



**Missionaries of the
Precious Blood**
United States Province

C.P.P.S.

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

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

Ephesians 1: 7a

The Truth of Lent: We Are All Beggars

By Ben Berinti, C.P.P.S.

It's not as if it were the first time I had ever done this, but on this night, it was different.

Even though it was shaping up to be the most bitter cold night of this particular winter season, it's not like this is the first time I have ever had to pass by a *person who is homeless* perched on my doorstep!

As I left the parish office after another 14-hour day, I headed toward the church to finish my locking-up duties. I stepped onto the sidewalk and my heart sank as I glanced over toward the parish hall and discovered one of the regular homeless men from our neighborhood parked on a bench near the doorway—the doorway I needed to pass through to secure the buildings for the night.

I caught myself mumbling an expletive or two when he first came into sight, and my brain executed an impressive leap as I tried to think about an alternative route that would allow me to completely bypass the man.

**I could feign
being hard of
hearing and
simply
continue
on my
way.**



My limit for gospel-good-deed-doing had already been exceeded hours ago, so I'm not sure what threshold was still left to be crossed. Unfortunately, I realized, I was cornered. So, I offered my perfunctory greeting as quickly as possible and maneuvered in and out of the parish hall and church with the deftness of a gymnast.

Completing my final task for the day, I prepared to make my swift getaway. Despite my attitude, however, my heart was not so chilled by the icy winds whipping the parking lot that I didn't think to find out whether the man had enough blankets or a coat to pass the frigid night outdoors.

As I inquired about his supplies, bundled up in his tattered Save a Lot grocery bags, he responded: "Thank you, sir; I'll be okay."

Relieved that I had not completely ignored or turned my back on someone in need, I began stepping up my pace. Before I could walk another five feet, I heard the man say, "Sir, there is one thing I wanted to ask you . . ." Of course, you do, I grumbled under my breath.

I thought, for a moment, I could feign being hard of hearing and simply continue on my way. But I couldn't. I stopped, spun around and stepped back
(Continued on page two)

The Truth of Lent: We Are All Beggars

(Continued from page one)
toward the shivering man on the bench.

His question was simple. Could he move himself and his things down into the far end of our outdoor hallway, so that he might sleep out of the way of the worst of the swirling, freezing winds, perhaps keeping him just a bit warmer as the temperatures continued to plummet?

I paused a moment before responding in the affirmative, and I told him that he needed to be up and on his way early in the morning since families start arriving for school before the sun comes up. He assured me that he was an early riser and would be gone before anyone came along to start their day.

As I locked the office door behind me and stood

in front of my car, I felt like the rich man who wept from the “other side” of the great chasm fixed between him and the beggar Lazarus, unfathomably far from the arms of Father Abraham.

With this realization clearly in front of me, I turned again—not toward the man, but rather my car, and I drove home. And like Peter after the cock crowed, I too wept bitterly.

Over the many years since this encounter, I have had a chance to replay the scene and to examine the meaning or meanings of this experience for me, as I do so in sharing this tale.

Amongst many things, I have come to realize the nature of my *failure* that particular frozen January night—and it is two-fold.

On the one hand, I *failed* to recognize *who this man is*—a beggar, someone completely dependent upon the generosity of others; a “least one” in the Kingdom of God; a Lazarus-at-my-door, waiting for scraps to fall his way.

On the other hand, I also *failed* to recognize *who I am*—a beggar, someone completely dependent upon the generosity of God; a “least one” because of the infidelities and inconsistencies of my own life; a Lazarus, too, but one less forward about

holding out my emptiness for others to see.

Yes, I failed to respond to the “beggar” at my doorstep because I failed to see the “beggar” in me—in all of us. For in the end, we are all *beggars of the heart*.

If there is a “beggar” in your own spirit, hiding somewhere in the recesses of your own heart, or if you are willing to seek out this beggar without turning your face in disgust and neglect, then perhaps this Lenten sojourn will stir something in you, will be a fire starter for your own ongoing conversion into the depth of God’s “enough.”

An author, pastor and preacher, Fr. Ben Berinti, C.P.P.S., serves on the provincial council. He is the pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Melbourne Beach, Fla.



Community Notes

Mileage Rate

The IRS has increased its mileage reimbursement rate to .655. This new rate should be used effective January 1, 2023.

C.P.P.S. Newsletter

This newsletter is published monthly by the U.S. Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. It is sent to all incorporated members, Companions, Amici and friends of the province upon request. Your input is welcome. Email submissions to cppscommunications@gmail.com or mail to C.P.P.S. Newsletter 431 E. Second St. Dayton OH 45402-1764

Editor: Jean Giesige
cppscommunications@gmail.com

The 2023 United States Province Assembly will be held June 5–9 at the Indianapolis Marriott East, 7202 East 21st St., Indianapolis.

More information plus registration forms will be coming in the months ahead.

Hoping Our Stories Resonate with Seekers

Greg Evers, C.P.P.S.

At the beginning of the new year, I had the opportunity to join Fr. Steve Dos Santos, C.P.P.S., in promoting vocations at the SEEK 2023 conference held in St. Louis. I had heard of SEEK, but did not know much about it. I learned that much of its focus is geared toward engaging college-age students through campus ministry.

This year, there were more than 18,000 students in attendance, largely from college campuses here in the U.S., but there were some from other countries as well.

Throughout this conference there were workshops for many of the students to attend and speakers who spoke on varying topics. There were also booths sponsored by vendors and religious communities that students could visit to purchase merchandise or inquire about the mission and ministries that various organizations and communities do. SEEK is a bit overwhelming, given the sheer size of the event, and over the course of five days, it gets to be exhausting.

Over the course of the week, Fr. Steve and I spoke with several people who stopped at our booth to share a bit about who we are as Missionaries of the Precious Blood. We shared our own personal stories about how we came to the Community and the kind of work we are currently doing.

Many of the students most likely were just passing through to pick up some prayer cards, medals or other memorabilia that we brought with us. But there were a few who

chose to visit with us for a longer period of time to listen to our stories of hearing God's call and trying to find resonance with that.

During one of the evenings at the conference, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was taking place in the main auditorium along with confessions in an adjoining space. During that time, there was not much activity in the exhibition hall where we were located, so I decided to take some time to go to adoration.

Some of you reading this article may recall that part of my vocation story involves me attending an event similar to this. It was my first real experience of the larger Church, praying with thousands of other Catholics from all over the country. It was out of this experience of prayer that I began to feel like I was being called to religious life.

As I sat in adoration at the SEEK conference, I can remember thinking to myself that someone may be starting their journey of discernment toward a religious vocation tonight. Perhaps they may even find their way to us?

One of the challenges at a conference like this, in my opinion, is learning to keep your expectations realistic. While at the conference, I had the chance to visit different



Fr. Steve Dos Santos and Deacon Greg Evers with friends at SEEK 2023 in St. Louis.

booths sponsored by religious communities. I ran into a few people whom I had gotten to know when I was at Catholic Theological Union. One of them had become the vocations director for his community.

I asked him what his thoughts were on conferences like SEEK. He said they are a great opportunity to help put ourselves out there and let people know where we are and what kind of work we do, but in terms of getting vocations, the chances are probably slim. What attracts vocations is building relationships with people.

This resonated a lot with my own story. Before I was ever introduced to Precious Blood spirituality, it was the members who attracted me to the Community. This does not diminish the importance of our spirituality and charism. But I think we first need to be invited into something if we are to truly make it our own.

Fr. Gene Schnipke, C.P.P.S., was willing to be open with me and share his story and his experiences as a Precious
(Continued on page eight)

Carrying Authentic Stories to Notre Dame

Youth Felt Seen And Heard at Famous University

Dave Kelly, C.P.P.S.

There is an African proverb that says, “When a child is rejected by the village, he will burn the village down just to feel the warmth.”

I was asked to give a talk to the Center of Social Concerns at Notre Dame about the work of PBMR and restorative justice. They asked if I also would talk to a restorative justice class the following day, so I decided to make a trip out of it and bring along a couple of young people. I can tell stories, but the real impact is to hear first-hand from those who live it each day.

We got an early start so we could walk around campus. Of course, the Notre Dame stadium and “touchdown Jesus” was what they wanted to see. It was a beautiful day and the energy was high as students moved quickly on foot and on scooters. As we walked across campus, I suggested we take a peek inside the basilica, which is a beautiful church. As we entered, they were taken aback by the number of students in church praying—no doubt making a quick visit before or after class.

“They just come in here and sit?” one asked me. I told

them that often, people just need a quiet and safe place to be for a while. That they understood, but it is rare in their lives. One of them asked about the Stations of the Cross that lined the walls of the basilica, so I took the opportunity to talk Jesus’ passion. As I pointed out each station, I got a nod of approval from an older gentleman in the pew.

As we got to the building where we would talk, I could sense that both were nervous. I assured them that they would do fine and that they just needed to be themselves. I spoke for a while and then introduced them to the group. Their nerves gave way as they began to tell their story.

They were honest and spoke from their heart. They shared what it was like to be an African American “kid” growing up on the south side of Chicago. Of course, they spoke of the violence and their experience of being locked up, but they also talked about PBMR and all the good that was happening in their neighborhood.

“Some people,” they said, “think we are all just criminals—bad people—but there is a lot of good in the neighborhood, too.”

While they weren’t polished speakers, their story was theirs and they were authentic. As we closed the night, the students continued to engage with them—



PBMR youth who made the trip to Notre Dame.

asking questions and thanking them for coming the campus. I could see both beaming with pride as they were the center of attention.

On the ride home, I asked them how they felt it went. They both said in so many words that it made them feel good—like they were somebody, instead of a nobody. It was one time when they weren’t defined by someone else.

At the very heart of our work is breaking down walls of judgment so that we can discover the dignity in one another. In the case of the two youth who accompanied me, they need people and society to see them, not judge them, and embrace them for who they really are. How many times have they been called a menace to society? Told that they are the problem? As we talked more, I think they were slowly
(Continued on page eight)



Precious Blood
Ministry of Reconciliation



Precious Blood

SPIRITUALITY INSTITUTE

Please join us for

Coming Together to Celebrate Connections and Diversity



We come together to share who we are as Precious Blood people. A panel will offer perspectives about our spirituality from the different communities that make up our Precious Blood family.

The presenters on our panel are:

Sr. Barbara Jean Franklin, ASC (Adorers)

Fr. Joe Nassal, C.PP.S. (Missionaries of the Precious Blood)

Sr. Joyce Lehman, C.PP.S. (Sisters of the Precious Blood)

Eileen Givens and Lori Bengel (Lay Associates)

Sr. Mary Cecil Gunelson and Sr. Susan Borgel, C.PP.S. (C.PP.S. - O'Fallon) (taped)

There will be an opportunity for conversations and questions. The day will conclude with Mass and dinner.

DATE: Saturday, March 18, 2023

TIME: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

LOCATION: Precious Blood Renewal Center, Liberty, MO

To Register (either to attend in person or via Zoom):

Visit pbspiritualityinstitute.org and click the "Upcoming Events" page for more information.

Each Person is Sacred, Irreplaceable

(Editor's note: This is the third of a three-part series on evangelization. The first two parts were published in The New Wine Press and may be read in archived issues at preciousbloodkc.org.)

Dennis Keller, Amicus

Clarity of concept can be achieved by using the science of etymology. The word "person" is of Etruscan origin. In its original iteration, it meant the face mask of an actor. It came to mean the actor then the role played. Then it stood for the one portrayed.

The term gained footage in Christendom at the Council of Chalcedon (451) when that term was used in Christological discussions. Hans Urs von Balthasar brought new insight

apparently based on the creation account of mankind in Genesis. That priestly tradition presented the creation of male and female as of the image and likeness of God.

Von Balthasar describes "person" in a theological context: "We will speak of a 'person,' however, when considering the uniqueness, the incomparability and therefore irreplaceability of the individual." This particular image and likeness of God is unique and incomparable with other persons. This single, unique iteration of the image and likeness is irreplaceable in human history. With such a compelling and far-reaching understanding of the value, meaning and purpose of each person, we ought to understand the sanctity and revelation of each person. The truth of that creation has serious ramifications for evangelization.

The difference between "individual" and "person" is significant. An individual is one of a group named humanity. A person is of specific value and meaning within that group. Evangelization to a cluster of individuals is too broad a brush. The Gospel must reach into the spirit (soul) of persons. The Eucharist in its healing and unifying power of a merely personal devotional practice is too weak to reveal the medicinal and unifying power of Eucharist. The dismissal at Mass loses its imperative when individuals are dismissed as a group instead of as the Body of the Christ. Chaos in persons'

spirits cry out to the Spirit hovering over the chaos of the sea of life with its leviathans and evil.

We can better understand the sanctity of persons if we think in the context of the Trinity. The Kingdom of God appears more relevant in relational truth. We understand the Trinity in its relational power as the most profound application of love.

Evangelization, as Walter Brueggemann writes in *Finally Comes the Poet*, works when persons realize their interior chaos and need for healing. He bemoans humanity's reductionism of moral principles. To preach effectively is to first lay open the wounds encouraged by reductionism.

There are two forces causing great harm to millions of persons: racism and abuse.

The viciousness of racism seeks to murder personhood of others who are different. The victim's ability to relate to the broader world and to worldly success is stolen and replaced by an enslavement akin to Pharaoh's. The victimizers believe, whether consciously or unconsciously, perhaps driven by a lived culture, that individuals different are lesser and inconsequential.

The second prevalent and corrupting abuse is the abuse of children and vulnerable adults. Statistics of the amount of this abuse are staggering. It is written that one in three girls and one in four boys will endure sexual abuse. Human

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.

sexuality is about intimacy. Committed intimacy mirrors in a created, physical way the intimacy of God. Because we express and learn through our physical senses that intimacy is expressed physically, intimacy creates a bond. That bond is a sacred matter by reason of its origin in the bond of Persons of the Trinity. The mistake of hierarchy regarding child abuse was their focus on sinners and not on victims. The victims suffer irreparable damage to their ability to love another.

The work done by psychologists and psychiatrists since the Vietnam conflict have given us an understanding of what happens to persons who experience trauma. There is a solid explanation of post-traumatic stress disorder on the Veterans Administration website. When trauma occurs—sexual, verbal, physical deprivation and more—the experience triggers a reliving of the trauma. Such a trigger initiates a reliving of the trauma or initiates strangely inappropriate reactions. PTSD ought to be an element of training for confessors.

This chaos, this terrible deprivation of dignity and worth are certainly present. It ought to be spoken about to inform and prevent. Whether one is a victim or a victimizer, repentance and resultant healing is necessary for spiritual growth. Moral reductionism must be exposed for what it is. Contemporary culture should not be given a free pass.

In truth, we confess the Trinity as three persons in one unity. Theirs is a relational circle. The image and likeness in which we are created means we must work at being relational so as to protect our and every other's dignity and worth.

December's Follow the Star Drew Crowds to St. Charles

Successful Event to Be Repeated in 2023

Teresa DiSalvo

On December 10, Saint Charles Senior Living Community hosted its first Follow the Star event at Saint Charles in Carthagen, Ohio.

The event focused on the Stations of the Nativity, adapted from the writings of Fr. Joe Nassal, C.P.P.S. The first-floor hallways were adorned with majestic décor from top to bottom that showcased the 14 Stations.

The event was open to the public and included a two-week period after December 10 when visitors could come through the building to view the décor.

The main day, December 10, offered activities that included a festival of decorated Christmas trees created by youth groups from local parishes, a visit from St. Nicholas with cookies and milk, live carolers, hayrides, a Polar Express room that was generously provided by Br. Tim Cahill, C.P.P.S., and a Mass with a lighted procession at the end that was led by Fr. Andrew O'Reilly, C.P.P.S., out to the grounds where a live nativity was waiting along with a bonfire and hayrides. A gift shop was also on site.

A small committee that included the senior living manager, five Saint Charles residents and the daughter of one of the residents was formed in

July to make this event come to life. Donations were sought to assist with purchasing items that were needed to create the vision, and an army of volunteers that included additional residents as well as local community members came forward to help as word spread about what was happening at Saint Charles.

The event was quite successful and brought approximately 3,000 visitors to Saint Charles. The positive feedback and encouraging words of gratitude from the community were overwhelming. Follow the Star 2022 was able to provide the local youth groups who participated in the Festival of Trees a monetary gift to use towards their religious education and planned activities.

Saint Charles Senior Living Community plans to make Follow the Star a free annual event that offers the community something special to look forward to each year at Saint Charles. Follow the Star 2023 will be held on December 16. Anyone who would like to be a part of the event through volunteering, or making a monetary donation is invited to contact me at 419-925-4516, ext. 112.

Teresa DiSalvo is the Saint Charles Senior Living manager.

Carrying Authentic Stories

(Continued from page four)

beginning to believe that they were worthy of being respected and loved.

A couple of days later, I went to court with another young man whom I have known for most of his life. He is now 30 years old. He has endured a great deal, having had his bumps and bruises along the way. I got one of those early morning calls that he had been arrested. I worked to get him out of jail, and now accompanied him to court.

As he stood before the judge, the state's attorney called him a violent felon—even though he had not yet been convicted. There he was

with his white dress shirt and black slacks and hair neatly tied back—another black man with dreads labeled as a felon.

I wanted to cry out “you don’t even know him!” They knew nothing of all that he had overcome obstacle after obstacle. They didn’t know that he’s in a strenuous program to become a lineman for the power company and just the day before sent me a picture of him on a pole with his white helmet, a sign that he had graduated to the next level. They didn’t know that he had three beautiful children and a beautiful wife. They didn’t know that he was one of the most respectful young people I know.

As I saw him stand there for all to see, dressed as he thought they wanted him to dress, I knew he felt as though he was seen as violent felon—guilty because of his blackness. I felt sick; I felt anger, I felt powerless. But I also felt the love for a young man who deserved to be loved.

I believe that our spirituality is to stand there at the foot of the cross, with all our powerlessness, but, also, with all our love and devotion.

There is a story of an older woman who had a deep devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

A visitor to her home asked her why she had such a deep devotion to Our Lady. The older woman responded in her language, “*porque se quedo*” — because she stayed.

Hoping

(Continued from page three)

Blood priest and chaplain in the Air Force. Through my discernment process I had the opportunity to hear the stories of other Precious Blood members and other people who were discerning with me. Through these stories and experiences, I was able to better discern where God was calling me. Eventually that has led to where I am today.

We all know that storytelling can be a very powerful tool, whether it’s in promoting vocations, reconciliation work, preaching a homily, or simply speaking with someone we just met. Our stories help not only others, but they also help ourselves to see where God has worked in our lives and where God may be calling us to go next.

Deacon Greg Evers, C.P.P.S., is in ministry at St. James the Less Parish, Columbus, Ohio.

Condolences

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

The family of **James Vega**, who died on January 8. Mr. Vega was the brother of Companion Inquirer Kathy Krewson (Central Missouri).

The family of **Anna Obino**, who died on January 26. She was the mother of Fr. Emanuele Lupi, C.P.P.S., moderator general.

The family of **Companion Noel Bubala** (Whiting, Ind.), who died on January 30.

The family of **Companion Marilyn Moeder** (Dayton), who died on February 5. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry, also a Companion.

“All-In” B’Dale Reunion Set for 2024

You are invited to the first-ever “All In” Brunnerdale Reunion on July 19–21, 2024, at Glenmoor Country Club (formerly Brunnerdale Seminary) in Canton, Ohio.

This special reunion is open to anyone who ever attended Brunnerdale and their families, all former Brunnerdale faculty/staff, and any member of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood or Trinity Missions.

Schedule details will be announced at a later date.

For more information, email BrunnerdaleReunion@gmail.com.



Missionaries Report

NEWS FROM OUR
MINISTRY SITES

Center's Programs Reach Out to All

(Editor's note: We welcome the Precious Blood Renewal Center to our lineup of reports from the province's ministry sites. We will feature two ministry sites per issue.)

Dennis Coday

Precious Blood Renewal Center, on the campus of the Precious Blood Center in Liberty, Mo., offers a variety of programs every month. These include silent directed retreats, book studies, seasonal reflections (for Advent and Lent, for example) and commemorations of special days (St. Lucy's Feast Day and Iftar dinners with our Muslims brothers and sisters, for example.)

We get a lot of compliments for our programing, but a challenge the center staff faced was how to engage and connect with folks between events. We began to address this challenge in the fall of 2019; a newly revamped website, pbrenewalcenter.org, gave us a great medium for center staff to write articles and share resources.

Four months after re-launching our website, COVID forced us to use it more than we ever imagined. As the

pandemic shutdown stretched on, we were challenged again to explore online presentations and video offerings. That's when we launched our YouTube channel, youtube.com/@preciousbloodrenewalcenter9297.

Some videos are recordings of livestreamed events at the center. Others are standalone offerings on specific topics. These are recorded, edited and then posted. Sharing the videos on YouTube and articles on our website connects us to folks in between programs. It allows us to promote ourselves and programs to a wider audience.

Our events are promoted in an e-newsletter sent every Thursday morning. Add your name to the lists here: pbrenewalcenter.org/newsletter-signup.

Among our regular events is an ecumenical prayer service in the Taizé style on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. The service is held in the Renewal Center and is live-streamed and then archived on YouTube.

We also offer *Assembling God's Puzzle*, a video series by Fr. Garry Richmeier, C.P.P.S. In the videos, Fr. Garry, a licensed marriage and family counselor for 28 years, reflects on mental health issues and spirituality. He



Lucia Ferrara demonstrates a cookie recipe with a spiritual layer.

describes the series: "The people I worked with (as a priest and counselor) have taught me a lot about living life, especially what works and what doesn't. In this new video series, I pass on some of these life lessons."

In each video, Fr. Garry describes a situation and then tips on how to deal with it. He posts a new video every other week. Topics include: "Stumbling Blocks to Communication," "How to cope with crazy holiday gatherings," and "Failure: when you can't avoid it, what to do about it?"

In ministry at the center is Fr. Ron Will, C.P.P.S. In his newest video series, *Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind*, Fr. Ron provides a guided meditation on a topical theme. He explains his title:

Many of you probably remember the science fiction movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

(Continued on page 10)



PRECIOUS BLOOD
Renewal Center

a ministry of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood

Missionaries' Report

(Continued from page nine)

- An encounter of the first kind is a sighting of a disk-like object.
- An encounter of the second kind is similar but much closer than the first kind.
- An encounter of the third kind is the sighting of non-human beings.
- An encounter of the fourth kind is the encounter of human beings and non-human beings.

This series will help us to be open to a personal encounter with the God-man, Jesus Christ, in places where we don't normally look for him.

Each video runs about 10 minutes and is posted on the last Tuesday of each month.

Our director of hospitality, Lucia Ferrara, posts videos in her popular monthly series, *Cooking and Spirituality*. Each episode presents a recipe and prayer reflection that is inspired by an event or holiday. Her most popular videos, which are still getting viewed today, are making a bread and a spaghetti sauce for St. Joseph's Day. Her recipe of Easter bread that includes dyed Easter eggs in the loaf is also popular.

A few of her most recent offerings include overnight breakfast oats; cranberry, orange and apple relish; ricotta and spinach grilled cheese; and apple pandowdy.

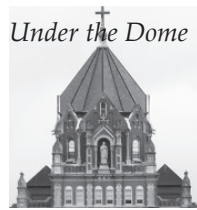
As of February, we have 160 subscribers, nearly double from a year ago. In 2022, we averaged more than 1,000 views per month, an increase of 138 percent over 2021, and we had 643 hours of total view time, a 39 percent increase over 2021.

Dennis Coday is the director of engagement at Precious Blood Renewal Center.

St. Charles to Welcome Fr. Miller

Tim Cahill, C.P.P.S.

March is upon us and in 20 days, the first day of spring will be here! We are all looking forward to longer and warmer days ahead!



Here are some happenings at St. Charles this month.

On March 7, Fr. David Hoying, C.P.P.S., will conduct the last of our Day of Recollections. Last month we had Fr. Angelo Anthony, C.P.P.S., and his presentation was excellent! It was well attended by both residences and Community members.

On March 8–20, Fr. Mark Miller, C.P.P.S., will help out

with our daily Masses. Welcome to St. Charles, Fr. Mark!

March 17 is St. Patrick's Day! A lot of people don't know that St. Patrick was born in Britain—not Ireland—to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D.

At the age of 16, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland, where he spent six years in captivity. Many believe he was taken to live in Mount Slemish in County Antrim, but it more likely that he was held in County Mayo near Killala.

Although the surrounding towns here in Mercer County are German in heritage, they will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day this year! Make sure if you go out to celebrate you don't drink too much of the "green!"



Provincial Director's Calendar

March 1–3: Precious Blood Leadership Conference, Dayton.

March 11: Calumet College of St. Joseph St. Joseph Society event, Whiting, Ind.

March 15: Meeting with Bishop Daniel Thomas of the Diocese of Toledo.

March 17–27: Meetings in Rome.



Community Calendar

March 18: "Coming Together to Celebrate Connections and Diversity," sponsored by the Precious Blood Spirituality Institute, Precious Blood Center, Liberty, Mo. (See page five for details.)

April 14–16: Artistry Under the Dome returns to St. Charles Center, Carthage, Ohio.

June 5–9: The United States Province Assembly, Marriott East, Indianapolis.

Days of Praise

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

Celebrating Birthdays In April

- 1 Fr. James Seibert
- 4 Fr. Mark Peres
- 8 Fr. Vincent Wirtner
- 16 Fr. Timothy Coday
- 18 Fr. Joseph Nassal
- 27 Fr. Dennis Chriszt



*Happy birthday,
Fr. Vince
Wirtner*



*Happy anniversary,
Br. Daryl
Charron*

Celebrating Anniversaries In April

- 7 Hao (Paul) Pham
Ky (Joseph) Phung
Fr. Hoa (Vincent) Vu
- 9 Fr. William Nordenbrock
- 18 Br. Daryl Charron
- 30 Fr. James Seibert

Please Pray Every Day for a Missionary of the Precious Blood

Missionaries of the Precious Blood of the United States 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.

APRIL PRAYER LIST

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

March:
Atlantic Province

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Br. Nick Renner | 17. Fr. James Smith |
| 2. Pray for vocations | 18. Fr. Jerome Stack |
| 3. Br. Robert Reuter | 19. Fr. William Stang |
| 4. Fr. Garry Richmeier | 20. Fr. Jerome Steinbrunner |
| 5. Fr. Paul Sanders | 21. Fr. Donald Thieman |
| 6. Fr. Kevin Scalf | 22. Fr. Daniel Torson |
| 7. Fr. Dennis Schaab | 23. For living and deceased
Companions |
| 8. Br. Matthew Schaefer | 24. Fr. Dien Truong |
| 9. For living and deceased
C.P.P.S. members | 25. Fr. Joseph Uecker |
| 10. Fr. Louis Schmit | 26. Fr. James Urbanic |
| 11. Fr. Kenneth Schnipke | 27. Fr. Michael Volkmer |
| 12. Fr. Kenneth Schroeder | 28. Fr. Truc Minh (Joseph) Vu |
| 13. Br. Jerome Schulte | 29. Br. Joseph Vu |
| 14. Fr. James Seibert | 30. For living and deceased
Amici |
| 15. Br. Antonio Sison | |
| 16. Pray for those in formation | |



THIS SEASON OF LENT

affords us the opportunity to examine our hearts and come home to the truth that each of us is God's beloved. What is the sin that keeps me from **loving unconditionally**; the fear that keeps me from **reaching out to others** in love?

May this season of Lent find us going often to our "inner room," that **safe place in our hearts** where we can, in the words of St. Paul, "be reconciled to God" who transforms us and reminds us yet again **we are beloved**. It is from this safe place that we go forth as "ambassadors for Christ," **ministers of reconciliation** in a broken world. — *Fr. Joe Nassal, C.P.P.S.*



**Missionaries of the
Precious Blood**
United States Province

431 E. Second St.
Dayton OH 45402-1764

Presorted
First Class Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Celina OH
Permit No. 99