

the little servants of Christ The King prayer community Sudbury, Ontario

. . . . proclaiming the power of the Holy Spirit and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

July 2020



Our Mission Statement: *"If we live by the truth and in love, we shall grow in all ways into Christ, who is the head by whom the whole body is fitted and joined together, every joint adding its own strength, for each separate part to work according to its function. So the body grows until it has built itself up, in love."* - Ephesians 4:15-16

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VISION

The little servants of Christ the King prayer community is a spiritual group within the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie. It is incorporated and designated as a registered charity under the income tax act. Our goal is to advance and teach the Message of Jesus Christ as announced and practiced by the Catholic Church with an emphasis on having a personal relationship with Jesus and expressing the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Our time and resources are dedicated to the work of **EVANGELIZATION**.

In everything we do, everyone is invited from the different Sectors of our Diocese (English, French, and Native). Although, all our activities are conducted in English, we do everything possible to reach out to all.

Outside our weekly meetings, we use the Diocesan office, regular mail, E-mail (for approximately 350 members), phone calls, Facebook, YouTube, and our website for all our outreach.

The prayer community is divided into **THREE STREAMS**:

STREAM 1. Building our faith through Weekly prayer meetings and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist (Mass).

STREAM 2. Promoting Our Chapel of Perpetual Adoration of the Holy Eucharist.

STREAM 3. Teaching through special days of reflection.

- a.** Lenten Mission of 5 weeks.
- b.** Annual Pentecost, Trinity and Corpus Christi Retreats.
- c.** Life in the Spirit and Future Growth seminars.
- d.** Special Fall Retreats.

We are a group that rely wholly on the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother of Perpetual Help.

QUOTE: “FOR NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GOD” - Luke 1:37

The Precious Blood of Jesus

The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of our Lord. The feast of the Precious Blood of our Lord was instituted in 1849 by Pius IX, but the devotion is as old as Christianity. The early Fathers say that the Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, and that the sacraments were brought forth through His Blood.

"The Precious Blood which we worship is the Blood which the Saviour shed for us on Calvary, and reassumed at His glorious Resurrection; it is the Blood which courses through the veins of His risen, glorified, living body at the right hand of God the Father in heaven; it is the Blood made present on our altars by the words of Consecration; it is the Blood which merited sanctifying grace for us and through it washes and beautifies our soul and inaugurates the beginning of eternal life in it."



Devotion to the Precious Blood

Devotion to the Precious Blood is not a spiritual option, it is a spiritual obligation, and that not only for priests, but for every follower of Christ. I really believe that one of the symptoms of modern society (and I would even include, sadly, modern Catholic society) one of the symptoms of a growing, gnawing secularism is the lessening and the weakening of devotion to the Precious Blood. Devotion, as we know, is a composite of three elements: It is first- veneration, it is secondly- invocation, and it is thirdly- imitation. In other words, devotion to the Precious Blood of Christ, the Lamb of God who was slain, is first of all to be veneration on our part, which is a composite of knowledge, love and adoration. We are to study to come to a deeper understanding of what those two casual words, Precious Blood, really mean.

I found this passage in the oldest document, outside of sacred scripture, from the first century of the Christian era – to be exact, from Pope St. Clement I, dated about 96 A.D. Says Pope Clement: "Let us fix our gaze on the Blood of Christ and realize how truly precious it is, seeing that it was poured out for our salvation, and brought the grace of conversion to the whole world."

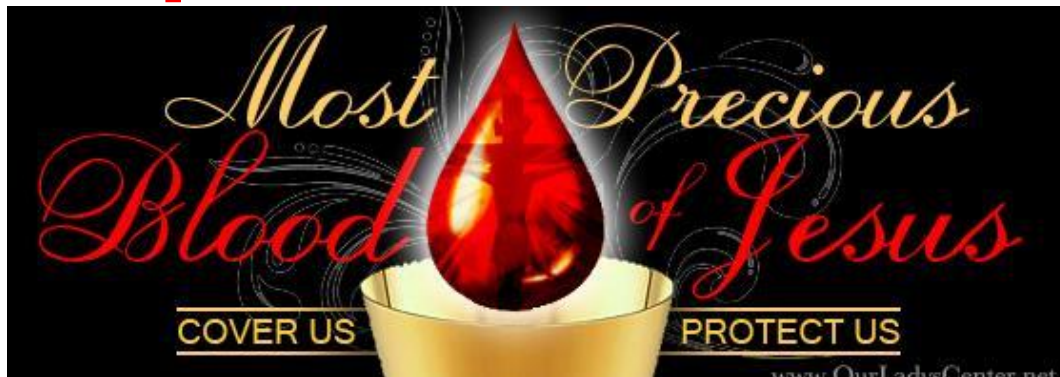
To understand the meaning of the Precious Blood we must get some comprehension of the gravity of sin, of the awfulness of offending God, because it required the Blood of the Son of God to forgive that sin. We are living in an age in which to sin has become fashionable.

This veneration of the Precious Blood, which is the first element in our devotion to the Precious Blood means that we have a deep sensitivity to the awfulness of sin. Sin must be terrible. It must be awful. It must be the most dreadful thing in the universe. Why? Because it cost the living God in human form the shedding of His Blood.

Lord Jesus, You became Man in order by Your Passion and Death and the draining of Your Blood on the Cross, might prove to us how much You, our God, love us. Protect us, dear Jesus, from ever running away from the sight of blood. Strengthen our weak human wills so that we will not only not run away from the cross, but welcome every opportunity to shed our blood in spirit in union with Your Precious Blood, so that, dying to ourselves in time, we might live with You in Eternity. Amen

Excerpted from *The Precious Blood of Christ*, Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

Chaplet of the Most Precious Blood



Seven "effusions of the Blood of Christ", implicitly or explicitly mentioned in the Gospels, are recalled in a series of biblical meditations and devotional prayers: the Blood of the Circumcision, the Blood of the Garden of Gethsemane, the Blood of the Flagellation, the Blood of the Crowning of Thorns, the Blood of the Ascent to Calvary, the Blood at the Crucifixion, the Blood flowing from Christ's side pierced by the lance.

Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy

This Chaplet is divided into seven groups, containing thirty-three "Our Fathers" in honour of the thirty-three years during which the Precious Blood flowed in the veins of Jesus, before it was poured out on the Cross for our salvation. After each group, the "Glory be to the Father" is recited in thanksgiving to the Holy Trinity for this great gift of the Precious Blood. While reciting these prayers, you are asked to meditate on each of the seven bloodsheddings of Jesus.

V. O God, come to my assistance. **R.** Lord, make haste to help me.

V. Glory be to the Father, etc. **R.** As it was in the beginning, etc.

1st Mystery- Jesus shed His Blood in the Circumcision

Let us ask for chastity of soul and body. Our Father five times. Glory be to the Father, etc. We pray You, Lord, help Your people whom You have redeemed with Your Precious Blood.

2nd Mystery - Jesus shed His Blood while praying in the Garden of Olives

Let us ask for the spirit of prayer. Our Father five times. Glory be to the Father, etc. We pray You, Lord, help Your people whom You have redeemed with Your Precious Blood.

3rd Mystery - Jesus shed His Blood in the scourging

Let us ask for the grace of mortification. Our Father five times. Glory be to the Father, etc. We pray You, Lord, help Your people whom You have redeemed with Your Precious Blood.

4th Mystery - Jesus shed His Blood in the crowning with thorns

Let us ask for contempt of worldly honours. Our Father five times. Glory be to the Father, etc. We pray You, Lord, help Your people whom You redeemed with Your Precious Blood.

5th Mystery - Jesus shed His Blood while carrying the Cross

Let us ask for patience. Our Father five times. Glory be to the Father, etc. We pray You, Lord, help Your people whom You redeemed with Your Precious Blood.

6th Mystery - Jesus shed His Blood in the Crucifixion

Let us ask for contrition for our sins. Our Father five time. Glory be to the Father, etc. We pray You, Lord, help Your people whom You redeemed with Your Precious Blood.

7th Mystery - Jesus shed His Blood and water when His side was pierced

Let us ask for the grace of perseverance. Our Father three times. Glory be to the Father, etc.
We pray You, Lord, help Your people whom You redeemed with Your Precious Blood.

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ in atonement for my sins, in supplication for the holy souls in Purgatory, and for the needs of the Holy Church.

Amen

LITANY OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS

Lord, have mercy on us. *Lord, have mercy on us.*
Christ, have mercy on us. *Christ, have mercy on us.*
Lord, have mercy on us. *Lord, have mercy on us.*
Christ, hear us. *Christ, graciously hear us.*
God, the Father of Heaven, *Have mercy on us.*
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *Have mercy on us.*
God the Holy Spirit, *Have mercy on us.*
Holy Trinity, One God, *Have mercy on us.*

The response is: **save us**

Blood of Christ, only-begotten Son of the Eternal Father...
Blood of Christ, Incarnate Word of God...
Blood of Christ, of the New and Eternal Testament...
Blood of Christ, falling upon the earth in Agony...
Blood of Christ, shed profusely in the Scourging...
Blood of Christ, flowing forth in the Crowning with Thorns...
Blood of Christ, poured out on the Cross...
Blood of Christ, Price of our salvation...
Blood of Christ without which there is no forgiveness...
Blood of Christ, Eucharistic drink and refreshment of souls...
Blood of Christ, River of mercy...
Blood of Christ, Victor over demons...
Blood of Christ, Courage of martyrs...
Blood of Christ, Strength of Confessors...
Blood of Christ, bringing forth virgins...
Blood of Christ, Help of those in peril...
Blood of Christ, Relief of the burdened...
Blood of Christ, Solace in sorrow...
Blood of Christ, Hope of the penitent...
Blood of Christ, Consolation of the dying...
Blood of Christ, Peace and Tenderness of hearts...
Blood of Christ, Pledge of eternal life...
Blood of Christ, freeing souls from Purgatory...
Blood of Christ, most worthy of all glory and honour...

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Spare us, O Lord.*
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Graciously hear us, O Lord.*
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Have mercy on us.*
Thou has redeemed us, O Lord, in Thy Blood, *And made us a kingdom for our God.*

Let us pray: Almighty and eternal God, Thou has appointed Thine only-begotten Son the Redeemer of the world and willed to be appeased by His Blood. Grant, we beseech Thee, that we may worthily adore this price of our salvation and through its power be safeguarded from the evils of this present life so that we may rejoice in its fruits forever in Heaven. Through the same Christ our Lord.

July Birthdays



- 2 - Joyce Tovey
- 3 - Nathalie McGaughey
- 4 - Cécile Gervais
- 7 - Florianne Vezeau
- 9 - Nicole Forget Beauvais
- 10 - Ronald Beauvais
Catherine Cyr
Reg Folz
Patrick Muncaster
- 11 - Daniel Boisvert
- 12 - Gerry Lalancette
- 13 - Jacqueline Blais
Mary Orasi
- 14 - Daniel Soullière
- 16 - Christine Charlton
Jason Hawes
Clifford Moulton
- 20 - Leona Martel
- 21 - Mary Blasutti
Serge Koffi
Margaret Reid
- 25 - Lorraine Sahadat
- 26 - Dr. Michael Shannon
- 27 - George Ayre
Bernadette Sammon
Viviane Sinan
- 30 - Aurel Michel

*Happy Birthday
and
God's Blessings*



- Mary Ann Arnold – July 5, 2000
- Fr. Edward Clarke – July 16, 1992
- Mary Irene McKee – July 15, 1994
- Gertrude Noble – July 16, 1994
- Cecile Leona Belzile – July 21, 1994
- Gerard Griffin – July 14, 1995
- Sister Marie Therese Larivee
– July 22, 1998
- Fr. Anthony Sabas – July 25, 1982
- Fr. G. Sabas – July 25, 1982
- James Patrick Hickey
– July 10, 1996
- Stella Vagnini – July 13, 2001
- Sister Lorraine Bogue – July 6, 2002
- Rudy Martel – July 6, 2005
- Jerry Hoeg – July 24, 2005
- Ida Gobbo – July 4, 2006
- Jim Sprietzer – July 1, 2008
- Mary Bartolucci – July 29, 2009
- Sister Louise Rioux – July 5, 2010
- Pauline Knapp – July 7, 2014
- Alfreda Belisle – July 25, 2015
- John Rodriguez – July 5, 2017
- Nevis Lovsin – July 23, 2017
- Msgr. John Caswell – July 1, 2018
- Patricia Ticalo – July 2, 2018
- Nina Stapleton – July 26, 2018

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful
departed, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. Amen.*

Pope Francis on How to Recognize the Voice of God

“The sheep hear His voice, as He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out.” (John 10:3) The Lord calls us by name, He calls us because He loves us. But, the Gospel then tells us, there are other voices, not to be followed: those of strangers, thieves and brigands who mean harm to the sheep.

These different voices resonate within us. There is the voice of God, who speaks kindly to the conscience, and there is the tempting voice that leads to evil. How can we recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd rather than that of the thief; how can we distinguish the inspiration of God from the suggestion of the evil one? One can learn to discern these two voices: they speak two different languages, that is, they have opposite ways of knocking on the door of our hearts. Just as we know how to distinguish one language from another, we can also distinguish the voice of God from the voice of the evil one. The voice of God never forces us: God proposes Himself, He does not impose Himself. Instead, the evil voice seduces, assails, forces: it arouses dazzling illusions, emotions that are tempting but transient. At first it flatters, it makes us believe that we are all-powerful, but then it leaves us empty inside and accuses us: “You are worth nothing”. The voice of God, instead, corrects us, with great patience, but always encourages us, consoles us: it always nourishes hope. The voice of God is a voice that has a horizon, whereas the voice of evil leads you to a wall, it backs you into a corner.

Another difference. The voice of the enemy distracts us from the present, and wants us to focus on fears of the future or sadness about the past – the enemy does not want the present – it brings to the surface the bitterness, the memories of the wrongs suffered, of those who have hurt us, many bad memories. Instead, the

voice of God speaks to the present: “Now you can do good; now you can exercise the creativity of love; now you can renounce the regrets and remorse that hold your heart captive”. God inspires us, He leads us ahead, but He speaks in the present: now.

Again: the two voices raise different questions in us. That which comes from God will be: “What is good for me?” Yet the tempter will insist on another question: “What do I feel like doing?” The evil voice always revolves around the ego, its impulses, its needs; *everything must be straight away, immediately*. It is like the tantrums of a child: everything, and now. The voice of God, instead, never promises joy at a low price; He invites us to go beyond our ego to find the true good, peace. Let us remember that evil never gives us peace. It causes frenzy first and leaves bitterness later. This is the style of evil.

Finally, the voice of God and that of the tempter speak in different “environments.” The enemy prefers darkness, falsehood, and gossip; the Lord loves sunlight, truth, and sincere transparency. The enemy will say to us: “Close yourself up in yourself, besides no-one understands and listens to you, don’t trust anyone!” Goodness, on the contrary, invites us to open up, to be clear and trusting in God and in others. Dear brothers and sisters, in this time so many thoughts and worries lead us to turn inwards into ourselves. Let us pay attention to the voices that reach our hearts. Let us ask ourselves where they come from. Let us ask for the grace to recognize and follow the voice of the Good Shepherd, Who brings us out of the enclosures of selfishness, and leads us to the pastures of true freedom. May Our Lady, Mother of Good Counsel, guide and accompany our discernment.



What are the Charisms of the Holy Spirit?

Charisms are gifts of the Spirit used to gather, sanctify, and minister life in the Church and in the world.

At least 27 gifts are listed in scripture references (Acts 2, 1 Cor 12, Romans 12 and Ephesians 4) covering a broad range of gifts, from **prophecy, healing, mercy, teaching, almsgiving, perseverance, joy, encouragement, hospitality, leadership, and others**. St. Paul lists nine examples of the Spirit's manifestations in 1 Cor 12:4-11. These are often associated with the Charismatic Renewal:

Gifts of Grace (*charis*) The power to speak, sometimes called Word Gifts: *Prophecy, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues*.

Prophecy is God's message spoken through an individual to the community. Prophecy does not necessarily mean predicting

the future. Paul says the purpose of prophecy is for the "upbuilding and encouragement and consolation" of God's people (1 Cor 14:3).

Tongues (glossolalia) are God's messages spoken through an individual. Tongues, individually or in a group, as a personal prayer resource without needing interpretation, is akin to the language of lovers, or of a parent to a child. Yielding to tongues opens us up to receive and use the other gifts. There is the phenomenon of speaking publicly in tongues and having someone else understand and express the meaning of tongues. This includes the charism of interpretation.

Interpretation of Tongues is the ability to interpret (not translate) a message given in tongues into the vernacular. Tongues along with interpretation amounts to prophecy.

Gifts of Service (*diakonia*) The power to know: *Wisdom, Knowledge, Discernment*. These gifts are the ability to express and understand various aspects of God's nature or plan in a matter that brings effective results.

Wisdom is the facility to offer a solution to a problem or to give insightful teachings that opens the hearer to God's wisdom.

Knowledge is the ability to clearly communicate God's word or doctrinal truths, or to know how God is working within an individual or in the community at a particular time.

Discernment is the capacity to know whether a gift or inspiration has at its source the Holy Spirit, is of human origin, or of evil influence. Paul says that the Spirit always bears witness to Jesus (12:3).

Gifts of Works (*energema*) The power to do: *Faith, Miracles, Healing*. Jesus' preaching was always accompanied by cures, miracles and deliverance that led the people to faith and enabled them to experience as well as hear the good news.

Faith is a supernatural infusion to know with full certainty that God will bring something about. (Charismatic faith is not the same as the virtue of faith with which we receive our salvation in Christ).

Miracles are God's supernatural interventions into the natural realm to demonstrate divine power. Miracles help strengthen faith or bring about faith.

Healing is the manifestation of God's power to restore a person's spiritual, psychological, or physical well-being. This may be instantaneous or gradual, and often through the use of natural means.

Charismatic gifts are as important to the Church today as they

were in apostolic times. These gifts work to bring unity, to empower and to serve the Church's needs. The Church has declared: "Whether these charisms be very remarkable or more simple and widely diffused, they are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation since they are fitting and useful for the needs of the church." (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, #12).

The National Service
Committee of the Catholic
Charismatic Renewal of the
United States, Inc.\

*"We who are reborn
through the
sacrament of
baptism experience*

intense joy when we feel within us the first stirring of the Holy Spirit...We begin to have insight into the mysteries of faith; we are able to prophecy and speak with wisdom. We become steadfast in hope and receive the gifts of healing." (St. Hilary of Poitiers c. 315-367)



Prayer: Gifts of the Spirit

God of love and of life, let us take time to look deep within ourselves, and discover the gifts you have blessed us with. May we take the time to direct our lives in a way that best uses our own unique combination of gifts. May our education help us discover where our strengths and interests lie. May our faith guide us in realizing our gifts. May we always be open to the direction of the Spirit, and never forget the love you have for each of us. Give us, O Lord, the perception we need to look within ourselves, and discover the beauty and gifts we possess. Give us the courage to show others the gifts they have. Help us serve others in the community, and in so doing build up your kingdom. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord.

Amen.



Romans 12:6-8 ~God has also given each of us different gifts to use. If we can prophesy, we should do it according to the amount of faith we have. If we can serve others, we should serve. If we can teach, we should teach. If we can encourage others, we should encourage them. If we can give, we should be generous. If we are leaders, we should do our best. If we are good to others, we should do it cheerfully.



May 20, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

During this unprecedented time of Covid-19 we wish to update you on the various activities Mary Mother of the Poor Foundation had undertaken to help alleviate the plight of the poor and the marginalized in the Philippines.

Attached for your ready reference is a report on the relief operations done in the months of April and May, all made possible by the grace of God and by generous donors like you. Please note that this charitable effort is in addition to the ongoing MMP charitable projects like the seminary, the feeding program, the scholarship program, youth evangelization services, livelihood program, installation of wells, and the medical and dental missions.

Fr. Jeff Shannon, MMMP, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is very effectively heading and managing all the spiritual and charitable programs. Please continue to pray for him as he continues the work of the MMP.

Heartfelt thanks once again for your spirit of sharing your generous hearts. You and your intentions are included in the daily Mass and prayers of Fr. Jeff Shannon, all MMMP priests, seminarians, deacons, religious, monks, and volunteers.

Blessings of peace and grace

Linda Sazon

MARY MOTHER OF THE POOR FOUNDATION

56 Dersingham Cres., Thornhill, Ont. L3T 4E8

905-747-0880

MMMP COVID-19 RELIEF OPERATIONS 2020

2 May 2020 Butong, Taal Batangas

"The poor you will always have with you..." (Matthew 26:11)

The poor were always close to the heart of Fr. Fernando Suarez. While still a seminarian, he started the Mary Mother of the Poor (MMP) foundation in Canada. Years after doing missions to the Philippines, among others, he started the Missionaries of Mary Mother of the Poor (MMMP) in the isolated island of Ilin in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. While doing the healing ministries, bringing the poor close to God was always an integral part of his mission and that of the MMMP community. After his sudden demise last February, the MMMP communities are keeping alive the mission that he has received through the church, to take care of the poor and the needy. It is in this spirit that the MMMP reached out to our disadvantaged brethren during these times of COVID19 pandemic, and continues even as I write this.

Beginning last month, April, the MMMP has donated Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to our frontliners in Luzon and Visayas areas in the Philippines. As of this writing, it has distributed PPEs to fourteen (14) various hospitals, clinics and medical centers around Luzon. It has also sent the same to Cebu in Visayas and General Santos in Mindanao.

Urgent was also the need for food during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) as works were stalled and God's poor ones like the vendors, tricycle drivers, the majority of the people are homebound with no clear means of survival. Requests for relief assistance continue to come through social media channels. As of 2 May 2020, MMMP has given relief assistance to thirty-six (36) barangays, institutions and associations, majority of which are in Luzon such as Caloocan, Makati, Pasay, Laguna, Commonwealth and Novaliches in Quezon City, Tad, San Luis and Lipa in Batangas.

It has also sponsored the feeding of over 200 nurses and doctors of Batangas Medical Centre for three (3) days facilitated by Dra Reyes, an ardent supporter of the MMMP medical and dental missions.

Five hundred (500) sacks of rice were donated from MMMP through the CARITAS program of the Archdiocese of Cebu in Visayas at the disposal of the Archdiocese. This is facilitated by MMMP mission partners in Cebu headed by Fr. Alex Cola and Mr. Dickson Tan, among others.

Five hundred (500) relief packs are also being prepared for the Diocese of Kidapawan in Mindanao in southern Philippines. This is spearheaded by the MMMP mission partners in Davao, General Santos City and Koronadal South Cotabato with the help of the MMMP sisters.

In all these, the MMMP continues to commune with God's poor in prayers, helping them in their needs, heeding the call of St. Paul that there be no division in the body of Christ, but that its members should have mutual concern for one another. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it (**1 Corinthians 12:25**).

The continuity of the MMMP mission is made possible through the help of those who have been supporting the late Fr. Fernando Suarez, his friends, those who have been healed through the ministry and those who have journeyed with him. The MMMP family expresses its heartfelt thanks to all of you who have taken part of the MMMP mission in the church. May the Good Lord protect and keep your loved ones from this dreaded virus.

– Submitted by: Fr. Jeffrey Shannon

Let Your Blood Be Upon Me

by Patti Mansfield

What do you do when you're fearful, worried or anxious? After identifying the source of my fears, I usually try to take some action. There might be a need for repentance, for inner healing, a change of direction, or counsel to alleviate the distress. But one thing I always do is to pray for the protection of the Blood of Jesus. I'd like to share with you what I've learned about it as I've tried to "walk in the Spirit" over the years.

When I was first baptized in the Spirit, I remember singing hymns that honoured the **Name** and the **Blood of Jesus** at our prayer meetings. The power of God was quickly made manifest when we proclaimed clearly and with conviction that we were gathered in the name of Jesus. What a wonderful freedom of worship we had when we asked for the Blood of the Lamb to wash us clean. "O the Blood of Jesus, it cleanses white as snow". We sang it. We believed it. We experienced it.

I came to realize this truth: "Our battle is not against human forces but against the principalities and powers, the rulers of this world of darkness, the evil spirits in the regions above" (Ephesians 6:12). In order to do spiritual warfare, we need to be armed with the word of God, calling on the **name of Jesus** and pleading his **Precious Blood**. Not all the battles we fight are spiritual warfare; there's the world and the flesh to overcome. But when I am bombarded by fears and anxieties, I've learned to take up "the whole armour of God", including the power in the Precious Blood. I'm surprised when I meet Christians who don't avail themselves of this practice.

A religious sister once told me how she was tormented by feelings of dread and foreboding with no apparent reason. She had never thought of praying for healing and deliverance through the Blood of Christ. This may not have been the only way to combat her fears, but it was certainly a powerful means to do so. I shared with her how my husband and I pray, invoking the Blood of Christ.

Every time we receive the Eucharist, we believe we are receiving the Body and Blood of Christ. As Catholics, this is the best time to appropriate the healing and deliverance Jesus has for us in his Blood. What does Scripture tell us about Christ's Blood? The Blood of the Lamb cleanses us from sin (1 John 1:17). The Blood gives us eternal life (John 6:54). The Blood fills us with confidence to approach God (Hebrews 10:19). The Blood sanctifies us (Hebrews 13:12). The Blood helps us conquer the enemy (Revelation 12:11). What treasures are ours for the asking through the Precious Blood!

Al and I frequently meditate on these Scripture passages and pray the Church's Litany of the Precious Blood. Every night Al prays with our children, "Lord,

we place your Precious Blood upon the doorposts of our home to protect us from all harm". Just as the blood of the lamb protected the Israelites from the angel of death, so does the Blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, serve as our protection when we appropriate it for ourselves and our loved ones.

In the *Dialogue* of St Catherine of Siena, it's striking how often God speaks to her of the Precious Blood. The first time I read through the *Dialogue* of the Father's words to Catherine I began to underline every time the Father mentioned the Precious Blood of Jesus. It's on almost every page. Catherine has even been called by some, "The Prophetess of the Blood". The Father said to her, "No one need fear any battle or temptation of the devil that may come, for I have made you strong and given your wills power in the Blood of my Son". Priests are to be specially honoured because they are the keepers of the keys of His Blood. I would add that in this moment in the Church when priests need so much strengthening and spiritual support, we should invoke the protection of the Precious Blood upon them often.

Inspired by Catherine's love for the Precious Blood, I've been led to invoke the Blood more and more often in daily life. The words used to condemn Jesus during His Passion have become words of love for me as I pray: "O Lord, let your Blood be on me". Instead of a judgement against me, I pray that the Blood of Jesus be my protection and freedom. "O Lord, let Your Blood be on me and on my home. Let Your Blood be on me and on my children, and on my work, my car, my travels", and so on.

Recently I was praying this way before a meeting to be held in our home. I rarely have any visual image when I pray, but this time I did. As I looked up, I was startled by the image of red blood dripping from the ceiling of our living room. The Lord's voice deep within me seemed to say, "When you ask me to do this, I really do it". Never before had I seen the blood, but in that instance, Jesus wanted me to know the **reality** of His Blood being poured forth for our protection. **And, there's power in the Blood!** Take up all the weapons of spiritual warfare the Lord has provided. Plead the Blood of Jesus and be set free!

"To Him who loved us and freed us from our sins by his own Blood, who made us a royal nation of priests in the service of His God and Father - to Him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen" (Revelation 1:5)

Source: www.ccrno.org

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Your Ticket to Heaven

Do you want to go to heaven? I'm thinking that your answer is YES! Well, I certainly do too. I have been thinking about what enables us to get there. What is it that "opens the gates of paradise" for us?

"THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS"

It is "the Precious Blood of Christ" that opens heaven for us (1 Peter 1:19). Scripture says "they have conquered him (the devil, Satan, accuser of the brethren) by the blood of the Lamb (Jesus) and by the word of their testimony" (Revelation 12:11). Some have taken this to mean that we can overcome the enemy by our personal testimony of faith in what the word of God says that the blood of Jesus does for us.

With that in mind, let's examine what Scripture says about the blood of Jesus. I have found 20 different verses in the New Testament that tell us what the blood of Jesus does. I have grouped them into four general categories:

- 1) Redemption from sin
- 2) Reconciliation
- 3) Purification/Sanctification/Equipping
- 4) Entrance to the Sanctuary

REDEMPTION FROM SIN

It is obvious that the shedding of the blood of Jesus effects eternal redemption from sin (Hebrews 9:12). The blood of Jesus is variously termed as granting us "expiation, propitiation, redemption, and forgiveness" (Romans 3:25; Ephesians 1:7). We are justified and ransomed (Romans 5:9; Revelation 5:9; 1 Peter 1:18-19). We are washed in the blood of Jesus (Revelation 7:14) and the blood of Jesus cleanses us (1 John 1:7). Through the pleasing sacrifice of the blood of Jesus we are freed and forgiven (Revelation 1:5; Hebrews 9:22; 12:24). Scripture tells us clearly: "Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness" (Hebrews 9:22).

RECONCILIATION

One of the effects of the blood shed by Jesus is reconciliation. We read in Ephesians 2:13 that those who were far off "have been brought near to God through the blood of Christ" and Colossians 1:20 says that Jesus reconciled all things to himself, "making peace by the blood of His cross." The blood of Jesus brings us closer to God and to other believers.

PURIFICATION, SANCTIFICATION, EQUIPPING

The blood of Jesus is our instrument for growing in holiness. The blood of Jesus can "purify your consciences" (Hebrews 9:14). That is to say, it can cleanse us from sin and transform us so that we lead holy lives. *The blood of Jesus makes us holy!* Jesus was crucified "outside the gate" in order to sanctify His people through His own blood (Hebrews 13:12). Another important work that the blood of Jesus performs is to equip us that we may do His will and so make us pleasing to God (Hebrews 13:20-21). This is confirmed in 1 Peter 1:2, which tells us that we have been "chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with His blood."

ENTRANCE INTO THE SANCTUARY

What else does the blood of Jesus do for us? It gives us "confidence to enter the sanctuary" (Hebrews 10:18). When we are covered by the blood of Jesus, so to speak, we are confident to draw near the sanctuary and enter into the Holy of Holies "with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:22). The blood of Jesus is indeed our "ticket to heaven," giving us admittance.

– CCRNO with permission

Prayer to the Precious Blood

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the
Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, the
merits, love, and sufferings of His Sacred
Heart, the tears and sorrows of our
Immaculate Mother, as the price of the
favour I wish to obtain, if it is for
Thy glory and my salvation.
Amen.

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