



**Missionaries of the
Precious Blood**

United States Province

C.P.P.S. NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2023

*In Christ, through the
shedding of his blood,
we have redemption and
forgiveness of our sins.*

Ephesians 1: 7a

Celebrating 600 Years of Ministry

Twelve Jubilarians Honored During July 1 Liturgy

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood honored 12 jubilarians celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2023, during a July 1 Mass at St. Charles Center in Carthagena, Ohio.

Preaching the homily during the Solemnity of the Precious Blood, Fr. Andy O'Reilly, C.P.P.S., said that "today we give praise and honor to the Precious Blood of Jesus. We celebrate the bond that unites us, and we celebrate the mission that we share."

Fr. O'Reilly, celebrating 50 years of life as a priest, is among the 2023 jubilarians. Other Missionaries with milestone anniversaries this year are Fr. Donald Thieman, 70 years; Fr. James McCabe, 65 years; Frs. Louis Schmit, William Devaney and William Miller, 60 years; Fr. Barry Fischer, 50 years; Frs. David Hoying, Timothy McFarland, William Nordenbrock and Garry Richmeier, 40 years; and Fr. Alfons Minja, 25 years.

Together, they have completed an impressive 600 years of ministry.

It was fitting to celebrate in

the context of the eucharist, Fr. O'Reilly said. "As eagerly as Jesus looked forward to sharing the first eucharist with his disciples, it's not unreasonable to say he is just as eager to celebrate the eucharist with us," the people of God, he said.

"Through our covenant, sealed in the Blood of Christ, we become living chalices. We are sent to go out to the world, to touch the very heart of our broken world, with the healing, reconciling power of the Blood of Jesus."

Fr. O'Reilly recalled a similar celebration when he was in ministry at St. Andrew Parish in Orlando. Priests of the Diocese of Orlando were invited to a special dinner after the Chrism Mass, at which jubilarians were the honored guests.

One year, one of the jubilarians "decided he would give his testimony, and his testimony was interesting," Fr. O'Reil-



2023 jubilarians honored on July 1 included Frs. Jim McCabe and Bill Miller (front row), Tim McFarland, Bill Nordenbrock, Barry Fischer, David Hoying, Alfons Minja, Andy O'Reilly, Louis Schmit and Don Thieman. Jubilarians not pictured: Frs. Bill Delaney and Garry Richmeier.

ly said. "He said that every single day as a priest was full of blessings from the time he got up in the morning until the time he went to sleep at night. It was joy all day, every day. He said it was a life of perfect bliss, and he had no regrets.

"And I was thinking, 'Really?'"

In his own experience, Fr. O'Reilly said there had been tough days in his years of ministry. There was one day when he was sitting in his office at
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New Front Porch Mural Helps Tell the Story

Donna Liette, CPPS

Fr. David Kelly, C.P.P.S., once wrote: “We must create communities of hope where we recognize that our lives are intertwined with one other and that what affects one, affects us all. This ethos—the interconnectedness of all—is at the heart of our spirituality that calls us to be ambassadors of reconciliation.”

Here at the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, our Front Porch Community Healing Center opened in November. It has brought many curious neighbors inside to see how the old community grocery and liquor store has been transformed.

The first few months were wonderful as we welcomed new friends inside, but something was missing. The space is beautiful, but those white cinder block walls were stark and colorless! So we called on our artist instructor, Alberto Alaniz, and a youth artist, Kathleen, the “granddaughter” of Fr. Kelly, and creative energies emerged!

A mural team of youth and staff shared ideas and sketches and began designing the layout. Alberto reflects on the initial brainstorming process: “Love, hospitality, hope, healing and a strong sense of community were important expressions of what the team felt PBMR stood for in this community and what our mural

should give voice and challenge to in these dire times.”

The design incorporates both the pain of loss and the hope of a new day, of woundedness and hands open to forgiveness and healing, of the tree of life and the balloons flying high remembering loved ones lost to violence.

Alberto adds, “The skyline became a source of light, represented by candles, shining core values into a city in need of healing.” The little children embracing one another—knowing darkness and death yet looking with hope at the light for a new city as they move into their future.

As I spoke with some of the youth artists, after completing this amazing mural, you could feel the impact this had on them as they splashed paint, shared stories and watched their work tell of the PBMR mission of LOVE!

Kathleen reflects: “Art is a way for me to heal, and I hope this mural can help others in the community feel similarly. I feel so happy and blessed to have had this opportunity to work on this collaborative project.”

And Janell, PBMR youth, writes: “Art is something that makes you breathe with a

different kind of happiness.” She was there at the beginning, saw the value of keeping together with the



Artists work on the mural that adorns PBMR’s new Front Porch.

project and can now celebrate the success of the masterpiece!

Recently a group of visitors stood stunned as they opened the door and immediately saw on the once blank wall, an amazing inspirational piece of art. They began to tell stories and emotions were evoked as they spoke of their wounds, their hopes, their awe at the creation.

Several mothers gathered and stood before the mural reflecting on their lives and the lives of their children, weeping because they saw the pain, smiling because they also saw the open hands of healing, and they said, “We want to be a part of bringing this healing to our community and our families. This is a powerful statement and needs to be on our
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Precious Blood
Ministry of Reconciliation

and always appreciated the gifts they brought to the table of faith and fellowship. Despite his busy schedule, he supported his religious community in many ways, including serving as director of formation and as a member of its provincial council. He was a good friend to his fellow Missionaries and offered them encouragement and affirmation.

Though health issues plagued his final years, he never lost his sense of optimism and hope that the children of God could learn to live together, free of racism and hate. Even on his worst days, he longed to get back to his active ministry to further the cause of healing through the Precious Blood of Jesus.

Fr. Williams is survived by his father, Clarence E. Williams, Sr., of Cleveland; four younger brothers, Thomas D., Charles (Donna), Willie E. (Mercedes), and Carl (Cheryl), all of Cleveland; and numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Lula Belle.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Charles Center, Carthagen, Ohio, on July 17, with Fr. Jeffrey Kirch, C.P.P.S., provincial director, presiding. Fr. William O'Donnell, C.P.P.S., was the homilist.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Adalbert Church, Cleveland, on July 18. Fr. Richard Friebel, C.P.P.S., presided. Fr. Sama Muma of the Archdiocese of Detroit was the homilist. St. Adalbert was Fr. Williams' home parish, and he attended the parish school.

Burial followed at Calvary Cemetery, Cleveland. He was laid to rest next to his mentor, Fr. Gene Wilson, C.P.P.S.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated on Monday, July 24 at 7 p.m. at St. James the Less Church, Columbus. Fr. Stephen Dos Santos, C.P.P.S., will preside and preach.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, United States Province.

May he rest in peace.

New Front Porch Mural

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outside walls."

Another mother said she loved the big heart, for she saw LOVE as the only answer to the darkness, to the violence, to the disunity, to the "broken-heartedness of our people."

Another neighbor caught one of the hidden words, "EMBRACE" and she said, "that says it all for me—I see the children in an embrace and I believe if we followed these children and embraced one another life would be so different."

So we invite you to come visit our Front Porch and find your hidden words, reflect on this masterpiece and share your stories of pain, forgiveness, connectedness, love, healing and hope. Carrying the message of this mural into your spaces creating communities of hope and healing wherever you are.

PBMR has taken HEALING as the theme of 2023

and as Kathleen so beautifully expressed, "Art is a way for me to heal." It is our hope that our mural will bring healing to this community and to yours and beyond.

Just as Fr. Kelly wrote, we are working together to create a community of hope and healing! Our lives are intricately intertwined with one another—in all of our joy, sorrow, love, heartbreak, and healing. We are all interconnected, restored and united through the Precious Blood.

*Sr. Donna Liette, CPPS,
ministers at the Precious Blood
Ministry of Reconciliation
in Chicago.*

Any change in your contact information? Please send new info to mission @cpps-preciousblood.org.



Provincial Director's Calendar

July 30–August 1: Conference of Major Superiors of Men assembly, Kansas City.

August 29–31: Provincial council meeting, St. Charles Center, Carthagen, Ohio.