

FALL 2022

# C P P S T O D A Y

MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD



## Celebrating Parish Life

C.P.P.S. Parishes  
Mark Special  
Anniversaries

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(*St. James the Less* photo by Fr. Antonio Baus, C.P.P.S.)

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# Faith Flows in and from Parishes

**W**e took on the task with trepidation: to talk about C.PP.S. parishes that are celebrating milestone anniversaries. There are so many great stories, so many years of faithful parish life, that we know we cannot do justice to them all.

We hope that you appreciate the scope of the ministry that goes on in these parishes, and in yours. Not only the prayer and song that are shared, but the truly incalculable volunteer hours committed to helping one another and those outside of the parish circle. In parish life, we celebrate the good times and support each other through the rough times. It is where many of us live out our Christian commitment.

Some people have a vision and can strike out on their own to help the people of God who are sick, hungry or alone. For many of us, this happens best when we are working in a framework that our parish has built over the years. Imagine all the good work that has been done, flowing out of a parish church.

For many, a life of faith begins with the Eucharist and with the sacraments, but those are not meant to be an end. They are the beginning, a place from which we go out into the world and help bring the Good News of God's reconciling love to all. We hope that our parishes are an example of places where faith turns into action.

That requires involvement from the laity. Parish life simply cannot happen without you. This is explored in a conversation with Eileen Givens, a Precious Blood Companion who is now the director of Companions for the United States Province. Companions are lay associates of the Missionaries. They work alongside us in ministry and share with us a lay perspective that helps inform the way we minister.

Eileen talks about her own life of faith. From a young age, she was encouraged to take part in parish life. Her large family was always involved in what was going on at church. Eileen brought that with her when she moved to Florida and joined St. Andrew Parish in Orlando. Eileen said yes to all sorts of volunteer opportunities at St. Andrew, including those that took her out of her comfort zone. In that way, she met people who have become an emotional support system for her and her family.

We hope this issue will help you appreciate everything that is going on at your own parish. We honor all the many ways that lay people contribute to the Church. God bless you all for your firm commitment to our faith.

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





# Celebrating Parish Life

*Several C.P.P.S. Parishes  
Mark Special Anniversaries*

At St. Joseph Church in Dayton,  
the party spills out into the street.



**Fr. Ken Pleiman chats with a festival-goer near St. Joseph's new parish life center.**

*Throughout the years,  
St. Joseph Parish has been  
an anchor in downtown  
Dayton, a steady beacon of  
faith and light.*

St. Joseph Church is an Italian Romanesque treasure in downtown Dayton. Its bells chime the hours for all to hear.

The present church was consecrated on the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19, 1911, by Archbishop Henry Moeller, though the parish had been formed long before then to serve the Irish Catholics of Dayton.

These days, the church looks out on a newly revitalized downtown Dayton scene; it is just blocks away from the ballpark of the Dayton Dragons, the city's minor league baseball team.

St. Joseph parishioners are enjoying the use of its first-ever parish life center,

completed in 2021 across Second Street from the church.

St. Joseph is celebrating its 175th anniversary in 2022. One of the events was a street party on Second Street on October 9.

The pastor, Fr. Angelo Anthony, C.P.P.S., explains why the parish decided to carry its celebration out to the street:

“As St. Joseph’s 175th anniversary committee discussed ways of celebrating this milestone in the history of the parish, we were very aware of the resurgence of life in downtown Dayton.

“When the parish began in 1847 there was a thriving neighborhood around the parish. Then in the early 1900’s, the neighborhood houses were torn down to make room for the growing auto industry. Factories were built in the old neighborhood around the church.

“Later in the century, the auto industry shifted to outlying areas, downtown Dayton lost its vibrancy and many buildings sat empty.

“In recent years, development in downtown Dayton took root. Hundreds of

apartment units, townhouses and condominiums have been built in and around the old factory buildings. This has created a new downtown neighborhood.

Throughout the years of change in Dayton’s downtown, St. Joseph Parish has been an anchor, a steady beacon of faith  
*(Continued on page nine)*



**Upper right, a Knight of Columbus reverences the Eucharist in the procession. Right, the street party comes to life.**

# Food, Faith and Fun: Celebrating 75 Years at St. James the Less

*Above, volunteers cook for the St. Gaspar Food Festival at St. James the Less. Below:*

*Fr. Antonio Baus, pastor, with Br. Tom Bohman, Fr. Santiago Gaynor and Deacon Greg Evers.*



St. James the Less Church in Columbus is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Founded in 1947 in Columbus, the parish has been served by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood from the beginning.

St. James the Less has a thriving school and strong social outreach. Among its anniversary events was an international food festival in October.

“Food it is always a way to help people be involved with one another and to share stories and memories,” said the pastor,

Fr. Antonio Baus, C.P.P.S.

“On October 23, we held the St. Gaspar International Food Festival in the cafeteria of our school, gathering the parish community around the many dishes that represent some of the 21 different nationalities our parish members belong to—that it is nearly the same number of countries the C.P.P.S. is ministering in worldwide! May the diversity of flavors and aromas brought about with the food be an inspiration to better understand the catholicity of our Church today.”

# Nativity Parish Celebrates 175 Years

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Church in Cassella, Ohio, is celebrating 175 years of faith.

Founded in 1847 by German immigrants, the parish is now part of the Northwest 8 family of parishes in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Fr. Francis Brunner, C.P.P.S., who led the first Missionaries of the Precious Blood to serve in the United States, had a part in its founding and early years.

The parish celebrated with a Mass on September 11 where Archbishop Dennis Schnurr presided. A festive parish dinner followed.

Fr. Ken Schnipke, C.P.P.S., is the Northwest 8 pastor. Parochial vicars are C.P.P.S. Frs. Ken Alt, Mark Hoying and Matt Jozefiak.



## Two Years Late but Worth the Wait

St. Mary's  
In Iowa  
Marks Its  
150th Year

*Fr. Timothy  
Armbruster, pas-  
tor, after the  
celebration Mass.*



St. Mary's Church in Centerville, Iowa, was all ready to celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2020—then the pandemic spoiled its plans. This year, the celebration went forward. *(Continued on page 14)*



# At St. Rita Church in Dayton, the welcome you feel is real.

On Dayton's north side, St. Rita Church is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2022.

The parish has a long—100 years!—history of vibrant parish life, with dedicated, faithful families supporting each other in good times and bad.

“The people of St. Rita have always been caring, outgoing, welcoming. In times of joy, in times of sorrow, people are surrounded by their friends at St. Rita. It comes as naturally to them as breathing,” said Matt Ruttle, a St. Rita parishioner since 1984 who also serves as the parish's pastoral associate.

The parish in its 100 years has also reflected the fierce resiliency of its people. In 2019, the neighborhood and surrounding areas were struck by a deadly tornado that destroyed many homes and businesses, landing a destructive blow on the parish property as well.

St. Rita's response was to reach out to help its neighbors while handling its own repairs.

Earlier this year, its pastor, Fr. Gene Schnipke, C.P.P.S., died suddenly, another blow to St. Rita and its sister parishes, Precious Blood and St. Paul.

These days, parishioners are



**St. Rita parishioners (from left) Matt Ruttle, Joyce Bachmann and Marilyn and Bill Sendelbach.**

helping their new pastor, Fr. Tony Fortman, C.P.P.S., learn his way around the family of parishes.

“We’ve been through hard knocks, but we always come back,” Matt said.

The parish has seen its neighborhood grow and change over



the years, said longtime parishioners Marilyn and Bill Sendelbach. Marilyn is the daughter of one of St. Rita's founding families.

"Our demographics have changed tremendously," said Bill, who with Marilyn served for many years as a volunteer firefighter in the neighborhood.

"This area used to be all farms, fruit farms. When Marilyn and I were first married, the parish had a boundary, and you did everything within that boundary. Today, our parish boundaries are huge! It can be a challenge to mesh with the other parishes. Somehow, you have to make people feel very welcome—people have to be able to feel like they belong. And the people of St. Rita are very good at that."

Archbishop Dennis Schnurr presided at a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Rita on November 5. The parish, where the Missionaries have served since 2009, honored its pastors that day.

Also currently in ministry in the faith family is Fr. Bill Stang, C.P.P.S. Fr. Stang's aunt, Sr. Dorothy Mae Stang, SNDdeN, was



*Stained glass window at St. Rita.*

*In times of joy, in times of sorrow, people are supported by their faithful friends at St. Rita.*

raised in the parish and attended its school from 1937–45. She was martyred in Brazil in 2005 while advocating for justice for farmers in the Amazon rain forest.

Honoring the parish's history during this special year helps people gain both appreciation and perspective, said parishioner Joyce Bachmann.

"Looking at the past, you see the good things that can happen, even in hard times," said Joyce, who also serves on parish council. "Going back through all the history, 100 years, you get a sense of wow, the Spanish flu was going on 100 years ago, and people endured. We went through COVID, and we endured. It gives you a sense of optimism."

# St. Joseph Church in Dayton

(Continued from page 4)  
and light.

“The anniversary committee agreed that we wanted to host an event that would be open to everyone, especially our new neighbors living around the parish. We also saw this as a great opportunity to evangelize the neighborhood and to celebrate our Catholic identity. A street party was the best way for us to accomplish all that.

“We planned an outdoor event that took place in the middle of Second Street with music, food, drinks, church tours and fun for the family. With Dayton Beer Co. and Moeller Brew Barn adjacent to the parish property, we invited them to each brew a special beer for the celebration. One was Carpenters Ale as a nod to St. Joseph the carpenter, our patron and the other was named *Sláinte* (“cheers” in Gaelic), an Irish lager.

“Another important aspect was to begin the celebration with a Eucharistic procession from

Emmanuel Church, founded in 1837 by the Germans, to St. Joseph’s Church, founded by the



**Two craft beers were created by local brewers for the occasion, including Carpenter’s Ale, in honor of St. Joseph.**

Irish in 1847 as the first English-speaking Catholic church in Dayton. The procession ritualized the founding of St. Joseph’s coming from Emmanuel Church.

“Both the Eucharistic procession and the street party were open to the public with invitations posted throughout the downtown and via social media.

“God blessed us with a picture-perfect day. The celebration was such a great success that the parish is talking about making this an annual event offered as a gift from our parish community to the broader downtown Dayton community.”

# My Parish Nurtured My Vocation

In this issue of *C.P.P.S. Today* we are highlighting some of our parishes as they celebrate significant anniversaries of their founding. It is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all the ways in which my own home parish of St. Barnabas in Alameda, Calif., had an impact on my own vocation.

As a kid I had no idea that God had made me to be a Missionary of the Precious Blood and his priest. I enjoyed serving Mass, often alongside my friends. And I was active in our church. But when asked about priesthood I would say that it wasn't for me. Deep inside I wanted to "be normal" and that meant married with a career in the world. I stayed active in the parish, even after confirmation in eighth grade. And people continued to ask me about the priesthood.

These wonderful parishioners lovingly accepted my "no" without being pushy or argumentative. They accepted my answer and kept encouraging me in my life in the parish.

When I was definitively incorporated as a Missionary of the Precious Blood, I requested that I receive the mission crucifix that had belonged to Fr. John Klopke, C.P.P.S. Fr. John was the first priest I remember who was funny, and that made him a little more human to me. On occasion, I saw Fr. John strolling the parish grounds with his breviary in hand, praying the Liturgy of the Hours. I didn't know what he was doing other than praying.

There were other Missionaries of the Precious Blood who contributed to my vocation, but some of the lay people did the same.

The first who comes to mind, after my own mother, is Mrs. Sandholt, a C.C.D. teacher who quietly and consistently encouraged my vocation, in no small part by her prayer. Her own son had become a Missionary of the Precious Blood, but he died too young. I never actually met Fr. Chris.

I think also of Jesse Manibusan, who before he became a writer of liturgical music, led the folk choir at St. Barnabas. My time singing in that choir and praying with the other choir members opened my heart to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Many people contributed to the building up not only of St. Barnabas Parish, but of my vocation in particular. Each of them lived their vocation to the fullest, and that helped me to discover mine. For which I will be eternally grateful.

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





# Sharing God's Love, Helping Where You Can

*Eileen Givens, a Companion from Orlando, is the new director of Companions for the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. Eileen, a mother of two who is also a spiritual director, has been a Companion (lay associate) with the Missionaries for 10 years. She is a longtime member of St. Andrew Church in Orlando, where the Missionaries served for many years.*

*Companions embrace and live out Precious Blood spirituality in their own lives. They gather monthly for times of prayer, study and discussion, and take part in the events of the Congregation. Companions support and encourage the Missionaries in many ways, including in ministry.*

*We asked Eileen to talk about her life as a Companion and a lay Catholic.*

**Missionaries of the Precious Blood and Companions (lay associates) often talk about Precious Blood spirituality. What does Precious Blood spirituality mean to you?**

It means having a Precious Blood heart, sharing it with others, in a selfless manner.



Having hope and being able to share it, knowing that Christ is with us, walking with us.

It means bringing God's light to all. This world is crazy, there's so

much going on. Everyone has something that they're dealing with, some type of a struggle, whether it's them or a family member, somebody they care &

love—they are either experiencing suffering, or sharing in the suffering of others.

Precious Blood spirituality means listening to people and seeing what their needs are because sometimes they are afraid to ask, or ashamed to ask. Sometimes they are in such a deep, dark place that they don't even know how to ask for help. They cry out—and you are there for them, and sharing God's love, helping where you can.

**What would you say to people who are thinking of becoming Companions?**

I would invite them first, if they are interested, come to one of our gatherings. We'd love to have you join us, just to see. I would like to explain to them how



*Companions make their covenant to the Congregation at a retreat at St. Charles Center.*

“The world is suffering so badly—people are searching for something; they don’t know what. Through the Precious Blood, we are offering what they may need.” — *Eileen Givens*

I came to be a Companion. I was invited then learned so much more.

Everybody has God-given gifts that becoming a Companion would enhance. With our group in Orlando, we talk about having more diversity, about inviting younger people, people from different backgrounds. If we can invite others, see their culture and their point of view, that would be beneficial to all.

**What do you hope to bring to the Missionaries and to Companions in your new position/new ministry?**

Making connections is one of the things that has always benefited me, and I think that gift will be important in my new role. I always want to be welcoming to others, that’s something that people see in me. I never want people to feel they’re on the outside. I want people to feel they are a part of the family, part of the community.

Maybe it’s because I grew up in a big family and we wanted everyone to feel included. I share stories, I talk to people. I’m a spiritual director—I can also listen, to have them go deeper into a person’s spirituality.

My son says I don't know a stranger. I feel I am operating under God's protection, and that gives me confidence. If you sit in fear, it can paralyze you. I trust God. If he puts it on my heart to do something, I'm going to do it.

People say to me, "It's amazing what God does for you." I say, "It's not just me! It's happening to you, too. You just have to recognize it."

**How does lay involvement strengthen the Church? How can people have a vibrant relationship with their faith community where they really feel like a valued, contributing member of the faith family?**

We are what makes the church. The priests come to perform the sacraments—but we are the church. The lay people are the church as much as the priests and brothers and sisters. We need to be involved. We need to have a voice.

In our parish, we're very much involved. If you sit in the pew and you're not involved, then you're not having a relationship, you're not feeling of value. You might feel, "I'm getting a service from somebody." But it's really important that people become involved.

Get involved in parish council, get involved in the decisions

that are being made. If we don't speak up, then shame on us if we don't talk about the issues. There's so much that we can offer, that we can do.

I grew up in a Catholic family. My parents had eight kids. I can't imagine not being involved in a church. And through that involvement, you should be valued. If you're not, that's a problem that needs to be discussed. You need to be heard.

Church shouldn't just be a place where you go on Sunday. Get involved, get to know more people, and in getting to know them, you share your faith and spirituality. Through all that, you begin to see your own gifts, what you bring to the Church and community.

**These are times of great change in many parishes/dioceses. How would you counsel people to weather or welcome these times of change?**

Change is a constant. Life changes, things you planned are disappointments, things you didn't plan can still bring joy. God is also a constant—because God is always walking with you.

If there's something difficult that you're going through, you're going to come through it stronger. When I was 21, my dad passed away unexpectedly. He



was 53. Within three months, I lost my great uncle who was like a grandfather to me, and my godmother a month later. These were major losses that hit me as a young adult. I had to learn that you can always lean on God.

Later on, I was married, and never expected to be divorced. Marriage is so important; I really thought I could make it work. Unfortunately, it did not. It was another terrible loss. Although it was deeply painful, through God's healing grace the kids and I eventually could blossom and grow.

Then came the passing of my daughter, Maggie (who died of severe aplastic anemia in 2009). If somebody had told me that I would get up the next day, I would have said they were out of their mind. But that whole journey, God just put people in our path. The whole parish embraced us. God has never let me down. He's there, he's working always—we just have to be thankful for it.

That is what a life of faith is all about. And people are hungry for it. The world is suffering so badly—people are searching for something; they don't know what. Through the Precious Blood, we are offering what they may need. It's now my job to help them find it.

When I got this job, my son said, "Mom, this is what you have been walking toward your whole life. This is exactly where God wants you."

*To learn more about the Companions movement, visit [preciousbloodkc.org/companions](http://preciousbloodkc.org/companions) or contact Eileen at [companions.preciousblood@gmail.com](mailto:companions.preciousblood@gmail.com).*

## St. Mary's

*(Continued from page six)*

The parish, founded in 1870, has been served by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood since 1938. Fr. Timothy Armbruster, C.P.P.S., is the pastor and was happy that after a two-year delay, the parish could finally celebrate its heritage and its future.

The parish hosted an anniversary Mass on October 23 followed by a special dinner then games for all ages.

Centerville is in southern Iowa near the Missouri state line.

Celebrating its 100th anniversary this year is the Knights of Columbus Council in Centerville. To mark the occasion, the Knights rechartered and renamed their council the Fr. Joseph E. Miller, C.P.P.S., Council, after the late Fr. Miller, a former St. Mary's pastor.



**ORDAINED TO THE DIACONATE:** Gregory John Evers, C.P.P.S., was ordained to the diaconate on August 20 in Assumption Chapel at St. Charles Center, Carthagen, Ohio. Archbishop Dennis Schnurr of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati presided as Greg's family and friends, his fellow Missionaries of the Precious Blood and Companions celebrated with him.

In May, Deacon Evers graduated with a master of divinity degree from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Deacon Evers is now in ministry at St. James the Less Church in Columbus. *(See page five for more about the parish, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.)*

Deacon Evers, the son of Roger and Mary Evers, grew up in Maria Stein, Ohio, attended Marion Local High School, and was a member of St. Rose Church when he was growing up.

Typically, a transitional deacon is ordained to the priesthood after a year of ministry in a parish.

Through his ordination, Deacon Evers offers himself to God and to a life of service. "There is an ontological change that takes place with ordination, but I try not to focus too much on that," he said.

"I'm not losing who I was before the ordination. I have the same likes and dislikes, the same personality. It's another layer of responsibility that I'm taking on. What I will be doing at the parish is more of a public role as a minister of the Church. But it's not just about putting on a good face—it's about living out the values and principles we say we have.

"That's something I want to strive for: a life that is woven together. I don't want to be someone who wears a mask on Sunday morning. What I want to offer to this life is the genuine and authentic me."



**Deacon Greg Evers prepares the gifts for the Eucharist at his ordination Mass.**

**IN MEMORIAM:** Fr. Patrick Patterson, C.P.P.S., 83, died on September 26, 2022, in the infirmary at St. Charles Center, Carthage, Ohio. He had been in failing health.

He was born on October 11, 1938, in Kendallville, Ind., to Glenn and Mildred (Autenrieth) Patterson. He entered the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in 1952 at Brunnerdale, their former high school seminary outside of Canton, Ohio, and was ordained on June 5, 1965.

Fr. Patterson was a pastor and a missionary. After his ordination, he served at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Cleveland until he was assigned to serve in the Community's mission in Chile in 1968. He ministered at parishes in Rio Negro and Valdivia in southern Chile.

In 1979–80, Fr. Patterson studied at San Anselmo in Rome. Upon his return to Valdivia, he was appointed pastor at Santa Inez Church. From 1980–95, he also taught liturgical/sacramental theology at the nearby major seminary. During his last four years in Chile, he served as director of the Chilean Vicariate.

Fr. Patterson returned to the U.S. in 1995 then served as parochial vicar at St. Andrew Church in Orlando. From 1999–2013, he served at St. James the Less Church in Columbus, Ohio, especially ministering to the Latino community there.

In July of 2013, Fr. Patterson retired to St. Charles Center, Carthage, Ohio.

Fr. Patterson a man of intellect and a man of service. He was able to learn whatever he needed to help people, noting that he flunked French and Latin in high school, but later became fluent in Spanish when he ministered among Spanish-speaking people.

Typically smiling, he had a good sense of humor and a companionable approach to people, all people. He worked for social justice no matter where he was assigned and was dreaming of ways to promote solar power at St. Charles Center right up until his death.

Fr. Patterson faced many health issues with courage and grace. "I'm not afraid to go on to the other side," he said near the end of his life. "I never asked for any of my appointments, but I fell in love with every place I was sent. And I know this will be the same."

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on October 14 at St. Charles Center. Interment of his ashes followed the Mass in the Community cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. May he rest in peace.



**Fr. Patterson**



# Did You Understand the Assignment?

I happened to have scheduled a routine minor medical procedure the same week that Great Britain was honoring Elizabeth II with probably the best funeral I've ever experienced, online or in person. And that's saying something, because our mom started taking us to funerals before we could walk on our own to get another ham sandwich from the funeral lunch ladies.

My husband very kindly recorded eight hours of the queen's funeral for me to enjoy (that's not the right word, or maybe it is) during my recuperation. There are still three hours of funeral on our DVR.

As the anesthesiologist was about to put me under, he told me to think of something that makes me happy. "The queen's funeral," I murmured.

When I was telling my husband about this later, I think he was disappointed with my answer. He said, "I don't get why you care so much about the queen. We're Americans."

I told him that I admired the queen because of her absolute commitment to what she viewed as her vocation, her assignment from God. She was born into immense privilege, and castles with unlimited dogs and horses, but it all carried a great price, which she paid with her own being, out of her limited human capacity. She would be able to stand before God and say, "I did what you assigned to me."

After we got home from the hospital, I laid on the couch all afternoon and watched the funeral. I was struck by the vision of the casket, surrounded by hundreds of people and watched by millions more, yet all alone in the center of a church aisle.

So will we all be. Perhaps we will also get a procession, if our families arrange for that sort of thing, though it will not have beadles, almsmen or the keeper of the privy purse. Yet for all of us it is a peculiar journey, surrounded by friends but all alone, and perhaps ending before the throne of God or a celestial courtroom or a parole panel or who knows what form the next phase takes, but I would anticipate the question: "Did you understand the assignment?"

What a joy it would be to answer, yes, Lord, I heard your voice and followed your directions as best I could and walked the rocky path and also the smooth way, over new grass and icy patches and through deep snow and driving rain then sunshine again, but always, always following you, or so I believed. And you beside me, every step, now here we are together. That's a happy thought.

**At Our House**  
by Jean Giesige



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