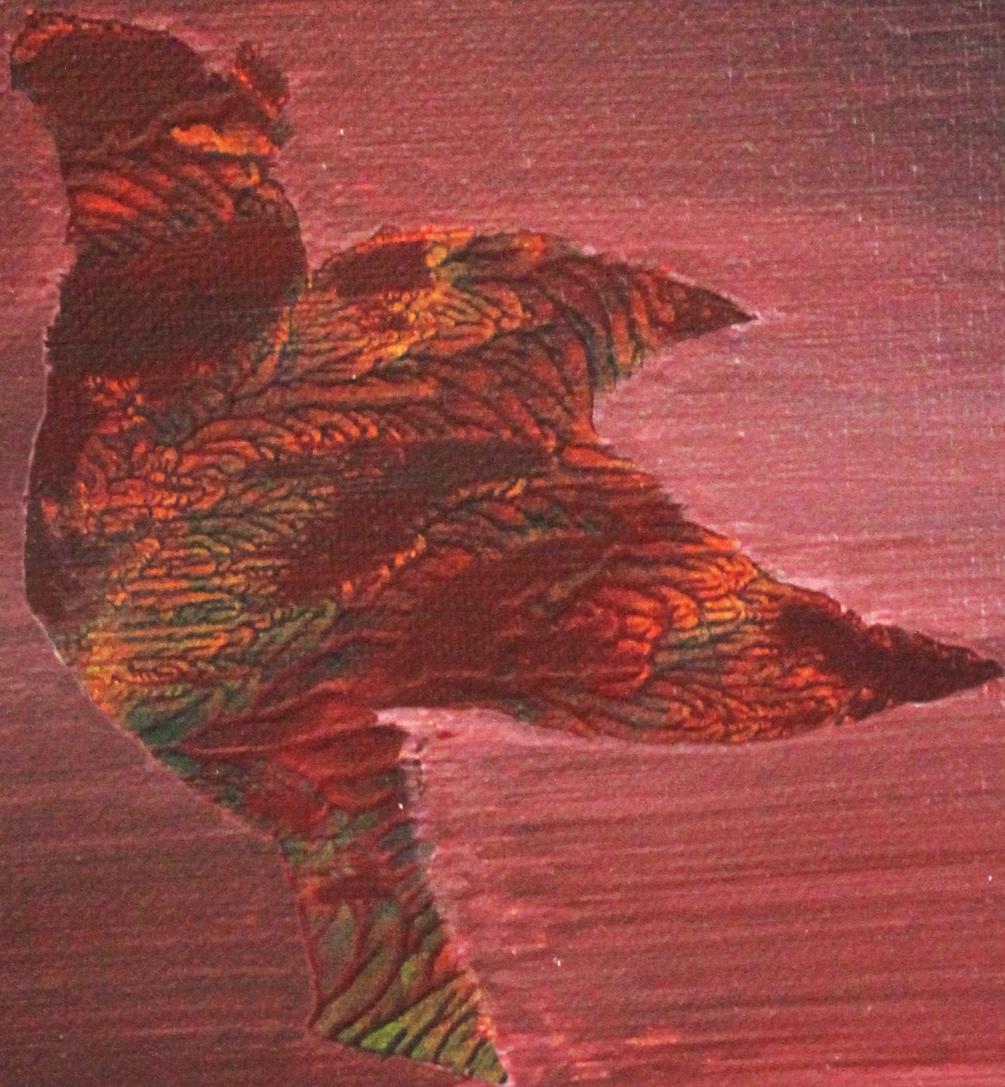


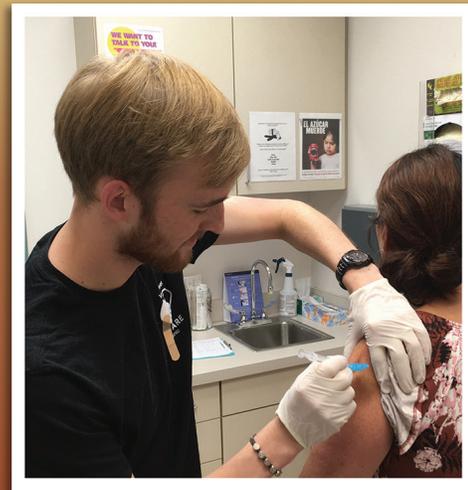
# THE **New Wine** PRESS

---

Volume 29 No. 3 • November 2020



**Grow in your faith.  
Build community.  
Walk with those who suffer.  
Seek reconciliation.**



**Precious Blood Volunteers**  
[preciousbloodvolunteers.org](http://preciousbloodvolunteers.org)

# THE New Wine PRESS

Volume 29 No. 3 • November 2020

## Contents

Aftermath .....	2
by Margaret Haik, Director of Communications	
Don't You Forget About Me.....	3
by Fr. Timothy Armbruster, C.P.P.S., Provincial Council	
What's Next? .....	4
by Vicky Otto, Precious Blood Companions Director	
Bridging the Past to the Present.....	6
by Caitlyn Caminade, Precious Blood Volunteer Alumna (2019-2020)	
Olioli E Ma Ane'i .....	7
by Becky Summers, Director of Institutional Advancement, Cristo Rey Kansas City High School	
I Can't See Tomorrow.....	8
by Fr. Dave Kelly, C.P.P.S., PBMR Director	

*Front cover photo: painting by Alontae Miller, an 18 year old participant at PBMR*

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

Missionaries of the Precious Blood  
Kansas City Province

Precious Blood Center  
P.O. Box 339  
Liberty, MO 64069-0339  
816.781.4344  
[www.preciousbloodkc.org](http://www.preciousbloodkc.org)

Editor, Layout & Design  
Margaret Haik  
[communications@preciousbloodkc.org](mailto:communications@preciousbloodkc.org)

Copy Editor  
Richard Bayuk, C.P.P.S.  
[rbayukcpps@mac.com](mailto:rbayukcpps@mac.com)

Printed on recycled paper by  
McDonald Business Forms  
Overland Park, Kansas



## Aftermath

by Margaret Haik, Director of Communications

This issue of the *New Wine Press* will probably arrive in mailboxes a day or two after the U.S. elections. Today, obviously, I have no idea what the results will be. I also have no idea what the aftermath will look like. I have to admit I am nervous with what it will look like. One of my good friends' daughters is interning at Network (of Nuns on a Bus fame) and the sisters have told the interns and staff to be prepared to stay at home or even leave the D.C. area in the event of violence. I pray their fears do not come to pass.

Vicky Otto asks in her article, "What's Next?" following this election. How do we all move on? How do we repair the rifts that have occurred over the last several years and erupted into a new kind of warfare over the airwaves and on our computers?

Fr. Dave Kelly, in his article, quotes Pope Francis, "...by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. Fraternity between all men and women." Fr. Timothy Armbruster shares the efforts to lessen the isolation of his middle-school aged parishioners. Former Precious Blood Volunteer Caitlin Caminade tells how she has found a community focused on trying to find ways to care for their neighbors. All offer a vision of how we move on past this time of turmoil.

As I said before, I pray that the results of the election will lead our country away from the negativity that has simmered and boiled over. I pray that regardless of the outcome, the Precious Blood community will take an active part in bridging the gap between the arguing factions.

May you stay safe and healthy (wear a mask!). May we all have much to be thankful for this month. ✠

# Don't You Forget About Me

by Fr. Timothy Armbruster, C.P.P.S., Provincial Council

Each time I would visit my family's farm in Kansas and just before I would leave, my great aunt Marie would wave good-bye, wish me safe travels, and yell, "Don't ever forget me!" I would respond back with a wave and say, "I will never forget you!"

We cherish those family ties and the ways we are connected to one another. We need that human interaction in our lives. I once thought that the loneliest and most isolated age group was the elderly. I recently discovered that is not the case. Research has shown that youth and young adults ages 13-23 are now the most alone and isolated age group. I discovered this information as we prepared for our virtual classroom of Faith Formation here at St. Mary's in Centerville.

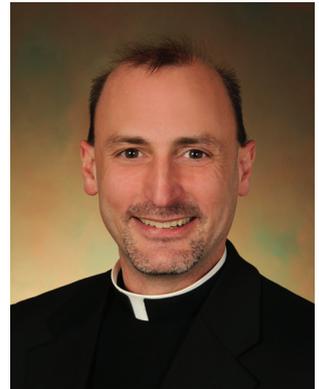
We had two goals for our virtual classroom. The first was to gift each student with a Bible and second to make it accessible to students and families on their schedule. Working with St. Mary's Press, we selected a series for grades 1-5 that combined a Bible, textbook, and an online component. For Confirmation preparation, we selected an online format for candidates and sponsors. The format for middle school appeared to be the same, but we found out differently.

The middle school series has both an online component and textbook. However, it is two separate approaches. The textbook is designed for a regular weekly class. The online series was developed to be done individually online one week and then in-class discussion the following week. This would allow time for some social interaction. This is great but not the format we wanted.

These 13-23-year-olds are known as Generation Z. They are entrepreneurial and are extremely financially focused. Without question, Gen Zs are connected to either their phone or computer constantly, often chatting away with friends scattered throughout the country. Sure, Gen Z likes face-to-face interaction, but it doesn't always have to take place in the same physical location. They might appear to be always looking down, not eye to eye. To some this may be a sign of disrespect or disinterest in the person speaking.

Many of this generation don't see color or orientation as an issue. They've grown up in a diverse world and it's all they know. Neither race, sexual orientation, nor religion are the identifying characteristics that they may have

*continued on page 5*





*iStockPhoto.com*

## What's Next?

by *Vicky Otto, Precious Blood Companions Director*

During the pandemic, like many of you I have had the occasion to binge-watch programs on television. One was a favorite of mine, “West Wing.” A line that the series made famous came from the character of President Bartlett. At the end of a discussion, he would often conclude with, “What’s next?” Throughout 2020, I have often asked, “What’s next?”—mostly in the sense of disbelief regarding the strange times we have been living in. This question takes on a whole new dimension as we come to the end of this election year. As you are reading this in November, hopefully the elections are done. It has been a long election season, more contentious than ever. How do we move forward from here? What’s next?

I’m sure you would agree that we are living in a time when our country is more polarized than ever. While we are already afraid of visiting others because of the pandemic, there is a new fear—visiting others and fearing that the conversation will land on a political topic,

with no filters regarding anger or hostility. Many people have gotten into the practice of describing others based on their political tendencies first—and not in favorable terms if their opinions are different from their own. The art of mocking others if they are on the other end of the political spectrum has become the norm. We have spoken often about the isolation that has occurred because of the pandemic. This election atmosphere of division has driven an even greater wedge than the pandemic. Once vaccines are developed, the isolation and division that the pandemic caused will end. The divisions that the political system have brought forth are much graver because there is no end in sight. Is there anything next?

Once this election has concluded, as in any election there will be people who gain more votes than the other. The media, political pundits, and social commentators will also label the winners and losers of the election. As citizens, we had to make many choices during the

election that we expressed through the voting process. After the election is over, we have an even greater choice to make about the polarization erupting among our families, among our friends, co-workers, in our communities, and throughout our world. Do we continue to be divided, to live in a land expressed in the “us” versus “them,” or work toward healing and reconciliation? Who is going to put down their weapons of bitterness, judgmentalism, and hostility? Amid these crazy times we seem to have forgotten that there is no existing law or rule that requires everyone to think the same and act the same. We have forgotten that civil discourse is an art that allows for a free exchange of ideas with the commitment to listen to each other. How can we get to that point again—or is it a lost cause?

In her novel, *Parable of the Sower*, Octavia Butler wrote, “Consider: Whether you’re a human being, an insect, a microbe, or a stone, this verse is true. All that you touch, you change. All that you change, changes you.” I hope that our Precious Blood community may model for the rest of the world what is possible if we are open to change. Although helping the world hear with the heart again might seem to be a huge challenge, it is not insurmountable. This change begins with each of us. We must engage again in conversing with compassion rather than with contempt. It is then that we can reach out to others with hope rather than hostility. When we unclench our angry hands, we can then embrace each other with the hope of reconciliation and the spirit of renewal. We become renewed, because not only is our world changed, but we are changed. *Gather Send*, the vision statement for Companions states that “we are sent to bring hope and reconciliation to a wounded world.” As Precious Blood people, this is what propels us as missionaries. My hope for the time after the election is not a dream or fantasy; it is what drives me as a Companion. Now is not the time to throw up our hands in resignation. To bring hope and reconciliation to the world begins with each of us. We begin by honoring the feelings of the person before us. We begin when we acknowledge the hurt expressed, especially if we inflicted that hurt through our actions. We begin when we can acknowledge our differences in peace and celebrate the wonders of that diversity. How we begin is going to be different for each of us. What we do is not as important as making the commitment that now is the time that we must act.

We are living in uncharted and historic times. I hope that the people who live after us will learn that we helped change each other through the touch of hope and reconciliation, compassion, and care. It begins with each of us taking the first step and showing others that it is possible. We are standing at the start of a new day. What’s next? †

---

*Leadership, continued from page 3*

been for previous generations. People are just people to Gen Z. It doesn’t mean they won’t judge, however. Gen Z is more likely to judge someone for what they are, rather than for who they are. Although they may have friends across the world, they may or may not be able to have a conversation with the people at the dinner table.

What does this mean for us as Precious Blood people? In this day of isolation and social distancing, we run the risk of this age group becoming even more isolated and feeling alone. Like others, they are searching for identity and meaning in their lives. We are called to “walk with,” to be authentic, and to be present. As a pastor, it was a reality check as to how am I reaching out? We are still isolated and called to practice social distancing. We are not back to regular activities and therefore it is difficult to connect. We are doing more things online with meetings and live-streaming—but are we reaching anyone? Are we connecting with new people or just the ones that know us?

I do share an early morning reflection, “Coffee with Padre,” via Facebook and we stream the Sunday Mass. I read the comments and see the number of people watching, but it’s not the same as live and in-person. It’s so much better to see a smiling face and know you are connecting. For now, this is the way we are walking with one another. I just wish it was easier to see who is out there and know we are connecting. Youth and young people are online. Are they hearing us who are walking a path that brings about life, or are they headed down a path that leads to loneliness and isolation?

I wave and smile back to say, “I will never forget you.” †



*Photo by David Alvarez from Pexels*

# Bridging the Past to the Present

*by Caitlin Caminade, Precious Blood Volunteer Alumna (2019-2020)*

It was the strangest thing to land back in my hometown after the conclusion of my service year earlier this summer, and to find that I felt like a stranger in a place that was once familiar. I have experienced so much personal and spiritual growth since I last lived here as a teenager, especially within the past year, and current events have only highlighted the differences between who I was then and who I am now. The combined effect of this global pandemic, renewed conversations about racial justice, and tensions of this election year is that there has never been a better time to reflect on our values and actions. For myself, the contemplation was not easy, but it allowed me to see my hometown with new eyes.

It occurred to me that in order to continue living out the values I gained from my volunteer year, seeking out community ought to be one of my priorities. After reconnecting with an old friend, she encouraged me to come to daily Mass with her. It was after

a Mass in August that we ran into Father Carl, the chaplain of campus ministry for the nearby university. Thanks to him, we were able to find other like-minded young adults who were yearning for community, and we began a (virtual) Bible study about the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. This study and recent events have caused me to ruminate on a certain question: how do we look after our neighbor? I believe that most of the conflicts of today come from disagreements about the answer to this question.

In our study, we recently read the parable of the Good Samaritan, and my friend shared a reflection that challenged me to see a new perspective. Of course I would like to see myself in the role of the Samaritan who acts with mercy and generosity. Several times in my life, I have also been like the traveler, in desperate need of mercy. But certainly I have also been like the Jewish priest and the Levite, turning a blind eye to

*continued on page 7*

those in need. The call to be a neighbor comes every day, not just the days when we encounter someone in desperate need. So now the question I ask myself is: whose neighbor can I be, here and now?

For myself and the people in my Bible study, we have had to be creative about ways to put our lessons into action because of the restrictions of the pandemic. We're writing to residents of a local nursing home, donating items to the Catholic Charities resource center, and having sometimes difficult discussions in our circles of influence about how to push for justice for all through electing officials who uphold the values

of our faith. Through the support and challenge of this community, I've found hope in the other young people around me that even in times of difficulty we can always discern the next right thing to do.

I am also especially grateful for the experiences and skills I gained from the Precious Blood Volunteer program and that I am able to share them with my community now. It has helped me bridge the past and present versions of myself. And since we have no way of knowing what joys or pains the rest of this strange year will contain, I am glad I have a community to journey with. ✦

## Olioli E Ma Ane'i

by Becky Summers, Director of Institutional Advancement, Cristo Rey Kansas City High School

Born and raised in the garden paradise of Lahaina, Hawaii, Mike Nguyen is giving a year of service to the Precious Blood Volunteer program. Jointly assigned to Cristo Rey Kansas City and the Bishop Sullivan Center, Mike believes that he is the person in the equation that will benefit. During this year, he will live in community at Jerusalem Farm.

"I want to volunteer to serve and learn from communities different than my own," said Nguyen. "I hope to go to medical school and believe that it is very important to understand the people we serve. This experience is fundamental to compassionate service," he said.

Mike graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2020 with degrees in neuroscience and Japanese and brings a special awareness of the challenges of distance learning. In his final semester, his university abruptly switched to online learning and many of his senior year concluding activities were cancelled or scaled back.

At Cristo Rey, Mike is coaching students working in Edmentum's Exact Path, a personalized online learning program that drives student remediation and achievement. On in-person instructional



Mike Nguyen teaching at Cristo Rey Kansas City High School

days, he conferences with each student to discuss progress in the software's English and math lessons. Additionally, he's teaching an elective course in Neuroscience.

With his sight set on medical school, Mike observed, "This year I am excited to work as a teacher and mentor so I can prepare myself to be a better doctor, empowering patients to be informed advocates for their own health."

Wondering what Olioli E Ma ane'i means? "Glad to be here," of course! ✦



iStockPhoto.com

# I Can't See Tomorrow

by Fr. Dave Kelly, C.P.P.S., PBMR Director

I know, for many, the statement “Black Lives Matter” can be controversial or problematic. I often hear the counter response, “All Lives Matter,” or among police, “Blue Lives Matter.” And, of course, all are true.

But if we are honest, and truly want to understand what is behind the statement that black lives matter, we must be willing to try to understand what it is like growing up black in America.

PBMR has an arts program. It is not because we are an arts organization, but because the arts allow us to express a part of ourselves that otherwise is left unspoken. At the very core of trauma healing is being able to speak out loud the pain that you carry. If you are not able to acknowledge your pain or if your pain remains foreign to you, then your pain will continue to injure you as well as others. On the following page is a poem that everyone needs to hear.

A long-time youth worker once said that the greatest thing we can offer our children is our time and our attention. No program, no curriculum, no project is as powerful as allowing a child to be heard, to know that he is not alone, and to openly speak of the wounds that (s)he carries. That is equally true for us adults.

Black Lives Matter is, at its core, a call for us to listen and to try to understand. Black Lives Matter as a movement or cry does not mean that all lives don't matter; it means that there are those in our society who have a different experience than those of us who are white, not because of their character, but because of the color of their skin.

I would like to conclude with this quote from Pope Francis' latest encyclical, “Fratelli Tutti.”

*“It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. Fraternity between all men and women. “Here we have a splendid secret that shows us how to dream and to turn our life into a wonderful adventure. No one can face life in isolation... We need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead. How important it is to dream together... By ourselves, we risk seeing mirages, things that are not there. Dreams, on the other hand, are built together”.[6] Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all” (Fratelli Tutti, #8).*

Your world  
by Joseph K.

Why can't I live in your world?  
A world where children don't die on  
the way to the park?

Why can't I live in a place  
Where I don't have to watch  
my back?  
Where the police are there to  
serve and protect?

People ask about the violence  
without understanding.  
Don't you see?  
Can't you understand?  
Your world has what children need;  
my world doesn't.

I can't see tomorrow.  
I just can't.  
I am tryin'  
People be tellin' me,  
"Your gotta think of your future."  
But I can't see it.  
People want to see it for me  
like it's theirs.

You think I don't want to see it?  
You think I like thinking about dying?  
Hell no!  
But that's what I know.

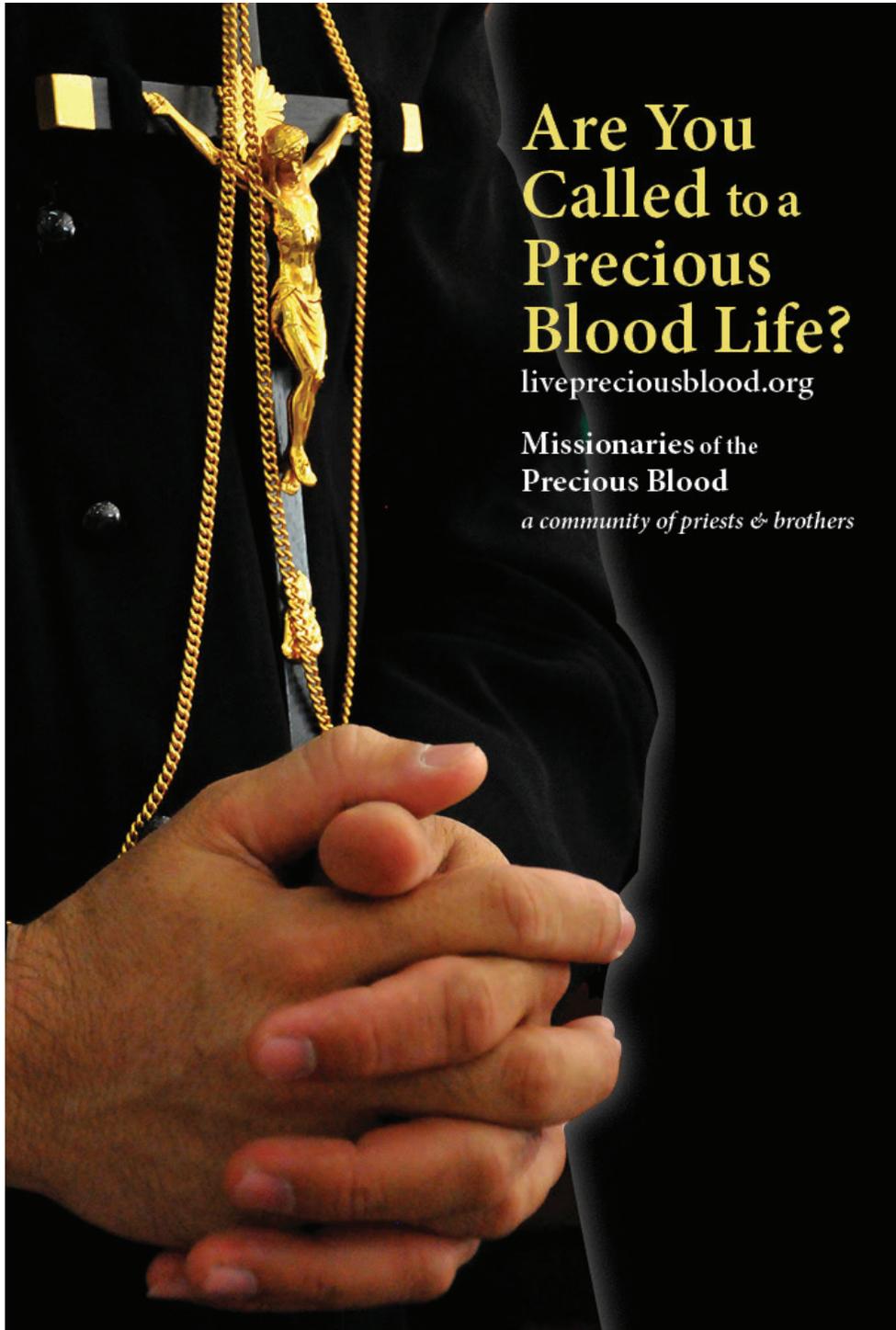
What I know is that I saw how they killed my homie, my friend,  
my best friend!  
I saw how they killed my uncle and his  
brother and my mama's father.

Killing is in my blood-it's my heritage.  
You talk about a job, or going to college or a career.  
But you don't know.  
You don't want to know.

I can't see tomorrow.

THE **New Wine** PRESS  
Precious Blood Center  
P.O. Box 339  
Liberty MO 64069-0339

*Change Service Requested*



# Are You Called to a Precious Blood Life?

[livepreciousblood.org](http://livepreciousblood.org)

Missionaries of the  
Precious Blood

*a community of priests & brothers*



[vocation@cpps-preciousblood.org](mailto:vocation@cpps-preciousblood.org)  
[vocations@preciousbloodkc.org](mailto:vocations@preciousbloodkc.org)

