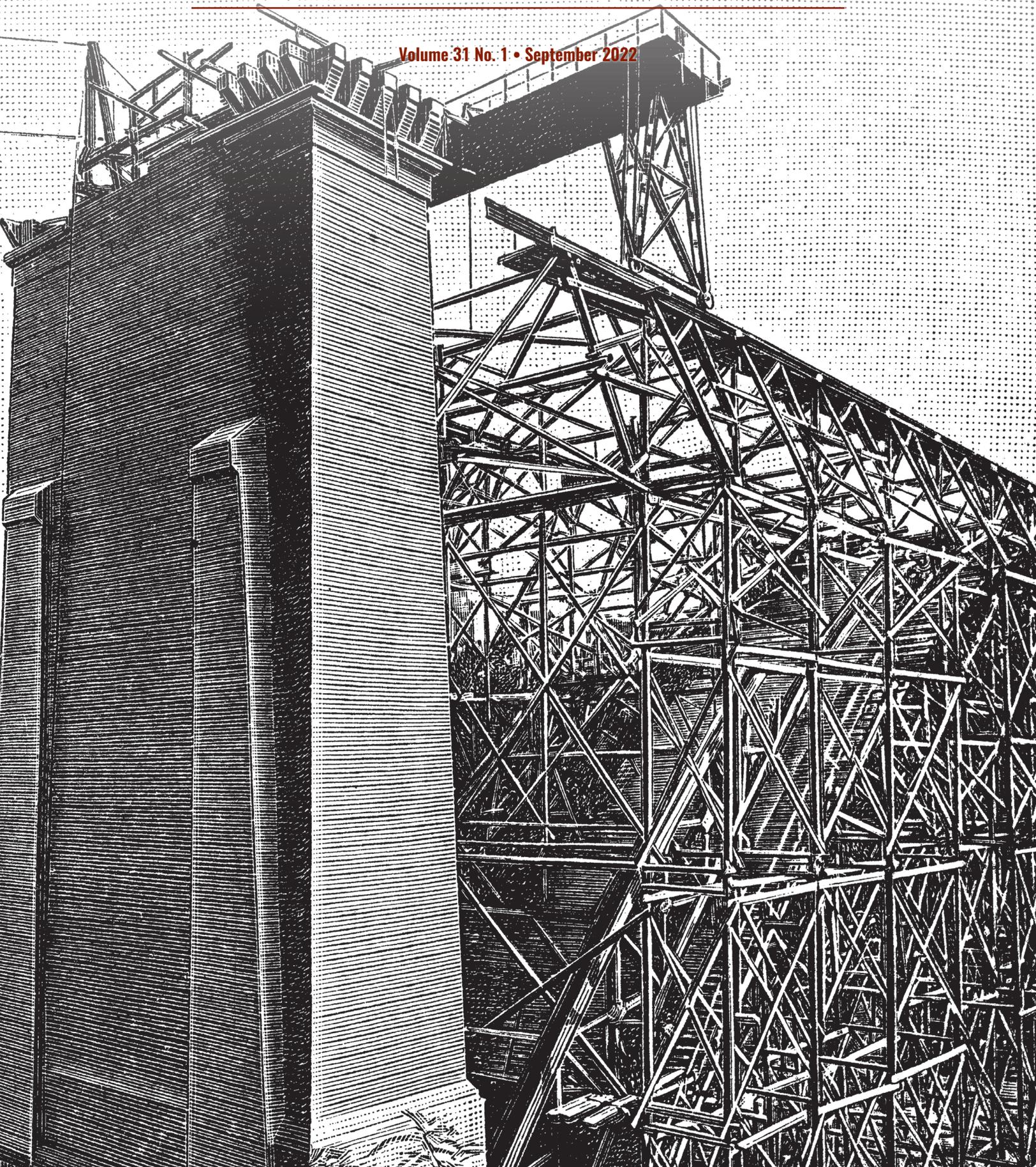
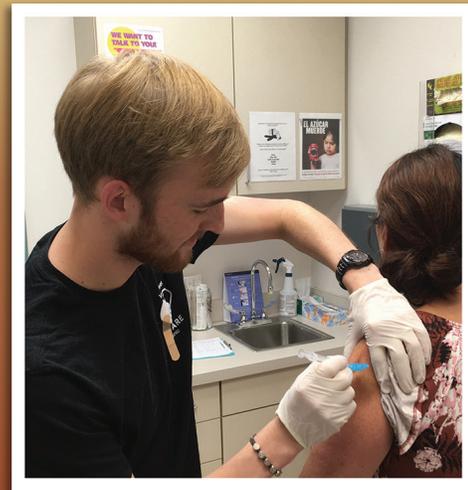


THE *New Wine* PRESS

Volume 31 No. 1 • September 2022



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



Precious Blood Volunteers
preciousbloodvolunteers.org

THE New Wine PRESS

Volume 31 No. 1 • September 2022

Contents

Bridge Building: Confronting the Cruelty	2
By Fr. Joe Nassal, C.P.P.S., Vice-provincial Director	
PBSI: Standing in the Breach.....	4
By Vicky Otto, Precious Blood Spirituality Institute	
Father Alan Hartway, C.P.P.S.: December 16, 1948 – July 1, 2022	5
By Fr. Joe Nassal, C.P.P.S.	
Lighting the Path Forward	7
By Raechel Kiesel, Precious Blood Volunteers Alumna	
Human Development Fund	8
Fr. John Wolf, C.P.P.S., Chair, Human Development Fund Committee	

Cover image: *Antique illustration of a bridge being built, iStockphoto.com*

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 United States Province—incorporated members, covenanted Companions, and candidates—united in prayer, service, and mutual support, characterized by the tradition of its 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
United States Province, Kansas City

Precious Blood Center
P.O. Box 339
Liberty, MO 64069-0339
816.781.4344
www.preciousbloodkc.org

Editor, Layout & Design
Margaret Haik
communications@preciousbloodkc.org

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



Bridge Building: Confronting the Cruelty

By Fr. Joe Nassal, C.P.P.S., Vice-provincial Director

You may recall that as part of the process of becoming the United States Province, Missionaries gathered in St. Louis a few years ago to dream, discern, and envision future mission possibilities for this new province. There was energy among the members around immigration and evangelization, collaboration with our Companions, and reimagining parish ministry. The most energy centered around building bridges in the church and society with those who are estranged, those who are on the margins, those impacted by violence, and the NONES (the significant and increasing number of people who have no religious affiliation).

As we build bridges through the blood of the cross with those who are far off, we must also burn those bridges that provocateurs of poisonous hate have constructed that have given people permission to be cruel and callous toward their fellow human beings.

Jesus famously taught his disciples to “offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other one to him as well (Matthew 5, 39).” Jesus is not saying we should roll over and do nothing. He is inviting us to believe deeply enough in God’s presence, God’s truth, and God’s love within us that we stand our ground and transform the hate with the power of love—though this doesn’t seem to be a winning strategy these days.

It was not a slap in the face but a concrete block that hit a Chinese American councilperson out for a walk with his family in San Francisco in June. At first, he thought the blow to the back of his head, knocking him to the pavement was an accident. But when his wife looked up, she saw two young men throwing rocks at the family and yelling obscenities.

That same weekend, a California state senator who is gay and has written several pieces of legislation to protect the rights of the LGBTQ community had to evacuate his house because of bomb threats. He said he receives four to five death threats a week and recently the number has increased dramatically.

Also in the Sunday paper, there was this: A self-proclaimed white supremacist from a suburb of St. Louis was arrested that same weekend in Idaho and charged with conspiracy to riot as he and 30 other young men planned to attack the Pride parade in a small Idaho town. Earlier this year, this same young man was charged with defacing a mural honoring

Black Lives Matter at Washington University in St. Louis.

These incidents join a long litany of hate speech and attacks that have taken place over the past few months. As I look at the many challenges we face as the United States Province dedicated to reconciliation and renewal in the blood of Christ, confronting the cruelty fueled by bigotry is at the top of the list. As we witnessed earlier this summer at a supermarket in Buffalo, the hate of a white supremacist resulted in the deaths of 10 African Americans buying groceries for their families.

As the blood of victims stain the streets of Buffalo and Uvalde, Charlottesville and El Paso, Orlando and Highland Park, people of faith resist those who do evil not by turning our backs but by standing, marching, writing, proclaiming, influencing, and promoting a culture of life where compassionate presence confronts the cruelty.

We can do this by gathering in small groups or virtually and focusing on a particular issue such as white privilege, as Fr. Joe Uecker invited us to do in recent newsletters. Through study and conversation, we can encourage one another to move beyond prayer and study to action on behalf of justice.

We promote compassion and reconciliation when we as a church, religious community, and a country hold each other accountable and make it known that in a civil society it is not permissible to practice hate or promote division by spreading vicious lies. Reconciliation demands truth and accountability. Those who are the purveyors of evil in our world, those who promote hate speech and white supremacy, must unequivocally and unambiguously be condemned and held responsible for their actions. These are the bridges to the past that must be burned.

Building Bridges to Common Ground

As ministers of reconciliation, we also must help bridge the political and societal divides that exist in our country. Working together to cultivate a culture of life requires us to make every effort to enter into dialogue with those with whom we disagree.

As we discuss “hot button” issues that surface and create division on social media, we must try to get under the other person’s point of view by listening for the values that person holds, rather than become defensive. This means, in St. Benedict’s famous phrase, we “listen with the ear of our heart.” We become sacred sleuths seeking meaning in our opponent’s story that will afford us an opportunity to find some common ground.

For example, David Axelrod and Karl Rove are on opposite sides of the political divide. Axelrod was strategist for Barack Obama, and Rove orchestrated the campaign of George W. Bush. Both are known for their political instincts, and both are “talking heads” on the cable news channels that promote and defend their particular brand of politics. But David Axelrod invited Karl Rove to be his guest on his podcast recently. During the conversation, Axelrod learned that he and Rove “shared a common tragedy—a parent who died by suicide while they were young men.”

In the article in *The New York Times* about their conversation, Axelrod said, “Sometimes you talk to people who you think you don’t admire. And then, there are elements of them that you learn that you do.” Because of their conversation, they have worked together on projects that focus on suicide prevention. “If you probe people’s stories,” Axelrod said, “it’s harder to hate.”

In all of our missionary efforts, we draw upon our experiences and training in the circle process, in listening skills, in gathering the folks and telling the stories, to expand our reach and build the bridges that will give our world a glimpse of the common ground we share.

As the Sufi poet Rumi said: “Out beyond the ideas of wrongdoing and right doing, there is a field. I’ll meet you there.” May we always keep our eyes fixed on that field where the walls we build with our ideas and ideology are no more and we can focus on those values and those life-and-death experiences, like a parent who died by suicide, to work together to build those bridges to our common ground. †

PBSI: Standing in the Breach

By Vicky Otto, Precious Blood Spirituality Institute

Ever since I was little, I have loved musicals. As I was preparing to write this article, a song by Stephen Sondheim from the musical "Sunday in the Park with George" came to mind. He wrote: "Bit by bit, putting it together ... piece by piece, only way to make a work of art. Every moment makes a contribution, every little detail plays a part. Having just a vision is no solution, everything depends on execution, putting it together, that's what counts!" Sondheim perfectly described what has been happening at the Precious Blood Spirituality Institute during the last few weeks.

As I got to know Kevin Considine, the new director of the Schreiter Institute, we found we were drawn to the same vision for the institutes. In our relationships over the years with the community, we often heard that either people had not heard of Precious Blood spirituality or that "Precious Blood spirituality is the best-kept secret in the Church." Kevin and I felt all our efforts must ensure we move from being the best-kept secret to the best resource for the Church and the world today.

Top photo: Kevin Considine

Bottom photo: Vicky Otto



If you spend just five minutes reading or listening to the news, it becomes apparent that our world is crying out for the gifts of reconciliation and healing that Precious Blood spirituality offers. Every day another family is torn apart because of an act of violence. We have seen division and strife in our families,

our communities, our Church, and the world. These divisions have escalated people's feelings of anxiety and fear so much so that a spirit of intolerance and hatred prevails.

As a Precious Blood community, we are called to stand in this painful breach to help others move away from the division. We know that the gift of our spirituality is that we can help others recognize the presence of God in the person that stands before us and celebrate the unity that comes from the beauty of our diversity. We do this when we offer a safe space for people to speak their truths and help others listen with the ear of the heart.

As a community, we know the blessing and mercy that comes from Precious Blood spirituality, so much so that it has become part of our lived reality; the blessing and mercy run through our veins. As the Institute begins, we are committed to doing everything we can to help others celebrate and embrace the gifts of this spirituality.

Kevin and I know we do not do this work as a solo endeavor. We look forward to working with all our partners in the Institute, including everyone in our Precious Blood family and Catholic Theological Union. We hope to build awareness in our community that will help push us out of our community circle to share our spirituality with the world. We have come to a time where we need to move to a new reality. We have a great vision and charisma; it's time to focus and make more extensive efforts to share them with the world. We move to the next step. As Sondheim writes, "Everything depends on execution."

You are invited to join our efforts at the Institute. In the near future, we will be rolling out a website that highlights all our work and upcoming events. If you have suggestions or ideas, or would like to see something specific, don't hesitate to get in touch with the Precious Blood Spirituality Institute at (773) 451-6710. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please get in touch with me at votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org. ✝

Father Alan Hartway, C.P.P.S.: December 16, 1948 – July 1, 2022

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

Minister of the Word

On the morning of July 1, 2022, the Feast of the Precious Blood, Alan Hartway wrote, “Today the Missionaries of the Precious Blood rejoice in the mystical wine from the garden of En-gedi that becomes for us the Blood of Jesus, which animates our community to understand deeply the value of human blood and life in the view of the Father Creator.”

Sometime that evening, Alan died of a heart attack. It is significant that Alan died on our feast day because he was passionate and committed to our charism of proclaiming reconciliation and renewal in the blood of Christ through the ministry of the Word.

Alan had a deep love for scripture and for language. He brought these gifts together in his blog “Vineyards of En-gedi: Homiletic Explorations into Communion, Community, and Evangelization.” Alan was a brilliant linguist. He knew Greek and could give a detailed explanation to the meaning and context of the scriptures, which enhanced his ministry of the Word. He also had a facility for languages, and for several years, he celebrated Mass in Spanish while also preaching for Unbound. Tim Deveney, director of Precious Blood Volunteers who once worked for Unbound scheduling preachers around the country, told me the staff at Unbound would always look forward to hearing Alan’s recap of his weekend assignment. His review often included colorful highlights of people he met, rectories where he stayed, or incidents that left Tim and the staff in stitches.

No doubt some of his stories were embellished to some degree. Alan took liberal license in his storytelling, believing facts should never get in the way of a good tale! Not that the stories weren’t true. Alan just made a distinction between true stories and truth stories! He enjoyed holding an audience, whether it was the congregation at Mass or students in a classroom, captivated and engaged with details only Alan could deliver.

A Creative Pastor

Alan’s sense of humor, his bible study groups, and his preaching made him popular with his parishioners. On the 40th anniversary of his ordination, Alan penned a



letter to the people of Guardian Angels Parish in Mead, Colorado, where he was pastor at the time.

“I largely see the pastoral role as one of being an animator who nudges, pushes, pulls, cuddles, enables, encourages, promotes collaboration at every level,” he wrote. “Part of this work is to be the mediator, to bring otherwise distant people together in new ways.”

When he was pastor at St. Mary’s Church in Garden City, Kansas, there was a woman in the parish whose faith and truth-telling he admired. Alan considered her prophetic—not in the sense of seeing visions but rather in speaking truth to power. She was not afraid to tell him the truth, so he invited her to serve on the parish council as the prophetic voice to keep the leadership of the parish grounded in the vision of Vatican II. Alan was deeply committed to the renewal of the church initiated by Saint Pope John XXIII. This, too, is imbedded in the charism of our congregation and explicit in the vision of our becoming a new creation as one province of Missionaries and Companions in the United States.

Because of his intellect and his size, Alan was an imposing figure. He could be intimidating. But he welcomed and appreciated those who would stand up to him. He relished a good conversation on important issues confronting the church, community, and society. Of course, his linguistic skills were not only capable of building up but also of tearing down. If you dared to

enter a verbal squabble with Alan, you had better wear full body armor because as Cher once famously sang, “Words are like weapons; they wound sometimes.”

He was not afraid to preach about social issues from the perspective of scriptures and Catholic Social Teaching. In the description of his blog, Alan quoted philosopher Reinhold Niebuhr’s famous advice that a preacher should preach “with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other.” One of the more memorable examples of this is when he was pastor at Garden City. An epidemic of gun violence was plaguing the city, so one weekend at all the Sunday Masses, he invited parishioners to bring their guns the following weekend and hand them in to be destroyed. During an altar call that next weekend, several people came forward to relinquish their weapons.

Love for Community

In the last reflection for his blog, Alan wrote: “Life has value for us because it is not about the money, but about relationship.”

Alan loved the community. He was a member of the faculty at Naropa University in Boulder and later was pastor at Guardian Angels in Mead. As a member of the first graduating class at Precious Blood Seminary in Liberty, he wore that distinction proudly.

In February 2020, at one of the last gatherings of the members of the Kansas City Province at our Renewal Center in Liberty, Alan reminded us that he entered Precious Blood Seminary as a freshman in 1963, two years before the American Province was divided into three in 1965 and the Kansas City Province was born. So, when he entered the high school seminary, he was a student for the American Province. Now he will also be remembered as the first member of the newly formed United States Province to die.

In his first assignment, Alan served the community as a teacher and director of seminarians at Precious Blood Seminary. He later was director of formation and director of publications for the former Kansas City Province. For several years, he also coordinated our Provincial Assemblies. He was the coordinator of the Assembly celebrating the 25th anniversary of the

province in 1990, and he asked me to write the words of a song to celebrate it. On the day he died, in the closing paragraph of the final reflection of his blog, he referenced the “Song of Liberation”: “In our community hymns we sing of being marked and called by the blood of Christ.”

An Excellent Teacher and Chef

Whether he was instructing high school students at his alma mater, graduate students at Naropa, or adult faith formation classes in parishes where he served, Alan was passionate about education, about expanding hearts and minds. He was especially proud of his time at Naropa, when he was the only Catholic priest teaching at the Buddhist-sponsored university. The study of and the search for common ground among world religions was a ministry of reconciliation for Alan. What can we learn from one another? He had a great reverence for other religious traditions, especially Buddhism, even as he was committed to Catholicism. He understood and practiced the true meaning of “catholic” as universal.

Alan not only feasted on God’s Word but also enjoyed preparing a feast for his friends. The table became a symbol of Alan’s view of how to live in the world. Hospitality, another important quality of the charism of our community, was important to him. There was always room at the table for honest dialogue and the exchange of ideas. He believed placing good food and fine wine in front of people begins to break down barriers.

As a gourmet cook, he loved trying new recipes. Most, like the “tur-duc-ken” (turkey, duck, and chicken stuffed together) he made for Thanksgiving or his beef Wellington, became legendary. But every now and then, his use of spices would cause diners to consume ample glasses of water to put out the fire. One such meal he made with curry when four of us gathered at Estes Park. While Alan was getting something from the kitchen, one of our friends quietly passed grape jelly under the table to cut the curry and calm the fire in our mouths and stomachs.

For several years when Alan was pastor at Garden City, we would vacation in Estes Park. Good friends

continued on page 9

Lighting the Path Forward

By Raechel Kiesel, PBMR



This past weekend, we celebrated the annual Bud Billiken Parade here on the South Side of Chicago. Not only is it an incredible show

of dance, creativity, and talent, but also the largest African American parade in the United States!

For generations, families from around the country have participated in this celebration of Black joy, youth, and education. As I watched clips from the parade on Saturday, I was once again struck by the radiant and powerful resilience of our Black community here in Back of the Yards and Englewood—and communities far beyond. As I watched generations dancing together—young people alongside elders—I thought of their ancestors whose dance of hope and resilience paved the way to this dance of today. Even in the midst of pain and sorrow beyond anything I can imagine, these elders were able to hold on to the bright light of joy and fan it enough to pass that light along.

To fan the light of the families in our PBMR community today, we recently started a new Career Navigation program to walk with people as they pursue their career goals. For years, we have worked with individuals through our Workforce Development team, whether that meant starting as an apprentice in the woodshop through our Social Enterprises or finding a first job with one of our supportive employers. The men and women who completed those steps have been so successful they are now looking for opportunities to gain experience and use their full capacity—all of their gifts and talents—in a career. We want to help realize those goals.

As part of this new Career Navigation program, we accompany participants through the discernment

process. Many are so busy working multiple jobs, taking care of kids, and staying on top of bills they barely have time to think of themselves, much less to explore and decide on a long-term career path. So, we ask the questions: What are your talents? Where does the world need what you have to offer? What unique gifts do you bring to our beloved community?

As we asked those questions recently, we discovered one of our participants is interested in dance! She used to dance when she was a little girl and was very talented, but she set her dreams of dancing aside when bills, kids, and responsibilities kicked in. Personally, I have very little dancing knowledge (and no dancing skill), so we went to our local expert. One of our friends at PBMR is a Zumba instructor, and she has even come to the Center to dance with our young women. We all met up for coffee last week and sat outside chatting about what it was like to turn dance from a passion into a career.

Our Zumba instructor friend talked about how important it is to find one's joy and hold on to it. She spoke about being a Black woman, going through the process of identifying and processing trauma, and how much of a toll that has taken on her mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Dance brought her back into her body and allowed her to express herself in music and movement. Even in those toughest of times, it was her joy.

I sat and listened to their conversation, awed by the strength of two women sharing the pain of their trauma and how they had learned to find healing. In the light of this new friend, I witnessed a grieving mother see the hope of a new path forward, one she had not imagined before. Not only could she make a career out of sharing her talent but also in this new pursuit, she could find her joy and share it with others—a way of healing in the midst of great pain, a way of hope.

The incredible resilience of these Black women was illuminated for me through a simple

continued on page 9

Human Development Fund

Fr. John Wolf, C.P.P.S., Chair, Human Development Fund Committee

The Human Development Fund Committee (HDF) of the Kansas City Province met during the Joint Provincial Assembly in Indianapolis to evaluate 2022 grant applications and make recommendations to the Leadership Council for approval. In light of our now being one United States Province of Precious Blood Missionaries, I thought it would be appropriate to highlight some of the background for this ministry.

Early on in the formation of the Kansas City Province, there was a movement to identify peace and justice issues in our society and how to respond to them. Much of the work centered on the Church's Catholic Social Teachings and our Precious Blood spirituality.

Before there was a Human Development Fund, there was a Poverty Fund, which was formed in 1975. When the subject of raising members' monthly allowance was proposed, the Assembly turned it down, instead passing a resolution to pool that monthly amount to address the causes of poverty and starvation. Ten years later in 1986, with the sale of Precious Blood High School Seminary, 10% of the sale was set aside for distribution to the poor. At this time, the Poverty Fund was renamed the Human Development Fund and its work was expanded. Rather than being restricted to the poor and needy, its purpose was widened to develop and enhance human life in any and every aspect. The HDF continued to disburse more than \$100,000 annually.

Similar to the Human Development Fund of the Kansas City Province, the Cincinnati Province has also ministered a grant fund program. Originally called the Brunnerdale Tithing Fund, it was later named the Father Brunner Peace and Justice Fund. Now with the formation of one United States Province of Precious Blood Missionaries, there will be a need to discuss how to move forward. The mission remains to be good stewards of our resources and our call to promote the gospel values of peace and justice as we respond to the cry of the blood.

Following are the 12 recipients of the 2022 Human Development Fund grants, with a total disbursement

of \$130,000. Each project or organization has some connection with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood or the Adorers of the Blood of Christ.

Wichita Women's Initiative Network, Wichita, Kansas. Assists survivors of domestic violence and their children.

HopeFaith Homeless Assistance Campus, Kansas City, Missouri. Meals, laundry, showers, haircuts, and case management to move homeless to housing.

Cristo Rey High School, Kansas City, Missouri. Moving minority and low-income students through high school toward college degrees.

A.S.C., Bangalore, India. Education, food, and accommodation for orphan and single-parents of girl children.

Ai Tam Education Organization, Vietnam. Serving students in remote areas of Vietnam.

St. Maria De Mattias Center, Marikina City, Philippines. Nutrition and spiritual formation for 25 indigent women and their daughters enrolled at the center.

Fr. Vedasto Ngowi, C.P.P.S., Tanzania. Reprint and distribute book on unjust cultural practices to empower poor people who are victims of ignorance; education and training seminars.

Malongwe Dispensary in Tabora, Tanzania. Father Tim Coday, C.P.P.S. Continued improvements to the clinic that provides medical/health care to the poor; funds to keep the car running.

Vocational Training Center (VTC), Manyoni, Tanzania. Empower mothers and girls with skills for growing fruits and vegetables using bucket and bottle drip irrigation.

Sangre de Cristo Health Care Project, Guatemala, C.A. Serving high-risk, low-income community

with comprehensive health care; averages more than 20,000 patients annually.

Jerusalem Farm, Kansas City, Missouri. A home repair program in poor, ethnic neighborhoods; apprentice training program with job opportunities; enhancing neighborhood environment.

Indian Hills Community College, Ottumwa, Iowa. Adult education and literacy program, particularly English language learning; held at St. Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church.

Doug Langler, executive director of HopeFaith Homeless Assistance Campus, sent the following thank you for their Human Development Fund Grant.

At Hope Faith, we have homeless people coming to our doors that one moment feel triumphant, the next moment feel beaten down, defeated, maybe even dead inside. These are feelings that we too have felt at times, yet something or others have brought us Hope in our times of difficulty.

Just the other day a guest, John, was at Hope Faith. I asked him how he was doing and he said: "Honestly, this has not been a good day. I am just feeling down."

A few hours later when I saw John, he was smiling and he looked different, I said:

"John, is that a smile I see on your face?" John said, "Because of the care and love of people here, I was fed, I got a shower, and my haircut. I am on my way!"

Precious Blood understands that people's own flesh and blood "cries out for justice!" Thank you for the support you are giving us so that we can be the "good samaritan" for those most in need. Know we will use this for our social workers getting people housed and gain greater access to healthcare and services that meet their needs.

Lighting the Path Forward, continued from page 7
conversation. As I spend more time at PBMR, I continue to learn what faith looks like: having hope in the face of suffering, dancing to heal one's pain, and finding strength in sharing joy.

My hope is the children of these amazing women and their children's children will have the chance to celebrate the dances their mothers passed along. As a career coach now by trade, I also hope they get to celebrate the wealth built up and passed onto future generations, thanks to the financial stability a steady career can provide. Especially as we celebrate this weekend and the resilient joy that makes our community so beautiful, I hope we dance in the hope of a bright future thanks to those who promote healing now, enabling us to pass it along to future generations.

PBMR's Anniversary Gala Fall Fundraiser will be held on September 21, 2022, from 6-8 p.m. Visit www.pbmr.org/hope-for-generations or scan the QR code below for more information about the celebration and campaign to bring HOPE for Generations!



Alan Hartway, C.P.P.S., continued from page 6
of his at the parish had a cabin on the Big Thompson River. As I wrote or read on the porch, Alan would be in the kitchen, listening to NPR and preparing a memorable meal. Now Alan finds a place at the table on God's holy mountain that one of his favorite prophets, Isaiah, envisioned—a table where the Lord of the Feast has prepared a delicious banquet of rich food and fine wines. Oh, the stories that will be told around that table!

So, rest in peace and enjoy the feast, Alan. May the joy of the kingdom you preached and wrote about often be even better than you imagined. ✠

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

Change Service Requested

Join Us
at the
Table



"For me, life in community
is everything."
-Saint Gaspar del Bufalo,
founder

**Missionaries
of the
Precious Blood**

a community of
priests & brothers

Find out more at
livepreciousblood.org
vocations@cpps-preciousblood.org