

Becoming a Companion

The journey begins with an **Information Meeting** where you will learn about the history of our community, our charisms, our spirituality and what it means to be a Companion. You will then be invited to attend Companion gatherings to see if you would like to enter the **Inquiry** phase where you will learn more about the Companion movement and Precious Blood Spirituality. Following a Welcome Rite, you will be further acquainted with the Companion group during **Formation** in monthly gatherings centered around a meditation from *A Journey Into Precious Blood Spirituality: Discernment Guide for Companions*.



The Covenant Rite takes place with a gathered community. Companionship includes ongoing formation and continuation of active ministry. An annual retreat and provincial celebrations are offered. Companionship is grounded in Jesus' call to love and care for all, especially those most in need.



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Precious Blood Companions



Lay Men and Women

Walking

with

Missionaries of the Precious Blood

in

Community

Spirituality

and

Mission

Our Roots

Vatican II sparked many changes including the concept of religious communities bonding with the laity in community life and ministry. The U.S. Conference of Major Superiors of Men commented: "We are just beginning to realize that this collaboration is an enrichment not only for our ministries but also for the life of prayer and community."

After much dialogue within the Precious Blood Community, the first Com-



panion group in the United States celebrated the Rite of Welcome in 1990. Early on Companions expressed their motivation to be

a part of the community as a means to live out their own special vocation animated by the spirituality of the Blood of Christ and in companionship with the priests and brothers of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. They realized that the charism of the founder of the community, St. Gaspar, and the spirituality of the congregation was their life force too.

In recent times, the hopes and dreams of the Companions throughout the United States were captured in our vision statement, **Gather, Send.**

Gather

Send



Called by the Cry of the Blood,

Companions are sealed with their Covenants as an integral, living part of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. Through that covenant relationship, we gather, and then are sent to bring hope and reconciliation to a wounded world.

We are accepted for who we are,

in the diversity of God's creation, and we know that we belong to the Precious Blood family around the world. We have an intentional, evolving relationship with the Community, praying and working together as Missionaries, as St. Gaspar inspires us to do. Proclaiming that all blood is precious, we are ambassadors of Christ to the edges of society.

The Blood of Christ empowers us

in our own ministries and encourages us into ministry with the priests and brothers of the Community.

STEP OUT STAND UP SPEAK CLEARLY

Out of the sacred space of our gatherings,

we draw strength and hope. From those gatherings, our time spent in Community, and our mission houses, we are sent. We are called to share the gifts we have been given with the rest of the world.

We bring the cup of our spirituality

to ever-widening circles, to people of all generations, races and cultures. We seek out those who are yearning for this message, and invite them, the way that we were invited.

Precious Blood spirituality has taken root

in our hearts. We step out, stand up, and speak clearly about the Precious Blood of Jesus.