic studies at DePaul, presented the award. "The Missionaries of the Precious Blood were founded in Italy two centuries ago with a devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus. Such a devotion in the Catholic world may seem outdated now—but the PBMR has made a concrete connection between the Precious Blood of Jesus and the blood shed in some of our most neglected neighborhoods," he said.

In accepting the award, Fr. Kelly said that the PBMR "strives to create a place where the voices of the community can be heard. We link with other communities so that our collected voice is more powerful and people begin to listen."

Accompanying Fr. Kelly to the award presentation was Joe Montgomery of the PBMR staff. He visited the PBMR often as a youth, he said. "I was 13 or 14, and I was lost. I was sad, negligent, disobedient. I went to see Fr. Kelly because his name was ringing through the streets, 'Fr. Kelly is a great man!' I

thought I would give him a try. Let's see what's up with him.

"So I took a leap of faith. I came in (to perform) community service, expecting to wash walls or clean streets. I came in (to the PBMR) and there was a white man sitting there who said, 'I'm Fr. Kelly.'"

Expecting to be put to work, Montgomery was surprised by what happened next. "He shocked me by asking, 'What do you want to do today?' He took us all out to eat. He gave me a whole different way of thinking, about how things could be better for someone, rather than making them do something they didn't want to do."

After his community service, he asked Fr. Kelly for a job. "He stuck with me in good times, bad times and in between. Whatever I had going on in life, he never judged me. Not just me, but my brothers, my family, my community. (At PBMR), they don't judge. They took the time to walk with us."

That's how it works, Fr. Kelly said. "We're there to walk with them (the people of the community), accompany them. We are on a mutual journey," he said.

"They take the lead; I'm there to support them. It's not about me telling them what to do. It's about creating spaces and places where a mutual relationship can happen, then we walk together, with the young person taking the lead."



Don't Stop Praying for Vocations

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

We talk a lot about praying for vocations. I know some people will say that we've been praying for vocations for decades, and it doesn't seem to have helped. Like anything that we do over and over again, it is easy for the words to lose their meaning. I hope to encourage you to keep praying for vocations, and maybe even to do so with some renewed vigor.



C.P.P.S.
for
Tomorrow

VOCATION MINISTRY

First, it bears saying that vocations are from God. God is the one who made us, and God is the one who calls. No amount of prayer will ever change God's plan for someone. I would add that I don't believe that the problem is that God isn't calling enough people. Rather, we have forgotten how to listen. That's why the Church has talked over the last ten years about creating a culture of vocations. We need to create parishes where young people are able to hear God's call. And I believe that part of that is hearing about vocations often enough that it is always in the air. One way we do that is through prayer.

A couple of years ago, I prepared a list of over 80 sample intercessions that could be used by our parishes. The goal was to give parishes options when it comes to the intercessions, so that it wasn't the same line being read week after

week. Introducing some variety keeps it fresh in people's minds. And for some people, a different wording may strike them in a particularly strong way that the previous wording didn't. It is possible that someone might be stirred to begin discerning simply by the words they hear in a particular intercession or prayer.

Some dioceses have mandated the use of a common vocations prayer at parish meetings or in the context of the Eucharist. This serves two purposes. It keeps the need ever present before the Lord, and it keeps it ever present before us as a people. I would particularly encourage parish groups and families to include vocations as a part of your prayer time at every meeting. If you want a prayer that your parish group could say at every meeting, might I suggest the Prayer for Precious Blood Vocations. Contact me at the office, and I will be happy to send you a supply of the prayer cards.

Often, diocesan vocations prayers speak of all of the vocations, not just the priesthood or religious life. We also have a crisis when it comes to sacramental marriage. Prayers for vocations really should speak to all the vocations, priesthood, religious life, marriage and consecrated singleness.

I've already said that I don't believe that our prayers can change God's mind, so a good approach to praying for vocations is to pray for people or groups. If you think John would make a great priest, by all means tell God that, but also pray for John that he might

discover God's will for him. Similarly, don't just pray for priests, brothers, and sisters, but pray for the young people of your parish to discover their vocation.

However you pray, I would encourage every individual to reflect on how they pray for vocations, and to consider making a concrete commitment to praying for vocations in some specific way. Whether you choose to recite a specific prayer every day or to offer a daily rosary, it all helps. Whether you pray for an individual or for all your parish, or just for the Missionaries or the sisters, it's all good. What's most important is that we pray.



Prayer for Precious Blood Vocations

*Lord God, you called
St. Gaspar del Bufalo
to renew the Church through
the ministry of the Word and
the proclamation
of our salvation in
Christ's Precious Blood.
Ignite in the hearts of young
men today a passion
and desire to become
ambassadors of reconciliation
as Missionaries of
the Precious Blood.
Give them the courage and
generosity of spirit to say "Yes"
to your call and live a life of
missionary discipleship in
service of your Church. We ask
this in the name of Jesus, who
shed his Precious Blood for us.
Amen*

In Memoriam

ETERNAL REST GRANT
UNTO THEM, O LORD

Fr. Joseph Rodak, C.P.P.S.

July 24, 1934—
May 18, 2022

Fr. Joseph Rodak, C.P.P.S., 87, died on May 18, 2022, in the infirmary of St. Charles Center, Carthage, Ohio. He had moved to St. Charles on May 9, due to failing health.

He was born on July 24, 1934, in Cleveland, to Peter and Victoria (Masuga) Rodak. He entered the Congregation in 1949 at Brunnerdale, the Missionaries' former high school seminary in Canton, Ohio. He was ordained on June 9, 1962. He died just 22 days before his 60th ordination anniversary.

Fr. Rodak had many ministries during his nearly 60 years as a priest. After ordination, he served as a chaplain at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Dayton, before enrolling in graduate courses at John Carroll University. In 1965, he was assigned to Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind., where he was an instructor and director of seminarians.

After taking additional coursework, Fr. Rodak was assigned to Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, Ind., in 1973. He was active in retreat and renewal ministry from 1986–90 then returned to Saint Joseph's College as a visiting professor of television beginning in 1990. In 1998, he was a chaplain at St. Margaret Mercy Healthcare Centers in Whiting.

Fr. Rodak was appointed the parish administrator of St. Mark Church in Cincinnati in 1999. He returned to hospital

chaplaincy in 2000.

In retirement, he lived at the Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue, Ohio, and at Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Cleveland.

He is survived by a brother, Jerome, of Parma, Ohio; and a sister, Agnes Wachs, Montana; numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Fr. Roman Rodak, C.P.P.S.; Anthony Rodak and his wife Patricia; Andrew, Peter and Leo Rodak; his sisters and their spouses, Alice and Ted Martin, Mary and George Kassimer, Therese and Robert Morrison, and Victoria and Frank Recker; and a brother-in-law, Perry Wachs.

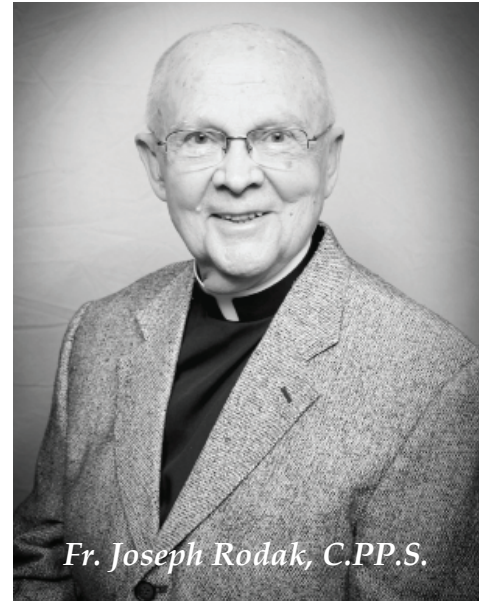
While he spent more time as a teacher and a chaplain, Fr. Rodak had a pastor's heart. He enjoyed talking with people and hearing their viewpoints, taking it all in. He had a piercing, insightful expression and a sharp memory. He enjoyed telling stories, which served him well in all his ministries.

He was also a family man—family connections were always important to him. He was "Uncle Joe" to his nieces and nephews, to whom he offered his support and wisdom.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on May 24 in Assumption Chapel at St. Charles. Fr. Jeffrey Kirch, C.P.P.S., provincial director, presided and Fr. William O'Donnell, C.P.P.S., was the homilist.

Burial followed in the Community cemetery.

Memorial contributions



Fr. Joseph Rodak, C.P.P.S.

may be made to the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, Cincinnati Province.



Condolences

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

The family of **Companion Judi Lahart** (Albia, Iowa), who died on April 17.

The family of **Companion Ed Quistorff** (Central Missouri, Mo.), who died on April 30. Ed was the husband of Companion Lynda Quistorff.

The family of **Vern Schwieterman**, who died on May 4. Vern was the father of Br. Jerry Schwieterman, C.P.P.S.

The family of **Jean Schroeder**, who died on May 14. Jean was the sister-in-law of Fr. Ken Schroeder, C.P.P.S.

"The Shepherd Will Lay Down His Life"

(Continued from page 79)

mental motion. He could prove a juror had disqualified himself. Although the jurors swore to be free of holding any opinions about the crime, one of the male jurors had openly and frequently declared Charles to be guilty of the crime and he should be hanged.

Those wanting the death penalty for Charles felt the sting of the law. Among the sentiments they voiced were at least he is gone for good, and no one would weep if Charles spent the rest of his life behind bars. As Charles caused so much trouble in the community, they would now sleep peacefully at night.

Off to the Penitentiary

Charles was escorted to the penitentiary in Columbus on May 22, by Sheriff Ewing and a deputized Wapakoneta fireman, Harry Agenbroad. Charles was handcuffed to Harry. As Charles could take nothing into prison, he gifted his silver pocket-watch to Harry.

Charles would spend but five months in prison. At 6 p.m. on Monday, October 9, Charles was discovered dead in his bed. His cause of death was organic heart disease, more specifically, aortic insufficiency. His death was unexpected, but while still in Wapakoneta, Charles told Sheriff Ewing his heart was hurting him. It was conjectured Charles had been suffering from heart disease for many months.

Within those few months in prison, Charles was given a moment of grace. He repented of his crime, and he returned

to receiving the sacrament of the Church. He had listened to Judge Layton's admonition. His remarkable conversion was attributed to the intercession of Fr. Richard. Charles was buried in Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery on October 20. His brother John, one sister, and a few other family members were present for the burial.

Recounting the tragedy of the mortal shooting of a well-liked and zealous priest such as Fr. Richard, it would be thought, would leave one with a saddened heart. This is indeed true, but one is also left with a sense of hope. As much as Charles was despised in life and burdened with a disease, it would be thought one ought to have feelings of disgust for

him. However, there is also for him a sentiment of hope. Charles had his life returned to him, and was offered some sense of vindication, by the adept skills of his lawyer. But he was given an even greater gift of life through the intercession of Fr. Richard, his victim. By Fr. Richard's charity, he received the grace of repentance and returned to his Catholic faith.

For Fr. Richard, one ought to have a deep sense of gratitude and of admiration. Fr. Richard has set a wonderful example, for quietly and with dignity, he practiced what he preached. He, the shepherd, did indeed lay down his life for his sheep.



To Be a More Welcoming

(Continued from page 75)

woman in the Church, I'm not going to be heard unless I have letters after my name. In our first class at Fordham, the professor addressed us as theologians and we all looked around as if to say, 'Who is he talking about?' But he told us we have to get comfortable thinking of ourselves theologians and added, 'Your work is going to change the Church.'"

She is already comfortable with Precious Blood spirituality, which it will be her mission to promote through the PBSI. "I've experienced many forms of spirituality in my life," she said. "When I was introduced to Precious Blood spirituality, and I met people committed to the Precious Blood way of life, I knew it was what I'd been looking for."

She describes it as "a sense of hospitality, of inclusion, a knowledge that there is a circle of life and we are committed to ensuring that everyone has a place in that circle. It's not for a select few; it's for everyone."

Otto said she plans to remain a covenanted Companion with the Missionaries, and she is grateful for her eight years of leadership with the Companions movement. "I intend to be active in the Companions movement," she said. "I'm so grateful to every single Companion. They are a testament to living out Precious Blood spirituality, and I have learned so much from them—it's almost incomprehensible to measure it. It has truly been a privilege to walk with them over the last eight years."



Caring Adults Make All the Difference

(Continued from page 80)

day, a group of mentors were with their youth teaching them how to tie a necktie. This had all the aura of a serious endeavor. It took a minute—one time the tie was too long, another, too short. It was a rather comical display of patience. What touched me, though, was the intimacy and care demonstrated by the mentors for the youth around such a special moment.

The day came with a luncheon and a tour of Northern Illinois University (NIU). They then got ready for the evening's festivities, which included a very formal dinner. There was no hiding their enthusiasm as they told me about the evening, showing me picture after picture of the event.

Too often the narrative of Chicago's south side is one of violence. But there is another story as well. And it is a story of care and tenderness and love. I am struck by how available staff members are to those we are privileged to walk

Presenting

(Continued from page 76)

a very specific way, in a very specific time," he said. "It's a natural fit for who we are and what Pope Francis wants all priests to be. Missionaries of the Precious Blood should think about being Missionaries of Mercy because we already are. It's about preaching mercy, being a witness to the mercy of God, hearing confessions and celebrating God's mercy abundantly—that's who we are."



with. It is not easy; there can be some really tough moments, but there are laughs and joy as well. And ain't that life.

In the end, our youth want what every young person wants, which is to be loved and to feel as though they matter. I wish we had the ability to ensure that every young person had a Mac or Fred or Joe in their life. I wish all young people knew that they were loved for who they are, not for

what they could do.

Fathers' Day is about unconditional love—no strings attached. As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of PBMR, we are committed more now than ever to ensure our young people have that caring adult in their lives.

Many blessings to all fathers, grandfathers, uncles and all who live as guardians to our youth.



God Does Not Give Up

(Continued from page 77)

by a heart attack the driver experienced.

Upon his arrival and a brief examination, he was

pronounced dead, with the physician repeating the familiar but haunting words, "time of death..." As the driver's large family began to arrive at the emergency room in obvious shock, they demanded information as to his condition. When they were told he had died, there was a loud outcry of grief that, if I am honest, traumatized me. I simply stood in their midst, overwhelmed and silent.

The head nurse arrived on the scene and shouted, "Someone call the chaplain." I responded from the midst of the crowd, "I am the chaplain."

The head nurse with a burst of authority said, "THEN ACT LIKE ONE."

Given what we believe and the new creation that is emerging as God's faithfulness assures, then should we hear for ourselves what the nurse said to me on that fall Monday afternoon, "THEN ACT LIKE ONE." I am sure we all get the message.



Where

(Continued from page 72)

This has been a lengthy journey for everyone. As we look to the electoral assembly in a few weeks, we might be tempted to breathe a sigh of relief that we reached our destination. But we have not. At the assembly we will begin a new journey, a much more important journey. What we have done over the past six years has prepared us for our new journey. Our upcoming journey will be a transformative journey in which we become more effective in our mission of proclaiming the redeeming power of the Precious Blood. The journey will call on us to embody and share our spirituality in new ways. The journey will root our Community life firmly in the bond of charity. Let us remember to see the forest.





Missionaries Report

NEWS FROM OUR
MINISTRY SITES

Celebrations Mark Academic Year End

Benjamin Basile, C.PP.S.

On May 21, we marked the end of the academic year with commencement, held at St. John the Baptist Church, where 196 students received diplomas.



CRIMSON WAVE

April 30 marked the culmination of a week-long celebration of our 70 years. The 57th Annual Trustees Scholarship Celebration, virtual again this year, consisted of a series of on-line videos "Alumni Through the Decades."

The effort resulted in nearly \$100,000 in donations and a significant increase in social media engagement for CCSJ. To view these videos, go to ccsj.edu and scroll down to CCSJ Through the Decades.

The St. Gaspar's Honors Learning Community provides an exceptional educational experience to a diverse group of highly motivated undergraduate students. Participants are full-time undergraduate students committed to CCSJ's Five Pillars, with an ultimate focus on leadership, initiative and curiosity, while having fun along the way.

Students in the program perform at least 10 hours of service in the community each semester, with an eye toward

building a professional portfolio of experiences. They also participate in an honors seminar throughout each term, consisting of guest speakers and other activities, with a focus on current problems, and plot to slowly take over the world. Students receive a broad range of opportunities, including scholarships, international travel, community engagement, networking, academic challenge and leadership.

At the end of each academic year, honors students have the opportunity for travel as a group. Before pandemic restrictions, these trips were international. This year's trip was to Alaska. Fifteen students and four faculty/staff members, including Fr. Tim McFarland, C.PP.S., and Dr. Amy McCormack, CCSJ president, spent four days in May in our 49th state.

Activities included visits to a reindeer farm; the Anchorage Museum, a world-class museum that seeks to preserve, exhibit and interpret the art and history of Alaska; and the Iditarod Headquarters. They traveled twice through the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel, at 2.5 miles the longest highway tunnel in North America. They experienced the majestic alpine and tidewater glaciers in College and Hariman Fjord and magnificent views of Mount Denali (formerly Mount McKinley).

Participants were told to "keep your eyes open for eagles, moose, bear and beluga whales along the Turnagain Arm." They ended their activities by kayaking on the Susitna

River amid breathtaking views.

With the support of the Lilly Endowment, Inc., CCSJ will offer Tekton from July 25–29. Tekton is a summer media camp in graphic design and storytelling, serving high school students from Northwest Indiana and Chicago. The name "Tekton" is derived from the Indo-European root word meaning "to weave, fabricate, or join." The weeklong experience will consist of intensive training in digital and media literacy, Adobe Photoshop, and social justice for students interested in technology, digital art making, content creation, creative writing and game design.

At the camp, students will make new friends, build leadership skills and learn the basics of storytelling and making from professors and professionals in the film and media industries. CCSJ faculty members Tyler Bush, Mark Cassello and Janine Harrison will lead the camp and be assisted by a team of students currently majoring in digital and studio arts and English and media communications at CCSJ.

After a two-year COVID hiatus, the education department will again offer its summer enrichment math and reading program for students in grades 1–5. This free program will run June 27 to July 21. Breakfast and lunch are provided to students courtesy of School City of Hammond.

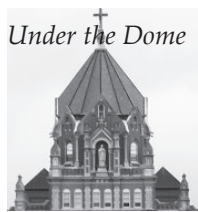
Students enrolled are from School City of Hammond elementary schools, St. John the Baptist (Whiting), St. Casimir (Hammond) and St. Stanislas
(Continued on page 88)

May Was Full of Happy Activities

Tim Cahill, C.P.P.S.

The month of May is a celebration month here at St. Charles! We started the month by celebrating Religious Brother's Day on May 1. We are lucky to have the six brothers here who carry out the day-to-day work at St. Charles Center: Brs. Theophane Woodall, Nick Renner, Charles McCafferty, Tim Cahill, Paul Chase and Jerry Schulte. We thank our Lord for such fine men who are willing to serve the Church.

We also celebrated four Marian holy days in May, including May 12, Mother of Mercy, a C.P.P.S.



Feast; May 13, Our Lady of Fatima; May 24, Help of Christians, a C.P.P.S. Feast; and May 31, Visitation. Feel

free to come and worship with us on feast days and always! And we did not forget our own mothers, as we celebrated Mother's Day on May 8.

Since COVID has died down, we have reopened our main chapel to visitors and removed the mandatory wearing of the mask. Attendance at our daily and Sunday Masses has increased in number! We also include the Precious Blood at Communion. However, the infirmery chapels remained closed to visitors.

Since we reopened to visitors, we have had an increase in requests for tours of our chapel. To date, we had held three tours at St. Charles. All requests came from the local parishes' religious education offices or

their youth groups.

On May 14, the Schnipke family treated the Community and lay residents of St. Charles to a chicken barbecue lunch. I have never tasted such delicious chicken in my entire life!

Thank you, Schnipke family, for treating us to a delicious dinner!

There is an old saying that "April showers bring May flowers," and this past April, we had heavy rains. However, due to those heavy April rains, we are now enjoying the beautiful flowers that are blooming on the grounds of St. Charles.

The farmers are busy in their fields, and the air has that "special" odor about it!

If you love history, you missed a great presentation by C.P.P.S. Frs. Joe Brown and Paul Wohlwend. On May 12, we were treated to an excellent PowerPoint presentation on the remodeling of St. Charles.

Thank you, Fr. Joe and Fr. Paul, for a job well done!

June is Vibrant At the Shrine

James Seibert, C.P.P.S.

June is such a vibrant time of year at the Sorrowful Mother Shrine. The numerous varieties of trees in our woods shoot forth multi-shaped leaves in many shades of green. The bushes are blooming and the annual flowers are bursting with a rainbow of colors. The



A crew of Schnipke family and friends turns chicken on the grill during a barbecue at St. Charles.
(Photo by Anthony Dugal)

natural beauty and peaceful quiet make God feel close enough to touch.



This spring, we are busy with needed repairs on the indoor chapel. The stone on the outside of the chapel had become porous and needed to be resealed. The plaster on portions of the inside walls needed scraped, re-plastered and repainted. Also, the large laminated beams on the outdoor chapel needed filled and repainted. Finally, we had all of the asphalt roads and driveways at the Mary Lay Home patched and resealed.

These projects are costly, but necessary to keep our grounds and facilities an inviting place to come and feel the quiet presence of God.

(Continued on page 88)

Thanks for Brunner Grant

Br. Tom Bohman, C.P.P.S., sent a report on how funds from his 2021–22 Fr. Brunner peace and justice grant were

Shrine

(Continued from page 87)

Lately, we are having success in attracting elementary and high schools to bring their students to the shrine for a day of recollection/reflection. It's a spiritual "shot in the arm" for the students and teachers, as well as introducing these youngsters to the Sorrowful Mother Shrine. We have received encouraging reviews from students, their parents and teachers.

Lastly, we are planning a C.P.P.S. Companion Sunday here at the shrine on July 24. We warmly invite all our Companions to join us for a day of prayer, food and camaraderie. Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S., will be our special presenter.



spent. Br. Tom was the sponsor for a \$5,000 grant that he entitled "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine." He thanked the Congregation for the grant, which is used to promote peace and justice at St. James the Less Parish in Columbus, where he is in ministry, "and for others who are part of sharing our mission."

Funds from the grant helped pay for religious textbooks in the parish school and its religious education program. The grant also helped pay for students to attend the weekend confirmation retreat.

The grant also helped support an urban retreat for parishioners of St. James the Less and St. Adalbert in Cleveland.

"We thank all those who provided the funds from the Missionaries of the Precious Blood," Br. Tom wrote.



The house at St. Charles celebrated the 68th ordination anniversary of Fr. Paul Wohlwend last month. The Missionaries' 2022 jubilarians will be honored at a liturgy on July 1. (Photo by Anthony Dugal)



Provincial Director's Calendar

June 13–16: Joint provincial assembly, Indianapolis.

June 22: CMSM meeting, via Zoom.

June 25: St. John the Baptist anniversary celebration, Whiting, Ind.



Community Calendar

July 24: Companion Day at the Sorrowful Mother Shrine, Bellevue, Ohio.

July 1: Feast of the Precious Blood and jubilarian celebra-

tion, St. Charles Center, Carthage, Ohio.

August 20: Diaconate ordination of Gregory Evers, C.P.P.S., St. Charles Center.

Crimson

(Continued from page 86)
(East Chicago).

This program has been in existence since 2003. Focus is on enrichment in SS/ELA (integrated reading approach) and math/science (STEM). There are 60 students currently enrolled.

On June 30, we will have the final celebration of our 70th anniversary year with a Family Fun Day and Celebrate New Year's Eve (fiscal year end). We will host a Family and Friends Day at the Mascot Hall of Fame in Whiting, and have a picnic, games, music and socializing in CCSJ Alumni Park.



The 2022 Joint Provincial Assembly will be held
June 13–16 in Indianapolis.

Days of Praise

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

Celebrating July Birthdays

- 3 Br. Nicholas Renner
- 8 Fr. Kenneth Pleiman
- 10 Fr. Leon Flaherty
Fr. Timothy Knepper
- 15 Fr. Richard Friebe
- 24 Fr. Alfons Minja
- 27 Fr. Jeffrey Kirch
- 28 Fr. Kenneth Alt
Fr. Fred Licciardi



*Happy
birthday,
Fr. Ken
Pleiman*



*Happy
birthday,
Fr. Tim Knepper*

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.

Celebrating July Anniversaries

- 1 Br. Timothy Cahill
Br. Terrence Nufer
Fr. Antonio Baus
- 2 Fr. Juan Gonzalez
- 4 Fr. Alfons Minja
- 8 Fr. James Smith
- 14 Fr. Anthony Fortman
- 22 Fr. Richard Friebe

JULY PRAYER LIST

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

June:
Teutonic Province
*Celebrating 100
years in 2022*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Br. Terrence Nufer | 17. Pray for those in formation |
| 2. Fr. William O'Donnell | 18. Br. Jerome Schulte |
| 3. Pray for vocations | 19. Br. Jerry Schwieterman |
| 4. Fr. Andrew O'Reilly | 20. Fr. James Seibert |
| 5. Fr. Patrick Patterson | 21. Br. Antonio Sison |
| 6. Fr. Mark Peres | 22. Fr. James Smith |
| 7. Fr. Kenneth Pleiman | 23. Fr. Jerome Stack |
| 8. Fr. Frankline Rayappa | 24. For living and deceased
Companions |
| 9. Br. Nicholas Renner | 25. Fr. William Stang |
| 10. For living and deceased
C.P.P.S. members | 26. Fr. Jerome Steinbrunner |
| 11. Br. Robert Reuter | 27. Fr. Donald Thieman |
| 12. Fr. Kevin Scalf | 28. Fr. Clarence Williams |
| 13. Br. Matthew Schaefer | 29. Fr. Vincent Wirtner |
| 14. Fr. Louis Schmit | 30. Fr. Paul Wohlwend |
| 15. Fr. Kenneth Schnipke | 31. For living and deceased
Amici |
| 16. Fr. Kenneth Schroeder | |

BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW



May God be with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood of the Cincinnati and Kansas City Provinces as they form a new United States Province this month.

*Thanks to Br. Paul Chase, C.P.P.S., for giving us a hand.
Look for Br. Paul's story in the July/August issue.*

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