

THE MESSENGER



Missionaries of the
Precious Blood
UNITED STATES PROVINCE

MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

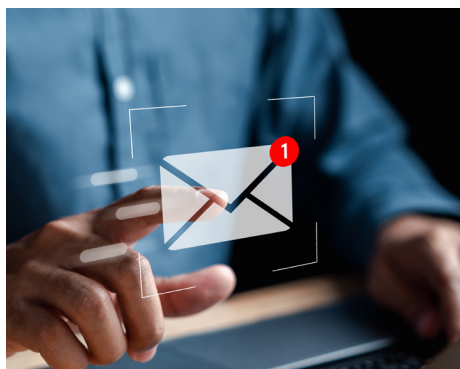
MARCH 2024



Isaiah 43:19

SEE, I AM DOING SOMETHING NEW!

Now it springs forth; do you
not perceive it?



NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES



L.A. PROVINCE ELECTION



EUCCHARISTIC ASSEMBLY

In Christ, through the shedding of his blood, we have redemption and forgiveness of our sins.—*Ephesians 1:7a*

ISAIAH 43:19

SEE, I AM DOING SOMETHING NEW!

Now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?

Welcome to the Messenger, the official newsletter of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. We hope that you like our new look, format, and style. Our former newsletter served us well, but in the spirit of the Lenten season, we embrace a refreshed medium for our congregation to exchange ideas, information, and news from across the Precious Blood family.

As we anticipate the arrival of spring and the hope of the Resurrection, the provincial council invites

you to view the Messenger as a forum for change, innovation, and dialogue that promotes our message among members, Companions, and the laity. We have much to

share and even more to learn from each other; in fact, we have much to proclaim and bring to the world, but we must start with ourselves.

It's incumbent upon us to continue the work of our founder, St. Gaspar del Bufalo, by promulgating his message among our community and yes, beyond the walls of the Precious Blood ministry. I know that it's not our nature to boast, but if we're not telling our story, who will? The onus is upon us to broadcast our mission to all who will listen: We believe that the Precious Blood of Jesus can heal a wounded world. Why do we believe that? Because we've seen it countless times in our own ministry.

As we're reminded in Ecclesiastes 3:1-11: "To everything, there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven." This is our time, our season, and our opportunity.

Please enjoy the Messenger, contribute to its content, and share our charism with others.

Fr. Jeff Kirch
Provincial Director





2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST,

**he is a new creation. The old has
passed away; behold, the new has come.**

Welcome to the Messenger, the transformed iteration of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood newsletter. It's my privilege to be called to serve the congregation and to help amplify your voices, your calling, and our collective mission. I'm excited about the possibilities that exist within this new forum to connect the comprehensive Precious Blood ministries, staff, priests, brothers, Companions, and supporters in the United States Province.

I hope that you'll view the Messenger as the venue to share news among the Precious Blood community. As the Lord's work is done through you and your colleagues, it can feel instinctive to minimize your role in that work and to quietly celebrate the Lord's victory. I ask that you instead celebrate His work by sharing it with the members of the community. In doing so, His victories will inspire, educate, and become seeds planted to grow elsewhere.

I encourage you to submit pertinent information to Managing Editor Rebecca Seum at editor@preciousbloodus.org for

publication consideration. I also invite you to send questions, suggestions, feedback, and mailing/email address changes, as we continue to refine the Messenger and to integrate our communication methods to meet your needs. Our eventual goal is to produce the Messenger in electronic format and to post the publication on our website, which will be reimaged in the spring to reflect the entirety of the Precious Blood ministries.

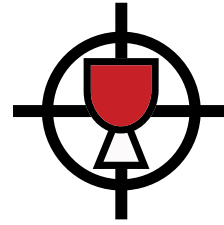
In the meantime, I hope that you'll look upon this publication, as well as other changes with which the provincial council has charged the communications staff, as vital to the evolution of not only the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, but to those in need, whom we're honored to serve. The margins are where we dwell and where we do His work.

Thank you for your acceptance and support.

Patrick Higgins
Executive Director of Communications
phiggins@preciousbloodus.org

COMPANIONS

Update



We are wrapping up a successful Companion retreat season with recent events in California and Florida. We have one last retreat of this series scheduled for March 9 in Butternut, Wisconsin. Titled “Imagine a different future,” attendees will hear from Fr. Denny Kinderman, C.P.P.S., on topics including proximity, changing the narrative, doing the hard thing, and always having hope. Of course, social activities and fellowship are always an enjoyable part of these events.

All are welcome to these retreats — you don’t have to be a Companion to attend! If you haven’t had the opportunity to experience a retreat yet, a new season will begin this fall and continue through spring 2025.

We currently have several Companion groups that have new inquirers attending formation sessions. A number of informational gatherings in different locations throughout the United States Province have inspired interest in the program. If you would like to explore starting a new group or inviting others to an existing Companion group, please contact Eileen Givens at **407-782-0769** or **companions.preciousblood@gmail.com** for information, encouragement, and assistance.

Have a group project your Companions have been involved in that you’d like to share with others? Spreading the word of our activities is a great way to inspire others to do His work in new ways! Contact Eileen Givens with details.



PRECIOUS BLOOD MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

Update

You can't walk through PBMR's main center without knowing that it's Black History Month. Our hallway is decorated with colorful posters that both staff and participants decorated with photos to highlight Black history. These boards remember historical figures, such as Langston Hughes, Septima Poinsette Clark, and Fred Hampton, but also celebrate figures of the present: one board recognizes mothers in PBMR's Family Forward program. Another honors a participant's grandfather (and the participant took a picture of the board to send to him).

In addition to lifting up Black history, February presented an opportunity for us to reflect on love. It makes sense that our Family Forward program would offer the space to do so: as one PBMR mother said, "A lot of us come around just to feel loved." At both our monthly Mother's Healing Circle and a You Are Loved circle, women gathered to share their hearts with each other and care for themselves in community.

Our first Bowl-a-Thon invited friends new and old to "Spare Some Love" for Family Forward. The Family Forward team, led by Sr. Donna Liette, C.P.P.S., works to foster community and healing and tend to participants' material needs. The Feb. 17 event launches an initiative to raise \$50,000

for this vital ministry and introduce new friends to PBMR's work, all while having a great time!

Our mission of healing and community extends beyond mothers. A young participant completed her training as a circle keeper in January and immediately put her new skills to use keeping a circle for other young women. This is an important step, as peer circle keepers carry our commitment to restorative justice on to a new generation. We will continue to lift up the voices and stories of women in our community during our International Women's Month celebrations throughout March.

Our first after-school arts cohort of 2024 is wrapping up. Our young people have been reflecting on the theme of strength through various artistic outlets. This includes, for the first time, crochet, taught by a Precious Blood volunteer. With a music showcase in November and a theater performance in January, we've been spoiled with our young people's talent in recent months, and we want more: we're hoping to further spotlight their gifts in a cross-program arts showcase.

You can follow along as we live out our shared Precious Blood spirituality on our Facebook or Instagram pages.



PRECIOUS BLOOD RENEWAL CENTER **Update**



Precious Blood Renewal Center hosted two of its most popular programs last month: our annual Healing Mass and Tables for Two, an enrichment program for married and engaged couples. About 65 people joined us for the Healing Mass on Feb. 11, World Day for the Sick, to pray for the ill and their caregivers. Fathers Ron Will, John Wolf, and Jim Betzen anointed and laid hands on the participants.

Feb. 17 was the fourth time hosting Tables for Two and the fourth time we sold out and had a waiting list. On that night, 16 tables were scattered through the center's large gathering space and elegantly set for a five-course meal (including wine!) prepared by Director of Hospitality Lucia Ferrara and served by teen volunteers. Lights were dimmed and candles lit. Each couple sat at a private table. A lead couple delivered a short feverino, and then the meal began. With each course, the couples received a card with a question that they discussed as they dined.

About 16 people are working through a multi-session program about the writings of Cistercian monk Thomas Merton. Fr. Garry Richmeier leads the program, titled "Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton." The group meets weekly for eight weeks, discussing a chapter from the accompanying eight booklets. This group read Book 1 last fall and finished Book 2 on Feb. 26. They will take up Book 3 in early summer.

Also in February, our book club finished reading *Waking Up White: Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Amy Irving, which explores white privilege. One participant wrote in their evaluation of the program: "The book brought racism clear to me, I had no idea of what Black people go through. I grew up with them and never thought about us being different." We're looking for our next book to read. If you have suggestions, send them to **programs@pbrnewalcenter.org**.

Many events at the Renewal Center, the book club for example, are hybrid programs, with some people meeting in person and others joining by Zoom. A full list of future programs can be found at **pbrnewalcenter.org/events**. While you're on the website, sign up to receive our weekly email newsletter.



PRECIOUS BLOOD SPIRITUALITY INSTITUTE

Update

Over the Christmas holidays, I was introduced to a new song by David Archuleta called Glorious. As I reflect on the work of the Precious Blood Spirituality Institute over the last few months, one of the lines aptly describes our work: “It’s like a symphony, just keep listening. Everyone plays a piece, and there are melodies in each one of us; it’s glorious.”

We have focused our efforts this year on an issue that affects everyone: polarization. In January, we joined with Fr. Aaron Wessman, who offered a two-part presentation from his book, *The Church’s Role in a Polarized World*. Groups have also gathered monthly to discuss his work. The more we learned about polarization, the more we quickly determined that the gifts of our spirituality could help. In January, the institute began to form a relationship with the Braver Angels

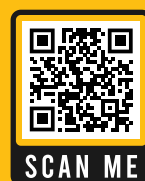
organization. Braver Angels is a national grassroots organization developing workshops and other tools to help depolarize our community. In January, we collaborated with Braver Angels and the Precious Blood Renewal Center staff to offer a workshop for faith communities called *Depolarizing Ourselves — The First Steps Toward Civil Engagement*. In addition to our work on polarization, we have also begun uploading past editions of the *Wine Cellar*, an anthology of writings from members of our various Precious Blood communities.



Schreiter Center Director
Kevin Considine

We have also been busy at the Schreiter Institute at Catholic Theological Union (CTU). Our certificate program, *Reconciliation and Restorative Justice*, was inaugurated and began accepting students. In addition to teaching classes and mentoring students, Director Kevin Considine continues publishing articles for different journals. He has also been working on two important events scheduled for the spring. The first is a staged reading of the play *St. Miles*, which explores the question of protests being forms of prayer. The year will conclude with the annual symposium called *Synodality as a Field Hospital*.

We invite you to learn more about the institute by visiting pbspiritualityinstitute.org. To learn more about activities at the Schreiter Institute, go to ctu.edu/academics/schreiter-institute.



SCAN ME

SORROWFUL MOTHER SHRINE Update



Winter is busy at the Sorrowful Mother Shrine, as we prepare to accommodate visitors during more temperate months and enhance their experience. We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of maintenance staff and volunteers who have dedicated uncountable hours of time to making necessary repairs and updates to the shrine grounds and facilities.

While it would be tempting to think a place intended for spiritual reflection and inspiration would be exempt from safety and security concerns, we must be vigilant to ensure visitors as well as shrine properties are protected. We recently installed a security system in our Pilgrim Center. We also purchased two new

automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for the Pilgrim Center and the Shrine Chapel. All staff members are CPR and AED certified so they can assist in the event of an emergency.

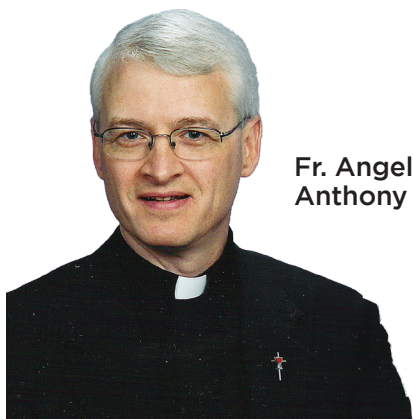
After much consideration, we determined that we would be unable to ensure the security of the grounds and property if we opened the shrine grounds to visitors wishing to view the solar eclipse on April 8. We will be hiring special duty law enforcement to secure the area.

Other updates:

- We are pleased to have engaged a retired professional to begin the preservation of the shrine archives.
- To improve our communications abilities, we are researching a new voice over internet protocol (VOIP) phone system that has many features, including forwarding calls to cellphones.
- We are progressing with plans for the restoration of the Outdoor Pieta Chapel, including the stained-glass windows. We look forward to sharing these plans when they are finalized.

Plan a visit, take a virtual tour, and learn about the many offerings at the Sorrowful Mother Shrine on our website at sorrowfulmothershrine.org.

VOCATIONS Update



Fr. Angelo
Anthony

A recent initiative of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) is a Zoom session series entitled, “Talk It Up Tuesdays.”

Vocation directors from across the country come together to share ideas, insights, challenges, and support as we walk with young people in their vocational discernment. Fr. Rodrigo Ulloa, M.M., led the first session by highlighting the movie *Castaway*, the story about Chuck Noland, a FedEx systems analyst played by Tom Hanks who is the only survivor of a cargo plane that crashed into the Pacific Ocean.

After the crash, Noland’s inflatable life raft washes up on an uninhabited island. Over the next four years, Noland learns to survive on the island, attempting several times to leave the island only to be tossed back to the shore. Finally, using all his abilities and resources, Noland builds a raft that can withstand the huge ocean waves and he launches his

craft in the hopes of getting home. As he makes it past a series of coastal waves in his raft, he comes to the point of no return and reflectively looks back on the island home that enabled him to survive all these years. A look of awe and amazement comes across his face — he knows he must move on.

Fr. Rodrigo used this scene from the movie as an analogy of discerning a vocation to religious life. The young person must use their gifts, talents, innate skills, and past life experiences to build their vocational raft. As we see in sacred scripture, God does not call someone to a mission only to watch it fail. God provides them with all that is needed to fulfill their mission. Our role in the discernment journey is to help the young person see their gifts and talents as something God wants to use to further the building of the Kingdom of God.

Determination, fortitude, patience, trust, and calm were all qualities that impelled Noland to leave the safety of the island and to make the journey home.

These same characteristics are key for someone pursuing a religious vocation. Responding to the call of Jesus is not for the faint of heart! Inevitably, a choice must be made: do I stay with that which is safe and familiar, or do I step out in faith trusting that God will provide for my every need?

As you look around at the young people in your ministerial setting or local community, who stands out to you as someone who loves the Lord, someone who sees life as something more than simply taking care of self? Encourage them to consider a vocation to the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. Affirm the qualities that you see within them as the qualifications needed for ministry. In doing so you will help them build their vocational raft and offer them the courage needed to step out in faith.

Contact me at **vocation@preciousbloodus.org** for any assistance or guidance as you identify those who may have a calling to join us.

ELECTION OF THE NEW LATIN AMERICA PROVINCIAL

director and his council



We are pleased to announce that Fr. Máximo Mesía has been reelected as provincial director of Latin America. Along with Fr. Máximo Mesía, Fr. José Luis Gatica was elected as vice-provincial. The provincial councilors were also elected and will accompany the provincial as leadership: Fathers Nino Calderón, Nicanor Azúa, Raimundo Das Neves, Rony Díaz, and Fredy Campos. Each brings a unique and valuable perspective, ensuring effective and diverse

management. We are confident that under the leadership of Fr. Mesía and with the support of this talented team of counselors, our province will be heading toward a stage of growth and prosperity. We wish you success in your efforts and reaffirm our commitment to work together for the well-being of our community.

Father Omar Cerda, C.P.P.S. Secretary

IRS UPDATED MILEAGE RATE

The IRS standard mileage rate for 2024 is 67 cents per mile. This is an increase of 1.5 cents per mile from 2023.



NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please note that all Missionaries of the Precious Blood staff email suffixes have changed.

Old: @cpps-preciousblood.org

New: @preciousbloodus.org

Emails sent to the old addresses will forward to the new addresses.

New email address

Fr. Ron Will, C.P.P.S.

frron@pbrewnewalcenter.org

SAVE THE DATE!

**Missionaries of the
Precious Blood
Eucharistic Assembly
June 17-20, 2024**

**St. Louis Airport Marriott
10700 Pear Tree Lane
St. Louis, MO 63134**

**AN INFUSION WITH THE
PRECIOUS BLOOD OF
CHRIST:**

**A Dynamic Force for a
Lasting Eucharistic Revival**

"The cup of blessing that we
bless, is it not a sharing in
the blood of Christ?"
(1 Cor. 10:16)

As the second year of
the U.S. Catholic Bishops'
Eucharistic Revival comes
to a close in June 2024
and prior to our launching
a national Eucharistic
Assembly in June 2025, the
United States Province of

the Missionaries of
the Precious Blood
invites religious,
friends, associates,
and partners in
ministry of the
wider Precious
Blood family
to join us in St. Louis for
a Eucharistic Assembly
focused on the power of
the Blood of Christ for
the renewal of the Church
and world. We believe, as
Terence Sweeney wrote,
"There cannot be a full-
fledged Eucharistic
revival without a Precious
Blood revival."

Inspired by the USCCB
national Eucharistic revival,
the Missionaries, along
with members of the wider
family of Precious Blood
communities in the United
States and our partners in
ministry, hope to expand the
focus of Eucharistic revival



to include a deep dive into
aspects of the spirituality
of the Blood of Christ
as reflected in scripture,
liturgy, pastoral care, and
service, particularly to the
marginalized and those who
feel far off.

Along with Eucharist and
other liturgical prayer,
two plenary keynote
presentations will anchor
our assembly, while several
breakout workshops will
be offered that will explore
contemporary spiritual,
liturgical, and pastoral
aspects of the power of the
Blood of Christ.



In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. John 14: 2-3

OBITUARIES

Fr. Donald Thieman, C.PP.S. **May 16, 1927-Dec. 19, 2023**

Fr. Donald Thieman, C.PP.S., died at 12:40 a.m. in the infirmary at St. Charles Center, Carthagen, Ohio. He had been in failing health. At 96, Fr. Thieman was the oldest living Missionary of the Precious Blood in the world. He had celebrated the 70th anniversary of his ordination earlier this year.

He was born on May 16, 1927, in Coldwater, Ohio, to John and Rose (Stelzer) Thieman. He entered the congregation in 1941 at Brunnerdale, the Missionaries' former high school seminary near Canton, Ohio, and was ordained on June 4, 1953, at St. Charles Seminary, Carthagen, Ohio.

Fr. Thieman spent a few years in parish ministry after his ordination, at St. Anne Church in Toledo and St. Augustine Church in Minster, Ohio.

In 1958, he volunteered for ministry in the congregation's mission in Chile (now part of the Latin American Province), even though he was not sure about this step. But Missionaries were being asked to serve in Latin America at the time, so Fr. Thieman waited for God's direction.

He heard it clearly one day while proclaiming the gospel during a Mass in Minster, Ohio: "And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life (Matthew 19:29)."

He served in Chile for over 50 years.

In Chile, Fr. Thieman was a pastor of churches in Santiago and Valdivia. He served as the director of the Chilean Vicariate from 1970-74. He lived through 17 years of violence after the Pinochet military coup and helped the people he served survive those times of trial with courage and grace.

In 2012, after 53 years in Chile, Fr. Thieman returned to the United States and made his home at St. Charles Center.

He was the last surviving member of his immediate family. He was preceded in death by his sisters, Eulalia Link and her husband, Louis; Adelaide Brockman and her husband, Warren; and a great-nephew, Austin Brackman.

He is survived by the following nieces and nephews: Marilyn Link and Tom (Kathy) Link, all of Coldwater, Ohio; John (Diane)

Link, Troy, Ohio; Ann (Marv) Selhorst, Simpsonville, S.C.; Ted (Mary) Beckman and Jim (Kathy) Brackman, all of Minster, Ohio; and Jane (Virg) Bertke, St. Marys, Ohio. He is also survived by many great-nieces and great-nephews.

During his years in Chile, Fr. Thieman was a steadfast, calming presence to the people of God and to the younger Missionaries who served with him. He taught them how to love all God's people, even those who weren't the most lovable. It wasn't that he didn't have struggles of his own, ministering so far from home, trying to communicate in a language that did not come easily to him. "I've never been a great one with vocabulary," he said.

His own constant prayer was a simple plea, in Spanish, "Ven, Señor Jesús." (Come, Lord Jesus.) Whispering that prayer, then listening for an answer, guided his ministry for 70 years.

In his later years, he served at St. Charles with dignity and grace, helping at local parishes as long as he was able, especially St. Francis Church in Cranberry Prairie, Ohio. He always supported his religious community — earlier in the year he attended the Missionaries' annual assembly in Indianapolis.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Friday, Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. at St. Charles, Fr. Thomas Brenberger, C.P.P.S., presiding. Burial followed in the St. Charles Center cemetery.

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



OBITUARIES

Fr. Juan González, C.P.P.S. **May 16, 1927–Dec. 19, 2023**

Fr. Juan González, C.P.P.S., 77, died at 11:50 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 31, in the infirmary at St. Charles Center, Carthagen, Ohio, where he made his home. He had been in failing health in recent years.

Fr. González was born on Feb. 8, 1946, to Antonio González Maldonado and Maria Isabel Aponte Maldonado in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He was ordained on July 2, 1976, in the Church of Santa Teresita in the Diocese of Ponce, Puerto Rico. He was ordained by the bishop of Arecibo, Miguel Rodríguez. He celebrated his first Mass on July 3 in the parish of Santa Teresita, Ponce.

After his ordination, he ministered at Immaculada Concepcion Parish of Vega Alta, Puerto Rico, from 1976–1980. Fr. González then spent two years in a Trappist monastery in Santiago, Chile. It was in Chile where he encountered the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and underwent special formation with the congregation. He was incorporated as a Missionary of the Precious Blood on Aug. 22, 1983.

Fr. González ministered in the Chilean Vicariate of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood until 1990, when he was appointed associate pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe in East Chicago, Indiana. In 1994, he became pastor and served until 2013. From 2010–2011, Fr. González also served as pastoral

administrator of St. Patrick Parish in East Chicago, later assisting at St. John the Baptist in Whiting, Indiana. In May 2014, he was appointed as senior associate at St. Agnes Church in Los Angeles.

Fr. González retired to St. Charles Center in 2015. In recent years, he had been active in ministry to Spanish-speaking people, presiding at a Sunday Mass in Spanish in St. Charles' St. Joseph Chapel.

Survivors include his siblings, all of Puerto Rico: Carmen (Jorge Torres) del Pilar, Ponce; Francisco Javier (Sandra Rodriguez) González, Ponce; Angel Luis González, San Juan; and Elsa Margarita (Jose Torres) González Aponte, Santa Isabel; a brother-in-law, Lionel Marengo, San Juan; and many nieces and nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Maria del Socorro and Elba Isabel González, and a brother-in-law, Pastor González.

Fr. González grew up in a family that valued education. His mother especially influenced all seven children to work hard in school and go on to college. Juan, the oldest of the boys, worked alongside his father and younger brothers in the family's grocery store in Ponce. They did their homework there too, always a priority.

Juan studied mathematics and became a teacher/professor. At the same time, his faith was important to him, and eventually he listened to God's call to the priesthood.

Wherever Fr. González served, he drew people near with his quiet, steadfast faith. People from his earliest ministry in the U.S., Our Lady of Guadalupe in East Chicago, were so close to him that they continued to visit him at St. Charles Center 30 years later.

His ministry to Spanish-speaking people in Mercer and Auglaize counties in Ohio was an essential outreach. He met people where they were, offering Mass after hours in restaurants in the area, encouraging them in their struggles, and celebrating family moments with them.

In all his years as a missionary, he remained close in spirit to his family in Puerto Rico, keeping watch over them from afar.

Near the end of his life, attacked by illness in nearly every system of his body, Fr. González showed incredible strength and patient endurance. All who knew him were moved by the way he endured unspeakable pain. If it was God's will that the end of his life would be difficult, then Fr. González would accept that with the wisdom and courage that marked his life of service.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Charles Center on Monday, Jan. 8, at 2 p.m., Fr. Jeffrey Kirch, C.P.P.S., provincial director, presiding. Burial followed in the St. Charles Center cemetery.

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



CONDOLENCES

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

The family of Pat Eastlick, who died Dec. 15. Pat was the brother of Companion Ann O'Brien (Albia, Iowa).

The family of Dennis Heisdorffer, who died Dec. 18. Dennis was the brother of Companion Marlene Beadle (Albia, Iowa).

The family of Companion Jean Hollinrake (Albia, Iowa), who died Dec. 20.

The family of Fr. Juan González, C.P.P.S., who died Dec. 31.

The family of Kay Mallon, who died Jan. 4. Kay was the sister of Companion Connie Swymeler (St. Joseph, Missouri).

The family of Companion David Swymeler (St. Joseph, Missouri), who died Jan. 6.

The family of Amicus James Smith, who died.

The family of Companion Bill Himes (Cleveland, Ohio), who died Jan. 29.

THE EUCHARIST

a lasting infusion

As part of the current Eucharistic Revival in the United States, the wider Precious Blood family, plus those who work with us in our various ministry sites, are invited to gather June 17–20, 2024, in St. Louis, Missouri, for a convocation entitled: “An Infusion with the Precious Blood of Christ: A Dynamic Force for a Lasting Eucharistic Revival.”

What is an infusion? Several years ago, because of a severe infection that I had, I needed to go to a clinic for infusions several times a week. I was hooked up to an IV drip, which was inserted into a port in my arm. Over time, the infusions did the job of overcoming the infection.

Where do I get an infusion with the Precious Blood of Christ? At Mass. I don't get it sitting at home. I need to show up at church during Mass. In order to benefit from the Mass, I need to understand what is going on there. If I don't understand the game of soccer and how the scoring happens, I will sit in the stands watching but get no benefit or excitement from the game. If I don't understand the meaning of various symbols and gestures during Mass, I just sit there watching but receive very little benefit. There are dozens of easy-to-read books on the market that will help you walk through the Mass. Read one!



Many people receive the Eucharist every week, but they aren't changed by it. It's like the woman with the hemorrhage who was healed by Jesus. There were many people in the crowd that day who were jostling and touching Jesus as he walked along, but healing power went out from Jesus only to this woman because she had the faith that she would be healed if she touched Jesus. She expected to be healed. When we receive the Eucharist, when we receive Jesus into ourselves, do we expect to be changed?

Another word that strikes me in that theme is a "lasting" Eucharistic revival. This

experience is not a one-time experience. Each time we receive the Eucharist, we become living tabernacles holding Jesus. It has been observed that people imitate the five people they spend the most time with — for better or worse. Make Jesus one of those five people. Spending time in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist will transform you and your life in ways you cannot even begin to imagine.

Fr. Ron Will, C.P.P.S.

CELEBRATE

ANNIVERSARIES

Celebrating anniversaries in April

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

BIRTHDAYS

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



PRAYER CALENDAR

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

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

1. Fr. Nhan (Dominic) Bui
2. Br. Timothy Cahill
3. Br. Daryl Charron
4. Most Rev. Joseph Charron
5. Fr. Dennis Chriszt
6. Fr. Timothy Coday
7. Pray for vocations
8. Fr. Donald Davison
9. Fr. William Delaney
10. Fr. Stephen Dos Santos
11. Fr. Aloys Ebach
12. Fr. Linus Evers
13. Fr. Gregory Evers
14. Living and deceased C.P.P.S. members
15. Fr. Barry Fischer
16. Br. Joseph Fisher
17. Fr. Anthony Fortman
18. Fr. James Franck
19. Fr. Richard Friebe
20. Fr. James Gaynor
21. Pray for those in formation
22. Fr. Michael Goode
23. Fr. Timothy Guthridge
24. Fr. Thomas Hemm
25. Fr. Larry Hemmelgarn
26. Fr. Tam Minh (Peter) Hoang
27. Fr. John Hoying
28. For living and deceased Amici
29. Fr. Mark Hoying
30. Fr. David Hoying

MEMBERS, COMPANIONS, AND FRIENDS

YOU ARE INVITED TO SHARE YOUR SPIRITUALITY



Missionaries of the
Precious Blood
UNITED STATES PROVINCE



SHARE TODAY!

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood seek to spread Christ's reconciling love to everyone, especially the lost, the hopeless, the poor, the victims of violence — anyone who feels left out of the circle of God's love.

We want to use our social media outlets and other communications channels to raise awareness of the charism and spirituality of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

Contact **editor@preciousbloodus.org** to share your prayers, reflections, photos, words of wisdom, or other insights from you as a member of the Precious Blood community. Please remember to include your name!

We have a gift. Please help us share it with the world.