



St. Gaspar del Bufalo, who founded the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in 1815, knew from an early age that he wanted to be a priest. That longing manifested itself in many ways, one of which was Gaspar's treks from home when he was still a boy to bring food and comfort to the poor farm families who came to a crowded square in Rome to sell what they had grown. Gaspar visited prisoners; he ministered to the sick; he was drawn to those who needed help to see that Jesus had shed his Precious Blood to save all people, including those who feel isolated or cast off.

That identity as a Missionary, that longing to bring God's peace and healing to people who need it the most, still drives those who follow in St. Gaspar's footsteps. We have seen in our own lives what the power of the Precious Blood can do, and we want to share that Good News, that healing and reconciliation, with others.

This takes place at our ministry sites in the United States, at parishes, schools and hospitals. It takes place at our Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue, Ohio, a place of reconciliation and healing, and at the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation on the south side of Chicago, where Missionaries offer a safe place to young people and their families in a neighborhood wracked with violence.

For more than 70 years, Missionaries have also been in ministry in Latin America, including Chile, Peru, Guatemala and Colombia. We have learned so much from the people we serve. "Prayer and action," St. Gaspar said in describing our mission. It is a good method for all of us.

One example is the Missionaries' nutrition project in the La Labor region of Guatemala.



A Missionary visits with parishioners after Mass in rural Chile.

We're working with lay volunteers who cook lunch several times a week in a simple kitchen behind Our Lady of Carmel Chapel. They serve a hot, nutritious lunch to the dozens of young children who come from miles around. Malnutrition is a real problem in Guatemala; volunteers track the children's weight to be sure the project is helping—and it is!



Lunch is served at the nutrition project in Guatemala.



Seminarians gather at a mass in Colombia.

Missionaries of the Precious Blood

It is our mission to share the Word of God on Sunday then live the Word for the rest of the week. We are all part of a missionary church, all called to go forth at the end of every Mass to spread the Good News.

Like us, you are part of the Church, so you know that it can be demanding. It takes us to places we never thought we would go. It leads us to live as missionaries. "Missionaries are not statues," St. Gaspar said. We want our Missionaries to be in motion, finding ways to serve the people with the eternal truth that they need NOW.

Do you also feel that missionary spirit, part of the mission that Christ gave to his church? Does the Holy Spirit inspire you to reach out to others, sometimes in ways that you could not have managed on your own? Are you drawn to those whom others have rejected or cast aside?

We hope that you will consider being a part of our mission with your prayers and your support. Your gift to the Missionaries of the Precious Blood will be shared with our brothers and sisters in Latin America.

We pray daily for those who support us, and ask that you remember us in your prayers.

I will leave you with one last quote from St. Gaspar. He said we are to "serve God with holy joy." As you know, being a part of the Church

can bring many things to our lives: a feeling of fellowship, of reverence and awe, of spiritual support. But it can also lead to deep joy, knowing that we are part of the great net that Jesus uses to draw others near to him. We are each a strand of that net, sometimes strong, and sometimes relying on the strength of others.

We thank you for considering strengthening our net with your support, and we pray that you experience the full joy that the life of a missionary can bring.

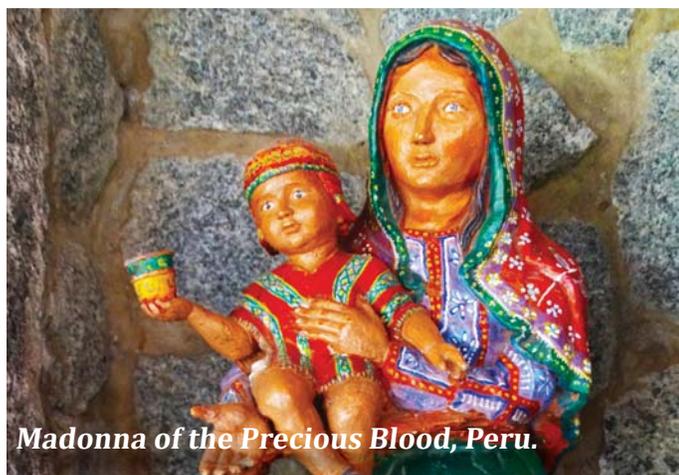
In the Blood of the Lamb,

V. Rev. Jeffrey S. Kirch, C.P.P.S.

V. Rev. Jeffrey S. Kirch, C.P.P.S.
Provincial Director



Missionaries throughout the world learn so much from the people they serve. (Missionaries in ministry in Peru, left and Colombia, below.)



Madonna of the Precious Blood, Peru.



To learn more about the Missionaries of the Precious Blood,
visit our website at cpps-preciousblood.org