

# THE **New Wine** PRESS

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Volume 24 No. 4 • December 2015

**C.P.P.S. Fest**

**Where History Meets Hope  
Preventing Gun Violence**



# Immigration Reform: Where Are We Going?

## 2015-16 Peace & Justice Series

Session 2: February 4, 5, 6 & 7

### **The Faces of Immigration Today**

Discussion Panel with Representatives of Immigrant Communities

#### Session Two Locations\*

##### **February 4**

6:30 p.m.

St. Mary's Church  
Albia, Iowa

##### **February 5**

4 p.m.

St. Francis Xavier Parish  
St. Joseph, Missouri

##### **February 6**

10 a.m.

Sacred Heart Parish  
Sedalia, Missouri

##### **February 7**

4 p.m.

St. James Parish  
Liberty, Missouri

*\*Session Two presentation will be the same at all locations.*

Contact Br. Daryl Charron, c.P.P.S. for more information: [daryl.charron@yahoo.com](mailto:daryl.charron@yahoo.com).

# THE New Wine PRESS

Volume 24 No. 4 • December 2015

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The Society of the Precious Blood is a fraternal community of priests and brothers founded by St. Gaspar in 1815. Bonded through charity by a promise of fidelity, we are prayerfully motivated by the spirituality of the precious blood of Jesus Christ to serve the needs of the Church as discerned through the signs of the times and in the light of the Gospel.

The Kansas City Province—incorporated members, covenanted companions, and candidates—united in prayer, service and mutual support, characterized by the tradition of its American predecessors, are missionaries of these times with diverse gifts and ministries. In a spirit of joy, we strive to serve all people—especially the poor—with care and compassion, hope and hospitality.

*The New Wine Press* seeks to remain faithful to the charism of our founder, St. Gaspar, and the spirituality of the Blood of Christ with its emphasis on reconciliation, renewal and refounding. We accept and encourage unsolicited manuscripts and letters to the editor.

## THE New Wine PRESS

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## Gaspar Meets Francis: Mercy

by Fr. Keith Branson, C.P.P.S., Publications Editor

“Whereas the devil would like all to be victims of justice, we ministers of the sanctuary must make known the depths of God’s mercy so that *justificati in Sanguine ipsius salvi simus ab ira per ipsum*. (Justified in blood, we will be saved through it.) In this devotion, we have the treasures of wisdom and holiness; in it we find comfort, peace and salvation” (Gaspar del Bufalo to Pope Leo VII, July 29, 1825 #1214).

47. “The Church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open. One concrete sign of such openness is that our church doors should always be open, so that if someone, moved by the Spirit, comes there looking for God, he or she will not find a closed door. There are other doors that should not be closed either. Everyone can share in some way in the life of the Church; everyone can be part of the community, nor should the doors of the sacraments be closed for simply any reason. This is especially true of the sacrament which is itself “the door”: baptism. The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak. These convictions have pastoral consequences that we are called to consider with prudence and boldness. Frequently, we act as arbiters of grace rather than its facilitators. But the Church is not a tollhouse; it is the house of the Father, where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems” (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*).

Vatican II taught that the Eucharist is the “Source and summit of Christian life” (*Lumen Gentium* 11). In recent years, more seems to be made of the summit and who’s qualified to be there rather than the source, the beginning, the common starting point. Between these two quotes I think we have the right perspective. In many ways, Gaspar’s outreach in a time of chaos and doubt parallels the Church’s challenge Pope Francis comments on today.

If this pontificate could be summed up in one word, it would have to be “Mercy.” In many ways, that sums up what we’re about as well. ♦

Originally posted on the *Gaspar Virtual Spirituality Center*, December 5, 2013.

# Seeking God's Face

by Fr. Ron Will, C.P.P.S., Leadership Team

“Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face,” reads the Responsorial Psalm we prayed at a recent Sunday Mass. How can we as Precious Blood people help others to long to see His face and then help them do it?

The Advent-Christmas Season teaches us that we do see the face of God in Jesus. We welcome Jesus ourselves in a variety of ways during this time—in prayer and in service to others. Sometimes, though, Jesus comes in disguise, maybe even through those on the margins, so we have to make special efforts to recognize Him.

A recent report said that there are fewer religious people in America today than a few years ago. The numbers who believe in God, who pray daily, and who go to church regularly is decreasing. Every Sunday morning less than 50% of the population of any given county in America is in church.

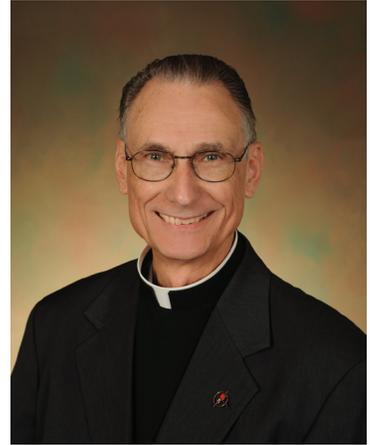
In 2007 about 71% of Americans absolutely believed in God. Today it is just 61% and 23% never pray at all. Young people are even less religious than older people. According to Pew Research, 62% of older Catholics attend Mass while only 57% of them are certain they have a relationship with God. Among Millennials, only 34% attend Mass.

So the majority of U.S. Catholics are sacramentalized but not evangelized. This is a sad religious illness, but we know the cure! We need to help them enjoy perhaps their first spiritual journey, to bring them to an intentional relationship with God.

The challenge that faced St. Gaspar is our challenge, too. When Gaspar came out of exile after Napoleon was defeated, the religious practice in the Papal States and surrounding territory was bleak. Gaspar had an intense experience of God's love through meditating on the meaning of the shedding of Christ's blood on the cross. His intense love of God motivated him to be creative in finding ways to stir the embers of spirituality in people's lives into flame. He became a man on the move, preaching from town to town, retreating to a mission house in between to renew and recharge, and then getting back on the road.

In January 2016, the members of our Province will meet to have pivotal discussions about where we are called to minister at this point in history, based on the direction St. Gaspar set for us. We will definitely face a reality similar to that which he faced. The circumstances and the means of communication may have changed, but we are again challenged to be creative with our resources to continue to encourage those who already know God to become stewards for Him. We are also challenged to find ways to

*continued on page 7*





Top- bottom: Calumet College of St. Joseph volleyball, basketball and baseball teams.

## C.P.P.S. Fest

by Fr. Kevin Scalf, C.P.P.S., Assistant to the President for Mission and Ministry, Calumet College of St. Joseph

College athletes and their coaches. Priests and professed brothers. All together for six Fridays in the fall to celebrate faith, family and festivity at a parish rectory in Hammond, Indiana.

C.P.P.S. Fest is an initiative of the newly created Office of Mission and Ministry at the Catholic liberal arts College that welcomes each athletic team to the largest regional home of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, the St. John the Baptist parish rectory, Whiting, Indiana, to eat, socialize and grow closer as a college family.

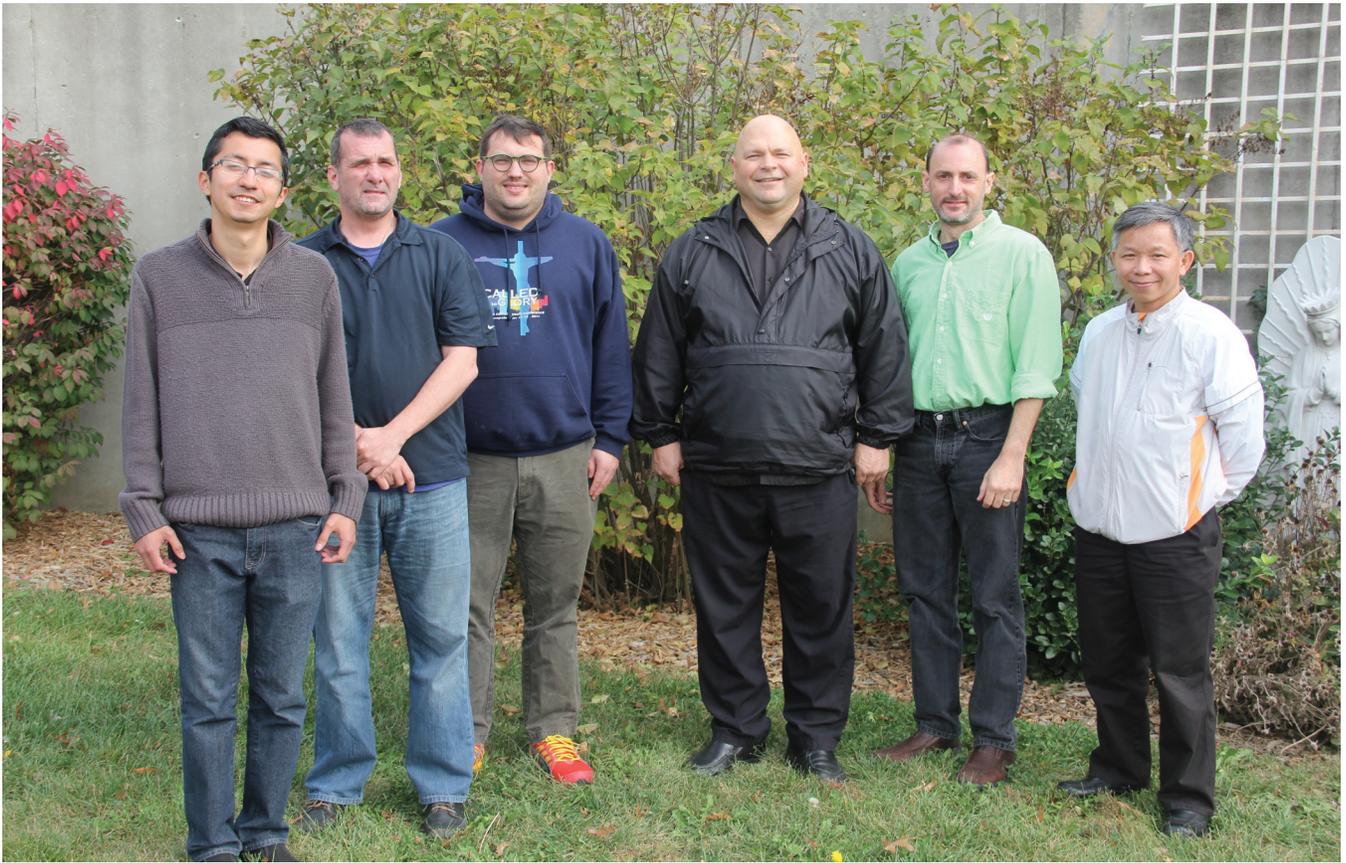
“It is a natural fit to integrate our student-athlete population to the mission of the C.P.P.S. and College. We are looking for intentional and motivated opportunities to link our students together with our Office of Mission and Ministry and develop strong,

long-lasting personal relationships,” said Peter Haring, athletic director.

All teams participate in two-hour blocks during most Friday afternoons for six weeks. “The only formal agenda is to be together in a way we typically are not. We do talk about some C.P.P.S. values and our ministry-sponsored programs at the College but mostly we spend time getting to know each other in an informal way,” Bro. Jerry Schwieterman, C.P.P.S.

Rev. Kevin Scalf, C.P.P.S., special assistant to the president at Calumet College of St. Joseph with a focus in Mission and Ministry, maintains, “Hospitality’ and ‘family’ are two hallmarks of Precious Blood spirituality. To invite one part of our family (our student-athletes and their coaches) into another part of our

*continued on page 7*



*Frank Soto, Michael Kirkland, Candidate James Smith, Br. Daryl Charron, Fr. Timothy Armbruster and Deacon Nhan Bui.*

## Fall Discernment Weekend

*by Fr. Timothy Armbruster, c.PPS., Kansas City Regional Vocation Director*

In sharing sessions with inquirers, I asked members to answer these two questions: What first attracted you to the community, and what encourages or inspires you today? Fr. Ron Will, Pastor of St. Francis Xavier, St. Joseph, Missouri shared the story of his first interaction with the community through a friend, of how he was invited to “check out” the high school seminary at Burkettsville, Ohio, at the invitation of a classmate. After an initial visit, the two of them decided to attend. After a short time his friend left, but Fr. Ron remained: in some way God used his friend to draw him in. In regards to the other question, Fr. Ron shared of his current ministry, about the various adult faith formation programs happening in the parish. Each one is geared towards encouraging parishioners to grow deeper in their relationships with each other and most importantly their relationship with Jesus. It is through our Precious Blood spirituality that he has more fully come to know and understand this approach. As Fr. Ron shared his story, I found myself making those same connections. It is the stories of

our faith, our spirituality that draws us together and builds our relationships.

As we ended, I asked our inquirers what they heard. They shared they had gotten a better picture of who we are as community. They appreciated the time to sit, hear the stories, and ask questions that allowed us to get to know each other better. Our two inquirers were Michael Kirkland from San Francisco, California, and Frank Soto from Chicago, Illinois. Frank is currently living in the House of Discernment in Chicago at our House of Initial Formation. While living in community with us, he continues his discernment as well as making application. If approved and accepted he will enter into Initial Formation. Michael Kirkland is working with Fr. Matt Link in San Francisco at Most Holy Redeemer Parish. Michael works with the city on a team of supervisors overseeing Homeless Shelters. He shared about working with the homeless, recognizing the struggles they face each day, and how support systems work and don't work. Michael is originally

*continued on page 7*



# Where History Meets Hope

by Fr. Joe Nassal, C.P.P.S., Provincial Director

In celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kansas City Province this year, we have traced some of the key moments in the province's history in the pages of *The New Wine Press*. We remember our past to draw inspiration from our predecessors in the community and especially the Kansas City Province who cultivated a pioneer spirit on the plains. As we face the challenges of today and tomorrow, a parable recounted by Benjamin and Rosamund Stone Zander in their book, *The Art of Possibility*, come to mind:

Four young men sit by the bedside of their dying father. With his last breath, the old man tells them there is a huge treasure buried in the family fields. The sons crowd around him crying, "Where?" but it is too late. The day after the funeral and for many days to come, the young men go out with their picks and shovels and turn the soil, digging deeply into the ground from one end of each field to the other. They find nothing and bitterly disappointed, abandon the search.

The next season, the farm has the best harvest ever.

The parable suggests if we continue to dig deeper into the holy ground of our experience; if we continue to turn over the soil of our souls in search of the

treasure of our spirituality and charism that takes hold of our lives, we will harvest a future full of hope. This is where our history meets our hope: we must not lose our focus in the ministry of reform, renewal and reconciliation to which we have been called, but continue to cultivate common ground in our community, our church, our families, and our world.

Speaking recently to a national conference of Italian Catholics in Florence, Pope Francis said the reform he has initiated would not be stopped. "We are not living in an era of change," he said, "but a change of era." Looking at the conflicts that exist in the church, the Pope said, "It is not useful to search for solutions in conservatism or fundamentalism, in the restoration of obsolete conduct and forms that no longer have the capacity of being significant culturally."

The Holy Father spoke eloquently how the reform of which our Society and the Kansas City Province has promoted since good Saint Pope John XXIII prayed at the grave of our founder as the Second Vatican Council was about to begin is not about "the umpteenth plan to change structures" but rather it is about "grafting yourself to and rooting yourself in Christ, leaving yourself to be guided by the spirit so that all will be possible with genius and creativity."

As we embark on this Holy Year of Mercy as a community committed to reconciliation, renewal, and reform, let us continue to exhaust every avenue for

dialogue in all of our relationships. As Pope Francis reminds, “We must not be afraid of dialogue. In fact it is discussion and criticism that help us to prevent theology from becoming ideology.”

Dr. William Isaacs’s writes in his book *Dialogue: The Art of Thinking Together*, “Dialogue is a conversation with a center, not sides. It is a way of taking the energy out of our differences and channeling it toward something that has never been created before. It lifts us out of polarization and into a great common sense... a means for accessing the intelligences and coordinated power of groups of people.” The members of the Kansas City Province will seek to access this creativity and common sense as we participate in such a dialogue January 25-27, 2016 when we gather at Marillac Center in Leavenworth to discuss our future together.

As we wait in joyful anticipation for the celebration of Christ’s birth, this is the place where our history meets our hope—a sacred space where new dreams are planted, take root, and yield a harvest beyond our imagining. ♦

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### *Vocations, continued from page 5*

from Louisiana and was one of the many displaced by Hurricane Katrina. In listening to his story, I heard his cry, his challenge of faith, and learning how to deal with life. As he now works with others who struggle to find shelter, he speaks from experience the challenges they face.

We gathered at Precious Blood Center on Friday, October 23 through Sunday, October 25 for our Fall Discernment Weekend. I, along with Br. Daryl Charron and Dominic Nhan Bui and candidate in formation, James Smith, had the opportunity to share the weekend with Michael and Frank. In addition, Fr. Joe Nassal and Fr. Keith Branson joined us Friday evening for a time of community and sharing. On Monday, Frank, Michael, and I traveled to St. Joseph and visited with Fr. Ron Will, Fr. Mark Yates, and Fr. Bill Walter after which Michael returned to California and Frank and I had the opportunity to join the Mid-Missouri Companions group in Warrensburg and visit with other members and companions there.

It was a weekend of Precious Blood community, story telling and hospitality. I even heard a few new stories about other members. Please continue to pray for Frank Soto and Michael Kirkland as they continue their discernment. Both of them would make wonderful members in the many gifts and experiences that they bring with them. As we look ahead to the months to come, I will be contacting each of our parishes and scheduling times to be We also want to schedule times for an evening Come and See night. I will be asking each of our members who serve in parish ministry to invite men who are involved in active parish ministry to join us for dinner and conversation about our community. I will need your help from the parishes to extend invitations. May we continue to pray for vocations and more importantly continue to invite others to recognize God’s call within their own faith journey. ♦

### *Leadership, continued from page 3*

connect people to God for the first time by stirring into flames the embers that are in their hearts.

In Deuteronomy 30:11, God says, “This life into which I am inviting you, this special relationship with Me, is not out of your reach. It’s not up in the sky that you should say, ‘Who will go up to get it for us?’ It’s not across the sea, so you don’t have to sail and bring it back. No, it’s in your mouth and in your heart. You have only to carry it out.”

When I was a child, I learned from the Baltimore Catechism:

“Why did God create me? He created me to know him, to love him, and to serve him in this world, and to be happy with him forever in the next.”

I am hopeful that we will continue to make “Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face” a reality. ♦

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### *C.P.P.S. Fest, continued from page 4*

family (our parish rectory home) strengthens the family and communicates our core C.P.P.S. values to those we serve.”

The idea for this initiative was discussed across the campus.

“I tested the idea with Dan Lowery, College president, Peter Haring, athletic director, then enlisted the feedback of coaches in a meeting and there was unanimous support and helpful feedback from all,” Scalf added.

Haring and his wife, Angela, prepare seemingly endless vats of chili for the athletes.

“Cooking for over 300 hungry student-athletes over the past few weeks has been a laborious but rewarding experience. We are looking ahead to more creative initiatives for next semester. We are committed to the C.P.P.S. values at CCSJ,” Haring notes.

C.P.P.S. Fest will continue in other forms next semester. ♦



*Vincent DiMarco speaking at St. James Church, Kansas City, Missouri, October 17, 2015*

## Preventing Gun Violence

*by Fr. Keith Branson, C.P.P.S., Publications Editor*

“Peace on Earth” is a common thought this time of year, and safe for any religious expression year round. It’s part of a quodlibet sung by Bing Crosby and David Bowie in 1977 for a holiday special, which brought together artists of very different styles and viewpoints. Atheists and agnostics take no offense at the sentiment, and the only ones we can imagine refusing it are those committed to bend the world to their will. If we’re honest about our feelings, we can even think about what steps we can take to make this a reality, even if we can only bring “Peace on Earth” to our part of the world.

*Preventing Gun Violence* was the last presentation in our lecture series for this bicentennial year. Several attendees bypassed a marathon course to get to St. James at 39th and Troost on a mild Saturday October morning. Vincent De Marco, National Coordinator of Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, came to share his experience, research, and inspiration on this subject. Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence is an inter-faith alliance of 51 groups from around the country

including Jews, Muslims, Sikhs and several Christian groups; among their membership are the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (of which the Precious Blood Provinces are members), and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

Vince started with a striking challenge: “Never say the words ‘Gun Control’ even again: never use those words. They immediately turn off gun owners; to people who believe in 2nd Amendment Rights strongly, it’s very bad phrase. Instead say ‘Gun Violence Prevention,’ a better description.” His presentation had nothing to do with unpacking the horrors of gun violence, the litany of accidental shootings and deaths unlimited access to firearms generates. He challenged his audience to find solutions, concrete strategies and laws that have reduced the amount of gun violence in our states.

This history of effective handgun legislation begins in 1930, when a crackdown on machine guns was written into law and later upheld by the Supreme Court. In 1968, the Gun Control Act set a reasonable standard



*Companion Ruth Mather during discussion session*

that convicted felons and those committed for mental illness were not permitted to buy guns, and the Brady Law (1993) made gun storeowners responsible for making background checks so those forbidden to buy guns couldn't. There were steps backward when the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban was permitted to expire ten years later in the midst of the Iraq War, and a 2005 law that immunized gun manufacturers from lawsuits stemming from use of their weapons.

On the state level, several states have had effective laws for decades within a boundary set by a Supreme Court ruling that ownership of a handgun falls within 2nd Amendment rights and can only be regulated, not banned. New York and New Jersey have long-standing restrictions and have lower homicide rates than comparable areas. A tale of two states stands out in particular: Missouri repealed a system that required a permit to purchase handgun issued by law enforcement in 2007, and since has seen a 25% increase in gun homicides since; Connecticut instituted such a law in 1994 and saw gun homicides decrease 40% in the next ten years. (Details of this comparison complete with scientific studies of these states is available at <http://www.taleoftwostates.com/>)

One hopeful development Vince spoke of is the advent of "smart guns," guns that will not fire unless their owner is using them. This has huge ramifications for law enforcement, since officers run a huge risk of being shot with their own snatched-away weapons. It would also mean children could not use their parents' weapon, reducing accidental shootings. At this time, the technology leans toward a fingerprint identification, and these guns have already been produced and tested overseas. Resistance to this is based on a fear that all non-smart guns would be confiscated, and that the government (or other agency) could find a way to disable them from a distance. Eleanor Clift wrote an excellent article in *The Daily Beast* detailing the

issues on this topic (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/10/26/give-smart-guns-a-chance-to-save-lives.html>).

The most important message is one of hope: most people, including gun owners, want to keep guns from the hands of dangerous people, and given the background checks and licenses required for many jobs and careers at this time, there is broad potential support for reasonable legislation to prevent gun violence as much as possible. There is legislation before both houses of Congress to incentivize states to enact handgun ownership permit legislation such as Maryland and Connecticut already has (more details at above website) that we can lobby our own Senators and Representatives to support. We can also lobby the state of Missouri to re-enact the handgun ownership permit system started in 1921 and repealed in 2007, which had proven effective in reducing deaths in this state.

One purpose of the presentation was to call for action: to recognize that gun violence is not inevitable and can be reduced. The legislative priority of getting all potential handgun owners to get a police certified permit before entering the store is attainable: it has been shown to reduce the number of gun deaths, has been upheld by multiple court rulings, and with effective advocacy, triumphed at the ballot box. The success of Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence in Maryland demonstrates that something can be done, and as moral people, we have an imperative to seek justice.

"Peace on Earth" is more than a placid seasonal greeting: it is something we can contribute to here and now. St. Gaspar and his Missionaries called for the townspeople of central Italy to give up their hatred, and renounce the use of arms to settle private vendettas. As Precious Blood people, we can work to bring "Peace on Earth" closer to our streets and homes; a marathon we can embrace and finish. ♦

*Gabino Zavala during discussion session*





*Participants from the PBMR trip to Ruma and Menard.*

## Menard Prison Visit

*by Julie Anderson, Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation*

“Is this shirt ok? How long is the visit? What will we talk about?” These were just a few of the questions being discussed as our group sat at the Ruma Center for Peace, preparing for a visit to Menard Prison early the next morning.

The group from the Restore Justice Illinois had never visited anyone in prison, certainly not a maximum-security prison, and all were nervous and apprehensive. RJJ is an organization working to change the laws in Illinois that involve the extreme sentencing of youth, including Juvenile Life Without Parole. Precious Blood Ministry organized the trip thinking the RJJ Board should meet the people they are fighting for.

On September 4th RJJ headed down to Ruma, Illinois to stay with the Adorers of the Blood of Christ at their Center for Peace, located 20 miles from Menard Prison, which is 365 miles from Chicago.

The night before the visit, everyone came together to go over what to expect the next day. Everyone was nervous, the visitors were afraid they might not have the correct IDs or maybe their clothing was wrong; most of all they were afraid they wouldn't know what to talk about for two hours with someone they had never met. Could they have anything in common?

These guys had been locked up for 20 years and came

*continued on page 12*



## Growing Into a Better Me

by Jade Bowman, Precious Blood Volunteer

Over the course of these past three months in Kansas City, I've grown into a better me. Although that certainly sounds cliché, I can say for a fact that it's true.

Some would be intimidated by the prospect of moving to another city to volunteer without any peers in their program. I knew, however, that this would give me an opportunity to flex my independence muscles and figure out who I am and what I like, really. I went on a lot of bus adventures in the beginning of my time here, relishing the fact that I could go enjoy what I liked and spend as much time as I wanted doing what I wanted. The first month or so got lonely at times, and without another person taking the bus with me I got lost more than once, but I definitely was proud of myself for toughing through it. Of course, I eventually made a group of friends I could spend my free time with, but those first few weeks helped me find my place.

Another source of intimidation was my volunteer site. I've never had a 5-day-a-week, 9-to-5 job. I really didn't think that I was cut out for that concept, and perhaps I'm still not, but it's because of my amazing coworkers that I enjoy my time rushing around our small office space. I was welcomed like a member of

the family by my coworkers at the KC Care Clinic. We've had a lot of changes over the past three months with employee turnovers and policy revisions, but the family dynamic of our site has remained the same. My coworkers have supported me and I really feel that I contribute something important to the workplace, and that keeps me excited to keep coming back day after day.

I've had some rough days at work, but the good days more than make up for those where I am tired, stressed or frustrated. Thus far, my most profound experiences at the clinic have been the interactions I have with patients. On one particular day, for example, I felt that stress and frustration and had it turned on its head with one interaction with a patient; I had the pleasure of working with a patient who was nonverbal and highly autistic, and he seemed genuinely happy that I was there with him. His caretaker expressed to me her surprise, saying that he is usually noticeably anxious at the doctor's office. He was completely relaxed for me and even let me prick his finger for his blood sugar test with a smile on his face. These are the interactions that let you know you're on the right path. I was not in the mood for personal interaction; I was

*continued on page 12*

*pbmr, continued from page 10*

from completely different backgrounds. What could they possibly talk about?

We made our way through security, waiting in line, having IDs checked, making sure everyone was on the approved visitors list. At last we were all shook down (a quick pat down) and we headed down a narrow walkway, surrounded by tall cyclone fences topped with razor wire, to a series of three locked doors, all of which we had to be buzzed in. We arrived at the visiting room; breathing a sigh of relief, as we were each assigned a table to wait for our “guy” to be brought in. One by one, the guys came in and were shown their table as they introduced themselves. With that, the visiting room was alive with conversations and laughter; we bought our guys food from the machines and enjoyed a soda together; the two hours flew by and the conversations never paused. Although talking to another table is frowned upon, we did enjoy some jokes with each other as we went up to the machines, or possibly caught someone’s eye and said a quick hello.

Mike is one of the inmates who had helped organize the trip. He was the one on the inside who chose who would be visiting whom, and that they had been approved as visitors. Mike said that all the guys had been talking about was our visit, who they were visiting, and how honored they were to be chosen to visit someone. All of them have been sentenced to Life Without Parole before their 18th birthday, and all of them have been in prison for over 20 years. None of them had ever had anyone like this visit them; they too were nervous and excited. They all wanted to make a good impression on their visitor to assure them that they were worth the fight to end extreme sentencing.

After our visit was over, we all met for lunch, and how overwhelmingly we were impressed with these guys, telling each other what was discussed at table with “their guy.” The conversation over and over started with “My guy” said this, or “My guy” likes these books. One of the visitors is a retired corporate attorney who discovered that he and his guy attended the same high school years apart. Friendships have been made, letters exchanged and several of the visitors have sent “their guys” books. All of them want to visit again.

I received a beautiful thank you card from the inmates; they all wrote a few lines thanking us for making the trip possible and including them in the visit. One inmate wrote; “I had a great experience Saturday. Thank you so much, it makes my burden feel lighter knowing that there are Crusaders out there fighting for our cause. It truly warms my heart”

It truly warms my heart too. ♦

*Julie’s son Eric is serving a Life Sentence Without Parole for a crime he was convicted of when he was 15 years old; Eric is now 35.*

*Volunteers, continued from page 11*

tired and not feeling up to deal with a potentially difficult patient, but I ended up swallowing my words. I was smiling for the rest of the day.

Some of my other favorite patient interactions are from our regulars, those patients who come in routinely on a weekly or bi-monthly basis. After a few times at the clinic you develop a rapport with people and it is wonderful to see their faces light up when they see you. They ask about how I’m doing and remember my name, which definitely contributes to my feeling of belonging at the clinic. I know they would notice my absence, and that makes me feel valued.

I feel I’m a valuable part of positive change at KC Care. I could very well spend this post-graduate year at home, retaking classes or spending time traveling. Personally, I believe the time I will spend here is more important to both my personal and spiritual growth. After completing this program I plan on continuing my education and applying for Physician Assistant schools. I know the lessons and experiences that I have and will learn here will apply to my education, the rest of my professional career and my personal life. I have become more independent and self-assured, which will definitely aid in my discernment process for schools and in carrying myself confidently in interviews. I already have a basic knowledge of medicine from my undergraduate studies, but this firsthand experience is invaluable. I do not know what the next months of my service will bring, but I do know that these past few months (although filled with ups and downs) have done for me already what I wanted to gain from this year of service. I am proud of what I have accomplished thus far and I’m excited for the challenges and joys to come. ♦

# **The Synod on the Family**

## **LGBT Life in the Church**

**Francis DeBernardo**

Executive Director of New Ways Ministry

**February 20, 2016**

Precious Blood Center ♦ Liberty, Missouri

8:30 a.m. start time

Mass at 4:30 p.m.

Fr. Joe Nassal, C.P.P.S., celebrant

Lunch & Dinner provided

Registration Limited to 50 Participants

Contact Br. Daryl Charron, C.P.P.S. for more information or to register:  
[daryl.charron@yahoo.com](mailto:daryl.charron@yahoo.com).

# **Mercy and the Spirituality of the Precious Blood**

**A Retreat for Precious Blood Sisters, Priests and Brothers**

**Fr. Barry Fischer, C.P.P.S., facilitator**

June 21-24, 2016

Adorers of the Precious Blood Ruma Center

\$350

More information in the coming months.

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*How does God call  
you to a  
Precious Blood life?*

“Imbibing and living Precious Blood spirituality is a lifetime process. Learning and understanding what the Blood of Jesus does in our lives is never fully understood by us. And therein lies its beauty. It is God who works in and through us. We are God’s instruments.”

*Fr. Paul Sanders, C.P.P.S.  
Kansas City, Missouri*

