



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

C.P.P.S.

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

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

Ephesians 1: 7a

C.P.P.S. Major Superiors Meet in Peru

Their First In-Person Meeting since 2019 Was “Very Good”

In their first in-person meeting since 2019, the major superiors of the worldwide Congregation covered a lot of territory, tackling a full agenda and taking strides to move forward as Missionaries of the Precious Blood on many fronts.

The meeting of major superiors, which takes place every two years, was held in September at the Latin American Province’s retreat center in Chaclacayo, Peru. Due to COVID, the last meeting of major superiors was held via Zoom.

“Gathering in person is always more enriching,” said Fr. Angelo Anthony, C.P.P.S., who is the vice moderator general and was tasked with taking notes during the meeting. “Experiencing the internationality of the Congregation gathered in one space enabled us to hear with fresh ears how the charism and mission of the Precious Blood is being lived out in the various units of the Congregation. We enjoyed being together as brothers in the Blood of Christ.”

Agenda items grew out

of the six core values of the Congregation that were established during the 2019 General Assembly, Fr. Anthony said.

Fr. Jeff Kirch, C.P.P.S., provincial director of the US Province, attended the meeting and provided a summary of actions taken.

Most importantly, he said, the Congregation approved international guidelines in ministry to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

The major superiors committed themselves to using the guidelines and to doing the necessary continuing education to create healthy boundaries in ministry, which includes the use of social media and the internet.

The US Province supports these international guidelines, but Fr. Kirch noted that the province already has had robust



C.P.P.S. major superiors at Chaclacayo, Peru.

“Experiencing the internationality of the Congregation gathered in one space enabled us to hear with fresh ears how the charism and mission of the Precious Blood is being lived out.”

—Fr. Angelo Anthony, C.P.P.S.

safeguarding policies in place for a number of years.

Formation was another major topic at the meeting. The superiors discussed the development of a “community of formation” among the various formators of the Congregation, and a renewed focus on vocation ministry.

Lay associates and their relationship with the Congregation were also discussed. There
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C.PP.S. Major Superiors Meet in Peru

(Continued from page one)

was a general consensus that “we need to look at the congregation as a ‘charismatic family’ that includes Missionaries, along with various sisters’ congregations and lay associates,” said Fr. Kirch. “The charism is at the center, not the institution.”

The superiors discussed upcoming events, including a jubilee year celebration in 2025 to be hosted in Rome with the ASC sisters.

Preparations for the Missionaries’ 2025 general assembly are underway. It will be held in September 2025 in Rome. Fr. Emanuele Lupi, C.PP.S., moderator general, has asked Fr. Kirch to create a process for preparation for the general assembly. This will involve a reflection on the general statutes and core values, leading to a vote to revise the

statutes at the assembly. Personal reflection from members will begin in district meetings in January 2024. Unit synthesis will then be forwarded to the general council.

Fr. Ben Berinti, C.PP.S., has been asked to facilitate the general assembly.

Superiors also approved the creation of an international C.PP.S. communications office. The role of this office is to create a communications strategy for the worldwide Congregation.

The general council is also proposing an international gathering of C.PP.S. brothers, to be held in Chicago in September 2024. There are approximately 35 brothers in the C.PP.S. worldwide.

The superiors also approved a new funding schedule

of the generalate, adjusted due to the creation of the US Province and the Latin American Province.

These initiatives, it is hoped, will strengthen the Congregation and its identity worldwide. “The more that we can speak with a united voice as an international congregation, the stronger our efforts will be to proclaim the gift of the Blood of Christ to the world and attract others to join us,” said Fr. Anthony.

Fr. Kirch said it was “a very good meeting, with a good spirit in the group,” he said, adding that it was good to see the progress that has taken place at the retreat center in Chacacayo, which the Missionaries in Peru have been developing for a number of years.



Community Notes

C.PP.S. Newsletter

This newsletter is published monthly by the US 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.PP.S. Newsletter 431 E. Second St. Dayton OH 45402-1764

Editor: Jean Giesige
cppscommunications@gmail.com

Assignment

Fr. Franklin Rayappa, C.PP.S., pastor, St. Joseph Church, Palm Bay, Fla. Effective August 1, 2023, for a period of five years.

Address Change

Br. Jerome Schulte, C.PP.S.
St. Charles Center, Rm 29
2860 US 127
Celina OH 45822-9533

An Infusion with the Precious Blood of Christ: A Dynamic Force for a Lasting Eucharistic Revival

The United States Province will hold a Eucharistic Assembly June 17–20, 2024, at the St. Louis Airport Marriott, 10700 Pear Tree Lane, St. Louis, Mo., 63134.

The wider Precious Blood family is invited to join the Missionaries for this assembly, which will focus on the power of the Blood of Christ for the renewal of the Church and world.

Sorting Out a Choice Among Good Options

One Suggestion For Discerners: Unplug To Encounter Christ

Angelo Anthony, C.P.P.S.

November 5–11 is designated as National Vocation Awareness Week, an opportunity for all of us to reflect upon our call from the Lord and how we can walk with young people in discerning God's call in their lives.



C.P.P.S.
for
Tomorrow

VOCATION MINISTRY

With so many competing voices crying out for attention today, it's helpful to go back to the basics of discernment found in the writings of St. Ignatius of Loyola and his spiritual exercises.

When we look at fostering a culture of discernment, it's important to recognize that in discernment you are making a decision between two or more *good* things. This is why discernment is challenging. If we are choosing between good and evil, the choice is obvious.

This is something that I recall wrestling with years ago as I discerned my call in life. I had a job in a flower shop that I enjoyed and excelled at, while at the same time I was attracted to serve the Church in some way. Both were good, respectable choices.

In creating a culture of discernment, it is important to prepare your heart to listen. One young religious brother

observed, "You know what allowed me the space to discover this world, to find my identity? I let myself become unplugged. You need to turn off your cell phone. You need to shut off the TV. You need to get off the video games. If you want space in your heart to encounter Christ, unplug."

In the Ignatian spiritual exercises, the first step in discernment is to set your eyes on Jesus. Recognize your identity as a beloved child of God, redeemed and reconciled in the Blood of Christ. We do this by picking up the Gospels and watching Jesus. What is he saying? How does he reveal his love in the various settings of the Gospels? Do you see your relationship with Jesus in any of these encounters?

As you discern, develop a rhythm of life that involves basic spiritual practices like daily prayer, participation in Mass and confession, reflecting upon Scripture, spending quiet time in Eucharistic adoration, and securing a spiritual director, someone who can listen with you.

A third directive is to foster what St. Ignatius calls "holy indifference." This means seeking only what God wants of you. Often we hang on to things in life with clenched fists, usually those things most familiar to us. Holy indifference means that I'm open to whatever path God leads me to, which is often the path I know the least about. God calls us to let go of control and to follow Him. Why not give it a try?

C.P.P.S. Retreat Features Fr. Wessman

Fr. Aaron Wessman, a member of the Glenmary Missioners, will lead a Community retreat at St. Charles Center, Carthagen, Ohio, January 29–February 1.

All members and Companions are invited to be a part of this retreat, "'Do you realize what I have done for you?': Eucharistic Communion in a Polarized World."

The theme will follow Fr. Wessman's recently published book, "The Church's Mission in a Polarized World."

Fr. Wessman gave a presentation in September for the Precious Blood Spirituality Institute (PBSI) and will offer another presentation on January 10. Visit pbspiritualityinstitute.org for details.

Fr. Wessman said he wrote the book to "provide some assistance to readers to discern a way out of the toxicity in which we live, and to stimulate courage and hope so that all people can see the age in which we live more clearly and



respond with **Fr. Wessman** the grace necessary to follow more fully the call God has spoken—a missionary call to deepen Christ's incarnational movement in our world."

Registration details will soon be forthcoming for the Community retreat.

Achieving Racial Sobriety Takes Time

Daryl Charron, C.P.P.S.

I very much appreciated getting the survey results from our ongoing discussion on racism, which began at the June assembly, in the October issue of the *C.P.P.S. Newsletter*.

The results showed that more discussion is needed on this topic, especially in our district meetings and Companion gatherings. It was suggested that we get help from professional facilitators and sponsor trainings on understanding white privilege. I think these are constructive ideas that will help us move forward as a Community. I agree with another response from the survey that says it is part of our charism to focus on such an important topic.

I experienced firsthand the benefits of learning from a professional facilitator speaking about racism. Twenty years ago, I attended a workshop led by Fr. Clarence Williams, C.P.P.S., on "Racial Sobriety." I found it to be a very helpful workshop about a difficult topic to discuss. Fr. Clarence's focus on racism as a sickness to be healed made it more bearable. We were challenged to look at past hurts and painful memories followed by looking into our hearts for forgiveness. Fr. Clarence gently and carefully led us through the stages of recovery from racism. It was quite creative. He used Kübler-Ross' stages of grief to lead us through the process.

One thing especially memorable about the workshop was that in the stage of acceptance there is the death of the racialized self. That was a transformative experience for

me in acknowledging the death of my racialized self. Fr. Clarence said, "The birth of the new self is a challenge because it is unknown to us." I look back on my life now and realize the truth he spoke to me as I examine my current race relations. There has been a birth of my new self and a development of a positive way of being these past 20 years.

Where am I now in the process of my own racial sobriety? Using the concepts of Fr. Clarence, I would say I am struggling through the eighth and final stage of the recovery from racism's process, the "witness stage." It represents the summit of racial sobriety because it demonstrates the power of the new self.

Being true to this stage, I take to heart the words of Fr. Clarence, "The act of passing on the message of racial sobriety to others is the most important part of collaboration to realize the New Family formation. Passing on racial sobriety is the heart of our present struggle in the human family. It is racial sobriety that gives hope to our future in the midst of our dysfunctional realities. This stage is far more than being an example of racial sobriety; it is leading by example and furthering the healing of the human family."

In light of our conversation at the assembly on racism, I need to ask myself necessary questions: How can I try to make a difference? How can I share the benefits of racial sobriety with those around me who are still acting out of the age-old stereotypes? The act of witnessing is the answer. It is this witness that gives hope to

those who are struggling in the anti-racism movement and to those who are trampled by racism.

Fr. Clarence suggested three progressive types of witnessing: witness to one's self-awareness to maintain recovery; personal witness to others; and group/corporate witness to society.

Fr. Clarence challenged us to commit to act on behalf of racial sobriety when necessary. Such a commitment is the result of self-awareness and a readiness to give one's witness. He informed us that each person has a set of principles by which he/she lives, an ethical compass that directs moral decision-making.

Our witness must be judged by our own vigilant "witness to accountability." We ask ourselves how our sense of justice, compassion and religious persuasion directs our view of an event and calls forth responsible action.

Fr. Clarence also taught us that at times our witnessing may lead us out of our personal reflection and decision-making to sharing our witness in our community. This conversion from inner reflection to outward action is a witness for the victims of racism and against racial dysfunction in the human family. It is a transformation from being an attentive observer to becoming an actor in the public arena. One's "witness for" can include a range of public acts of testimony to give witness to our racial sobriety.

I am still striving to stay true to the witnessing that Fr. Clarence inspired me to pursue. I hope other members
(Continued on page eight)

Standing in the Tension is Where We Belong

Dave Kelly, C.PP.S.

In his book “Healing Resistance,” Kazu Haga writes about a woman in 1956 who was selected to be the first black student to attend the University of Alabama. In response to her inclusion, people protested violently, throwing stones, burning crosses and inflicting violence on the Black community. The university responded by expelling this woman from campus, which they claimed quelled the uproar and restored “peace” once more on campus.

Peace is not the mere absence of conflict. It is a positive condition of justice.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A month or so ago, the PBMR family gathered to support one another after the loss of one of our young men who was a regular at our center. He was another victim of gun violence. His quiet demeanor and infectious smile are deeply missed. As is so often the case, he wasn’t the intended target, although that doesn’t bring much comfort. His death has had a heavy impact on both staff and participants. And then, just this week, we gathered again: another young man, 22 years of age, died of a drug overdose.

That might be the hardest thing—never having the time and space to heal from one loss

before another one hits—and then another. There is little wonder why too many young people—and not-so-young people—struggle with how to cope with the pain.

One young man shared that when he leaves the house, his mother always gives him a hug. Underlying that hug is fear for the wellbeing of her son. His words, while not surprising to me, continue to stir within me. With all that is facing our families, it is one more heavy load to carry.

Justice is what love looks like in public. *Cornell West*

As I write this article, news of the horror happening in the Middle East fills the airwaves. The suffering and pain we inflict on one another seems to have no limits. In these moments, whether near or far, that suffering must be met with overwhelming love and generosity. We are called to hear the cry of the poor and respond with what we have. We may not be able to stop the suffering in the world, but we can respond, not with hatred, but with relentless love. Standing in that tension is precisely where and how we ought to be. The world cries out for men, women and children who are willing to live courageous lives of radical love, hope and peace.

I come not to bring this old peace which is merely the absence of tension; I come to bring a positive peace which is the presence of justice and the

Kingdom of God. *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

As we live in the tension that unfolds around us—tension that reveals the injustice, pain and deep wounds that exist in our world—we are called to not quell the noise and return to the status quo, but to listen to the cries and become bearers of truth, justice, mercy and peace. Fania Davis, author and activist, reminds us that justice is a healing ground, not a battle ground. As I enter into these spaces where emotions run high because pain runs deep, it is good for me to pause and remember that what is needed is healing love—justice. Is what I am saying or doing directed toward the ultimate healing and reconciliation of our human family? Am I striving to build up the kingdom as it is called to be? Am I using my words to speak truths that liberate and bring life?

Our website (cpps-preciousblood.org) boldly states: *As an apostolic community we commit ourselves to the service of God in the Church under the sign of the Blood of Christ. Following in the footsteps of St. Gaspar, our founder, we are missionaries, bound together by the bond of charity and engaged in the ministry of the Word, bringing that word of truth and renewal to a world so much in need of God’s redeeming and liberating love.*

Let us respond to the signs of the time with our participation in the redeeming and liberating love of God.

Fr. Dave Kelly, C.PP.S., is the executive director of PBMR.



Precious Blood
Ministry of Reconciliation

In Memoriam

ETERNAL REST GRANT
UNTO THEM, O LORD

Fr. Leon Flaherty, C.P.P.S. July 10, 1935– September 28, 2023

Fr. Leon Flaherty, C.P.P.S., 88, died on September 29, 2023, in the infirmary of St. Charles Center, Carthagen, Ohio. He had been in failing health.

He was born on July 10, 1935, in Superior, Wisc., to Michael and Emily (Jaques) Flaherty. He entered the Congregation in 1949 at Brunnerdale, the Congregation's former minor seminary near Canton, Ohio.

Fr. Flaherty was ordained on June 10, 1961, at St. Charles.

After his ordination, Fr. Flaherty served as an instructor at Brunnerdale, the Congregation's high school seminary near Canton, Ohio. In 1970, he was named director of vocations and later became director of formation. He was also the chaplain for firefighters in Jackson Township of Stark County, Ohio.

In 1978, Fr. Flaherty was named to the retreat team at the retreat center in Maria Stein, Ohio, where he also participated in Marriage Encounter weekends, a ministry he found very fulfilling. He was also known for offering spiritual direction that was life-giving and prayerful.

During that time, he was elected to the leadership of the Congregation. In 1982, he was elected vice provincial director of the Cincinnati Province. He served on the general curia of the worldwide congregation

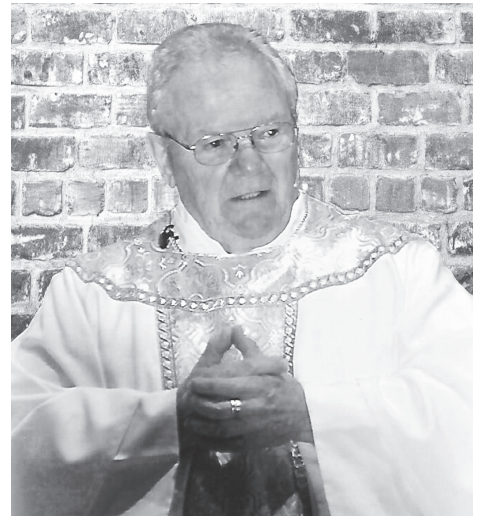
from 1983–89, living in Rome during that time.

Fr. Flaherty then continued his retreat and renewal ministry, moving to Columbus, Ohio, in 1989. In 2000, he returned to parish ministry in the Diocese of Superior. From 2000-01, he was the associate pastor at St. Anthony's parish in Superior; then from 2001-02 he was the associate pastor at Queen of the Universe parish in Woodruff, Wisc.

Fr. Flaherty served as the associate pastor of the Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior from 2002-09. During that time, he was also active in the Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers, an interdenominational service to the sailors working on the Great Lakes freighters. He also ministered from 2009-12 as senior associate pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Whiting, Ind.

Fr. Flaherty returned to Superior in 2012 in his retirement, but he enthusiastically entered into ministry at the Cathedral of Christ the King there, presiding at Masses and assisting in many other ways. There he was honored with the Lumen Christi Award by the Cathedral School for his outstanding priestly service in the U.S. and Italy, but especially in Superior.

His ministry in Superior continued for 11 years until September 2022, when poor health caused Fr. Flaherty to move to St. Charles where his Community could care for him. The two goodbye parties for him hosted by the Cathedral staff were full of well-wishers who were sorry to see him go, but grateful for his ministry.



Fr. Leon Flaherty, C.P.P.S.

Fr. Flaherty had a pastoral approach to people, reaching out with his heart in all his many ministries. Retreatants and parishioners would often ask him, after he preached, "How did you know that was what I needed to hear?" His response was that before he would preach, he asked God to let the people hear what they needed to hear.

With a Missionary spirit, he went where he was called and he truly loved his Community, but part of his heart was always along the shores of Lake Superior, and with his family. When he drove north toward Superior, he would reach a point where he could see the hills of Duluth, and he would know he was home. To return there to minister near the end of his life meant a great deal to him, and he continued to serve the people of God as long as he could.

Survivors include his brother, Thomas (Phyllis) Flaherty. *(Continued on page eight)*

Guest Adds to Daily Life in Formation House

As a seminarian with the Spiritans, Matthew Broeren, CSSp, knows in his bones that community life is important.

But when it was decided that he would attend Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago for his MDiv/MA in Scripture, there was a problem: there is no Spiritan community house in Chicago at this time.

No problem. "We have no confreres in Chicago, but it was offered by the Precious Blood Community that their house of formation in Chicago could serve as an intercongregational community," Matthew said. And that is how he came to live at the Missionaries' San Felice Formation House.

Matthew has been living in community with the Spiritans since he first entered formation with them in 2016, first at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh (his hometown), then in Chicago for one year for Novitiate, then in Trinidad for two years of theological studies, then two years of pastoral ministry in Brazil. He appreciates finding a congenial home in Chicago, where he shares prayer and meals with the house.

"I'm a vegetarian, so it's nice that Br. Daryl is a vegetarian too," he said of Br. Daryl Charron, C.P.P.S., who is the Missionaries' director of initial formation and lives at the house along with C.P.P.S. Frs. Jeff Kirch and Bill Nordenbrock.

Matthew, who is 28, takes his turn cooking. "I'm used to cooking for a community, that's nothing new to me," he said.

He's clearly adaptable,

and/or formation with the Spiritans has made him that way, ever since he switched course in life back in 2016. He was at Duquesne studying for his PharmD, a professional degree similar to a doctor of medicine (MD), when everything changed for him.

"I got involved with the Knights of Columbus, with campus ministry, and my interest in pharmacy fell away," Matthew said. "I began studying exploring philosophy and theology much more. There was in me a thirst for wisdom that began to be quenched, along with a desire to serve the poor. I knew I was called to a religious order, a way of being that seemed extraordinarily authentic."

He explored the Franciscans, but it was the Spiritans (the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, or CSSp) right there at Duquesne who caught his attention. "I thought, 'Maybe I should look up the Spiritans, who I am studying with. I looked them up online and fell in love. I resolved that I was going to become a Spiritan,'" he said.

He has since made his first vows. Spiritan seminarians must have pastoral experiences outside their home country, which for Matthew took place in Brazil. He was also deeply involved in pastoral ministry during his formation in Trinidad as well. Through those experiences, "I grew profoundly in my identity as a mission-



Spiritans seminarian Matthew Broeren, with the Basilica of Our Lady of Aparecida in Brazil in the background.

ary, especially learning what it means to love concretely, and journey with people concretely. I'm skeptical of any vague reference to a theology of the poor that is not paired with practice," he said.

At the end of this stage of his formation in Chicago, he anticipates being ordained. "Once ordained, I apply for my first assignment," indicating areas of ministry that interest him.

"I'm very interested in the area of education, that's number one," he said. "Focusing on scripture, maybe teaching on that subject."

But first, studies at CTU and life on Drexel Avenue. Matthew is a good addition to the house, Br. Daryl said. "It's a joy having Matthew at the formation house in Chicago. I especially can tell he is a Spiritan," Br. Daryl said. "He is filled with the Spirit and has a love for the Scriptures. I like breaking open the Word with him at Mass."

Condolences

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

The family of **Companion Tomas Garcia** (Newark, Calif.), who died September 17. Survivors include his wife of 75 years, Companion Adela Garcia.

The family of **Companion Margaret Tangie** (Albia, Iowa), who died September 18.

The family of **Mary Patricia Beary**, who died September 18. Mary was the sister and sister-in-law of Companions Dave and Susan Beary (Albia, Iowa).

The family of **Larry Billings**, who died September 23. Larry was the brother of Companion Donna Scieszinski (Liberty, Mo.).

The family of **Fr. Leon Flaherty, C.P.P.S.**, who died September 29.

The family of **Companion Philip Wetzel** (Dayton), who died on October 13. He is survived by his wife, Darlene, also a longtime Companion.

Achieving

(Continued from page four)
and Companions also aspire to especially move into witnessing that involves that conversion from inner reflection to outward action. Our current society is now in such drastic need for social action against white supremacy. We need to be in solidarity with victims of racism.

Br. Daryl Charron, C.P.P.S., is a member of the provincial council and is the director of initial formation for the US Province.

CCSJ Awarded \$3 Million From US Dept. of Education

Calumet College of St. Joseph (CCSJ), which is sponsored by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, was recently awarded a Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions grant by the US Department of Education. The initial grant amount of \$600,000 is anticipated to be renewed annually for five years, totaling \$3 million.

CCSJ is recognized as one of the most diverse liberal arts colleges in the Midwest and is the first hispanic-serving institution (HSI) recognized in Indiana. HSIs are required to have a student population with at least 25 percent identifying as Hispanic. Thirty-six percent of CCSJ's current population is Hispanic; nearly 50 percent of the past five incoming classes have been first-

generation collegians.

"Our intent for these dollars is to serve the region by providing opportunities for students to grow and learn and become successful members of our local community," said Ginger Rodriguez, executive director of grants and strategic initiatives at CCSJ.

The award will allow CCSJ to found three Centers of Excellence (CoE), focusing on business, writing and education.

The Business Center of Excellence will enable students to participate in computer-simulations that help enhance small business ownership skills. The Business CoE will also allow students to participate in seminars associated with soft skills such as professional communication and business etiquette.

The Writing Center of Excellence will enable students, particularly those for whom English is not a native tongue, to receive culturally appropriate pedagogy in order to enhance written communication skills. CCSJ currently enrolls 48 students from 14 countries outside of the United States.

The Education Center of Excellence will promote teaching as a career and will coordinate educational initiatives with regional partners, including Big Shoulders, Gary Diocese Schools and local high schools.

The grant will also provide resources for the development of new academic programming. "The academic programs we seek to develop," said Rodriguez, "will meet the needs of the community we serve."

Fr. Flaherty

(Continued from page six)
herty, Superior; and his sister, Carol Zowin; several nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother-in-law, Thomas Zowin.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on October 3, at St. Charles Center, with Fr. Andrew O'Reilly, C.P.P.S., presiding. Fr. Jerome Stack, C.P.P.S., was the homilist. Burial followed in the Community cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, United States Province.

May he rest in peace.



Missionaries Report

NEWS FROM OUR
MINISTRY SITES

Student Wellness Initiative at CCSJ

Benjamin Basile, C.P.P.S.

Calumet College of St. Joseph welcomed its largest incoming class in 11 years, surpassing last year's decade-high enrollment total by five percent. We currently have a total enrollment of 681, which is 3.5 percent higher than last year's fall headcount.



CRIMSON WAVE

Johnny Craig, senior vice president for enrollment, marketing and athletics, attributes the increase to a number of things: "Degrees that attract students, the opportunity to play collegiate sports, closer collaboration with local high schools and an expanding international footprint have all contributed to the larger incoming class."

Business management and kinesiology are the two most popular majors for incoming freshman.

After a COVID-driven decline in student headcount during 2020, overall enrollment was boosted by the addition of a sprint football team last year. We are a founding member of the Midwest Sprint Football League, which adheres to all the rules of American football (with the exception that players must weigh less than 178

pounds). The sprint football team is one of 15 athletic teams at the college.

The opportunity to engage in inter-collegiate athletics attracts not only regional prospects, but embraces a mission of outreach by opening the door to international students. The college currently enrolls 48 international students from 14 countries: Belize, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, Dominican Republic, Finland, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Puerto Rico, Spain and Venezuela.

These visiting students join their classmates in finding a welcoming environment, dedicated to the growth of the whole person. We have recently completed a series of improvements as part of a campus-wide wellness initiative designed to help students improve their mental, physical and spiritual health.

This initiative "was developed because we wanted to provide students with every opportunity for wellness that we could," said Kerry Knowles, CCSJ mental health counselor. "We are here to walk with students on their path and help them develop the skills they need to have a healthy, happy college experience."

Recent improvements designed to focus on mental health include the construction of the Zen Den, which Knowles



L-R, Dr. Mia Jones of Big Shoulders Fund NWI, scholarship recipients Araceli Martinez, Jillian Boroza, Pollyanna Lopez, Tyrah Kohut, Anastacia Gomez, Catholic Diocese of Gary Schools Superintendent Colleen Brewer and CCSJ President Amy McCormack.

described as "a room that provides students with a space to reduce mental overstimulation by disconnecting with technology and reconnecting with their senses and themselves in a calming environment." The room is outfitted with comfortable furniture, weighted blankets, sensory tools, light therapy tablets and a sensory "egg" chair that aids in relaxation.

Mental health is also the focus of therapeutic art and journaling sessions that instructors will offer, providing students the opportunity to write, draw, paint, and practice ceramics as an outlet for their emotional expression.

Because physical health is a major component of a person's wellness, the recent opening of the CCSJ Training Studio provides access to fitness training sessions. The Training Studio is open to all students, faculty and staff.

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Student Wellness Initiative at CCSJ

(Continued from page nine)

Dr. Tracy Stone, director of the college's kinesiology program, said she hopes "that this opportunity helps students form health habits that they will sustain for the rest of their lives."

In addition to the fitness sessions offered in the new Training Studio, students can participate in nutrition classes that are held regularly throughout the semester. Participants learn basic cooking and food preparation skills that help them in their transition to independent adulthood.

These wellness resources are complemented by a campus ministry program that invites students to participate in Mass, prayer and service opportunities, and an annual "Busy Person's Retreat."

These efforts have been

bolstered by previous grant awards. Also, we recently learned that CCSJ will be the recipient of additional funding from the Department of Education. (See page eight for details.)

Dr. Amy McCormack, CCSJ president, recently pub-

licly acknowledged Transition to Teaching Scholarship winners. These students will attend courses tuition-free thanks to collaboration among CCSJ, The Big Shoulders Fund of Northwest Indiana and the Diocese of Gary.



Provincial Director's Calendar

October 31–November 2:

Provincial council meeting, Chicago.

November 4: *Missionary Hearts*

Mission and Ministry Society Mass of Remembrance, St. Charles Center, Carthage, Ohio.

November 6: Catholic Theological Union corporate board

meeting, Chicago.

November 8–9: CMSM executive committee meeting, Baltimore.

November 13–16: US Conference of Catholic Bishops annual meeting, Baltimore.

November 16: Calumet College of St. Joseph board meeting, Whiting, Ind.

Follow the Star,

an Advent event at St. Charles Center, returns on December 16–17. It is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas. Visit cpps-preciousblood.org for details.

Registration, Lodging Details for the Brunnerdale "All In" Reunion, July 19–21

This great event at the Glenmoor County Club is coming into focus. Visit the Brunnerdale Seminary High School Facebook page for updates and information!

10 – C.P.P.S. Newsletter



Community Calendar

November 4: Companions Day of Reflection at St. Patrick Church, Georgetown, Iowa.

November 5–11: National Vocation Awareness Week.

November 11: Annual 5K for Vocations, St. Charles Center, Carthage, Ohio.

November 12: *Sundays at St. Charles*, St. Charles Center, with Fr. David Kelly, C.P.P.S.

November 26: *Sundays at St. Charles*, St. Charles Center, with Fr. Ron Will, C.P.P.S.

December 3: *Sundays at St. Charles*, St. Charles Center, with Fr. Denny Kinderman, C.P.P.S.

December 16–17: *Follow the*

Star Advent event, St. Charles Center.

December 17: *Sundays at St. Charles*, St. Charles Center, with Fr. Denny Kinderman, C.P.P.S.

January 27–28: Companions retreat, Vallombrosa Center, Palo Alto, Calif.

February 3: Companions Day of Reflection, San Pedro Center, Orlando, Fla.

March 9: Companions Day of Reflection at Butternut/Park Falls, Wisc. Location to be determined.

June 17–20: US Province Eucharistic Assembly, St. Louis Airport Marriott, St. Louis.

Days of Praise

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

Celebrating Birthdays In December

- 1 Fr. Joseph Uecker
- 2 Br. James Ballmann
Fr. James Urbanic
- 9 Fr. Gregory Evers
- 10 Fr. Michael Volkmer
Fr. Nhan (Dominic) Bui
- 14 Br. Daryl Charron
- 21 Fr. Kenneth Schnipke
- 22 Fr. Charles Mullen
- 29 Fr. Harold Brown
Fr. Thomas Welk



*Happy birthday,
Fr. Joe Uecker*



*Happy anniversary,
Fr. Lac Pham*

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.

Celebrating Anniversaries In December

- 8 Fr. Andrew O'Reilly
- 12 Fr. Matthew Jozefiak
Fr. Nhan (Dominic) Bui
Fr. Loi Huu (John Vianney) Nguyen
- 13 Fr. Mark Peres
- 19 Fr. Kenneth Pleiman
- 30 Fr. Thomas Hemm
Fr. Lac Pham

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

November:
Polish Province

DECEMBER PRAYER LIST

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Fr. Seraphine Lesiriam | 18. Fr. Alfred Naseman |
| 2. Fr. Fred Licciardi | 19. Fr. Joseph Nassal |
| 3. Pray for vocations | 20. Fr. Loi Huu (John Vianney) Nguyen |
| 4. Newton Lih | 21. Fr. William Nordenbrock |
| 5. Fr. Matthew Link | 22. Br. Terrence Nufer |
| 6. Fr. David Matz | 23. Fr. William O'Donnell |
| 7. Br. Charles McCafferty | 24. For living and deceased Companions |
| 8. Fr. Jack McClure | 25. Fr. Edward Oen |
| 9. Fr. Timothy McFarland | 26. Fr. Andrew O'Reilly |
| 10. For living and deceased C.P.P.S. members | 27. Fr. Mark Peres |
| 11. Fr. John Mencsik | 28. Fr. Lac Pham |
| 12. Fr. William Miller | 29. Hao (Paul) Pham |
| 13. Fr. Mark Miller | 30. Ky (Joseph) Phung |
| 14. Fr. Alfons Minja | 31. For living and deceased Amici |
| 15. Fr. LeRoy Moreeuw | |
| 16. Fr. Charles Mullen | |
| 17. Pray for those in formation | |



We are people of the Word.

Preaching and praying with the people of God (here at recent Sundays at St. Charles and World Mission Sunday events), Missionaries live out their call. How are we inviting others to share in our charism as Precious Blood people?

National Vocation Awareness Week, November 5-11



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