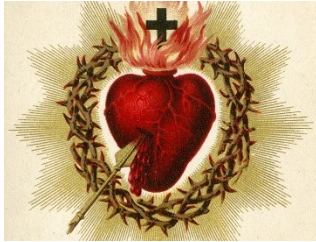


Cleanse Your Souls in the Precious Blood of My Son



” ...we judge it most timely to call our beloved children’s attention to the unbreakable bond which must exist between the devotions to the Most Holy Name and Most Sacred Heart of Jesus — already so widespread among Christians — and devotion to the incarnate Word’s Most Precious Blood, “shed for many, to the remission of sins.”

(Pope St. John XXIII, Apostolic Letter *Inde a primas*, On Promoting Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus, 1960.)

“I come to you, O children of America, as a last resort. I plead with you to listen to my voice. Cleanse your souls in the Precious Blood of My Son. Live in His Heart, and take me in that I may teach you to live in great purity of heart which is so pleasing to God. Be my army of chaste soldiers, ready to fight to the death to preserve the purity of your souls. I am the Immaculate One, Patroness of your land. Be my faithful children as I have been your faithful Mother.”

(Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, *The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA*, Pg. 12.)

Pope St. John XXIII, patron saint of Christian Unity, expressed clearly that there is no one devotion that can exhaust the mystery of Christ and His infinite love and mercy as revealed in the sign of His Blood poured out as an act of divine condescension and a total gift of Himself for the salvation of all mankind. This devotion is as old as Holy Thursday and Good Friday, and as new as the daily Sacrifice of the Mass that is the memorial enactment of the Paschal Mystery on our altars. Not by silver or gold were we ransomed, but by the Blood of the unblemished Lamb of God.

Promotion of devotion to the Precious Blood is credited to Gaspar Melchior Balthazar del Bufalo, named for the Magi, because he was born in Rome on the feast of Epiphany, January 6, 1786. He was ordained a priest in 1808. In 1809, Napoleon took control of the papal states and ordered priests to sign an oath of allegiance to him, but St. Gaspar replied: **“I cannot, I must not, I will not.”** He and other priests who refused were exiled or imprisoned. When released, he traveled Italy preaching devotion to the Blood of Jesus and earned the title *Apostle of the Precious Blood*. In 1815, he founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood to continue this mission. St. Gaspar died in Rome on December 28, 1837. Beatified in 1904 by St. Pius X, he was canonized in 1954 by Venerable Pope Pius XII. Pope St. John XXIII, devoted to the Blood of Jesus, who convened the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), visited St. Gaspar’s body in the Church of Santa Maria in Trivio on January 4, 1963, where the body remains enshrined for veneration. St. Gaspar’s feast day is October 21. This is St. Gaspar’s prophecy concerning the persecutors of the Church.



The death of the impenitent persecutors of the Church will take place during the three days of darkness. He who outlives the darkness and the fear of these three days will think that he is alone on earth because the whole world will be covered with carcasses.
<https://cpps-preciousblood.org/about/founder/>

The feast of the Precious Blood was July 1 until Pope St. Paul VI joined the commemoration of the Blood of Christ with the Body of Christ, now called the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ or the feast of Corpus Christi, which occurs the Sunday after Trinity Sunday. This feast proclaims the enduring gift of Christ's Real Presence with us in the Eucharist. Both the Body and the Blood of Jesus are made present on our altars whether we receive under one species or both.



Devotion to the Precious Blood was a vital part of Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil's life. Born August 2, 1916, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Dayton, Ohio, on September 12, 1930, at age 14. In 1933 she became a professed religious and in 1939 she made perpetual vows. Her first assignments took her to the Washington, D.C. area where her mission for Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin would be centered. In 1937, she was sent to the Chancery in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she met Father Paul F. Leibold, the one God had chosen as her spiritual director. There are no coincidences with God. Locutions with Jesus and Mary that began in the 1940's clarified Sister's mission for the sanctification of the family, a mission Our Lady said would last until the end of time. This mission is urgent for the spiritual renewal of the whole world, for life as ordained by God begins in the family. Sister was then sent to Rome City, Indiana; Denver, Colorado; North Dakota; Cincinnati and Ottawa, Ohio; and in 1954 to Arizona. Her mystical experiences began to take the form of a particular devotion to Our Lady which she was asked to promulgate. In 1954 she had the vision of the Archangel Michael, the angel of peace, who offered her the palm, the sword and the cross by which the saints conquer themselves, the world and the devil. He would be her special protector against the evil one. In 1955, the Archangel Gabriel, angel of purity, appeared and bid her go to Christ's Mother to learn that purity of heart that is so pleasing to her Divine Son.

It was at Rome City, Indiana in the fall of 1956 that Sister Mildred, during her brief second time there, came under great attack by the devil and felt like she was in a ring of evil. She wanted to escape. She found no replacement and had to stay. Then, on the eve of the North American Martyrs, September 25, 1956, Our Lady appeared as Our Lady of Lourdes, promising greater miracles than those granted at Lourdes and Fatima, here in America, if we would do as she asks. On September 26, Our Lady appeared under the new image of Our Lady of America, thanking us for honoring her as our Patroness under her singular privilege of the Immaculate Conception, and calling on America to be the Nation dedicated to her Purity. She mandated America to lead in a spiritual renewal never before so urgent or so necessary. She spoke of the Divine Indwelling and imitation of the virtues of the Holy Family as the way to renew the family and the world. She emphasized holiness from within and bid the Youth of America take a leadership role in this world-wide renewal.

If we understand our baptism into the Paschal Mystery of Christ, we know each of us, and the Church as a whole, will undergo sufferings that mirror the Passion of Jesus,

our Lord and Redeemer. **“A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.”** (Jn 15:20)

Let us ponder on a bit of Sister’s own passion. Letters to Sister from Mother Anthonita and Mother Aquinas indicate their whole-hearted belief in Sister and in the messages of Our Lady, but they warned Sister the rest of the community would not accept them. On July 1, 1957, Sister Florecita Bidart founded a Benedictine cloister within the active order in the basement of the Our Lady of Nativity Convent in New Riegel, Ohio, and Sister Mildred joined it in May of 1958. The active order had already changed to the grey habit and allowed sisters to return to their baptismal names, as did Sister Mildred. Archbishop Karl J. Altar of the Cincinnati diocese had helped Sister Florecita start the cloister but told her to expect trouble down the road, for the order was too active to appreciate a contemplative way of life. Bishop George J. Rehring of the Toledo diocese set the cloister up with its own novitiate so they could welcome young women from the world and ensure their growth. When the active order decreed that anyone wishing to enter the cloister had to first enter the active order for formation, they, in effect, ended the cloister novitiate and prevented any further growth. Often problem sisters from the active order were sent to the cloister for periods of time, which further disrupted the cloister’s Rule of Life. With other difficulties arising, the seven contemplative sisters were advised to separate from the active order in order to preserve their way of life. In 1977, they advised the active order of this intent, and in February of 1978, they petitioned Pope Paul VI to separate and retain their vows. With mounting tensions, four of the seven left, then Sister Florecita died of a heart attack, leaving only Sister Mildred and Sister Joseph Therese remaining. Bishops who had been willing to help them reorganize suddenly turned away after speaking with the administrators of the active order. Word came from Rome that they no longer had enough members to justify a new canonical group. They would simply be dissolved by attrition. Sister Mildred and Sister Joseph Therese were given an ultimatum by the active order to sign final exclaustation to be totally separated from the active order, or to return to it and submit to its authority. Sister Mildred could not abandon her commitment to the Contemplative life and felt it would be impossible to return to the active order after all the hostility from it; she was coerced to sign. Nothing was as devastating as being abandoned by a community she had served for over fifty years and being treated as a renegade, a crazy woman, a failure, an outcast, losing her good name, her community and friends, her religious identity. Did Jesus not endure these things at the hands of His people and the Jewish authorities of His day? Our Lady consoled Sister:



“My poor child, you have suffered much but do not fear. Take courage, for soon a haven of rest will be given you—not a refuge from suffering and pain but a nest of solitude for the little white dove, so dear to me and the Heart of my Son.” (Diary, Pg. 19.)

Friends gave them shelter and Father Edmund Mormon, their new spiritual director after Archbishop Paul F. Leibold had died in 1972, had them renew their vows privately and advised them to continue to live in a private religious association as Contemplatives

of the Divine Indwelling, the title of the Institute of Prayer they had legalized with the state of Ohio. Yes, Jesus invited the dear Spouse of His Heart to drink deeply from the chalice of His sufferings. He and Our Lady promised always to be with her! An earlier letter to Archbishop Leibold, her first spiritual director, speaks of this suffering for souls.

I had awakened after a time and was about to get up when I fell into one of those trance-like conditions of which I already spoke to you about. The crucifix appeared before me, drawing closer and closer. I knelt down, my heart crying out in sorrow and love. He was very near, so near that I saw the Blood streaming down His crucified and pain-wracked body. On His Face was a look of internal pain and sorrow. I offered myself to Him with all the love of my heart. Then He spoke these words to me: "I cannot accept your gift unless you are wholly united to me and to My sufferings." At these words I was overwhelmed with grief. Then the Lord proceeded to lead me upon the road of suffering. Never, dear Father, have I ever experienced anything so terrible, so heartrending, so full of bitterness. I was filled with such anguish and agony that every part of my soul and body seemed to share in it. I could not kneel upright. A heavy weight seemed to be pressing me down to the ground. The agony was becoming unbearable. With both hands I covered my face, while the intense suffering forced the tears from my eyes. I felt like I was being crushed under a mountain of grief. There was no part of me that this agony did not penetrate. If it had lasted a moment longer, I'm sure I would have died. Oh if I could only tell you how it really was. When I awoke I was shivering and trembling all over. Oh the horror of sin, if only we fully realized it. Our Lord only let me taste a very tiny drop of the bitter drink in His chalice of suffering. Yet this tiny drop almost killed me. That is true, Father, I could not have endured it a second longer.

Sister Mildred was asked by Jesus if she would wear His crown of thorns and let herself be nailed to the cross for the salvation of souls. She said "yes", and He said, "I have laid you upon the altar of sacrifice." The mystics St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Matilda and St. Bridget, also devoted to the Passion of Jesus, were given this prayer in honor of the drops of Blood Jesus lost on His way to Calvary. What a magnitude of blessing Jesus promises to those who practice this simple little devotion.

To all the faithful who recite for 3 years, each day, 2 Our Fathers, 2 Hail Marys and 2 Glory Bes in honor of the drops of Blood I lost, I will concede the following 5 graces:

- 1. The plenary indulgence and remittance of their sins.**
- 2. They will be free from the pains of Purgatory.**
- 3. If they die before the 3 years, it would be the same as if they had completed them.**
- 4. Upon their death it will be the same as if they had shed their blood for the Holy Faith.**
- 5. I will descend from Heaven to take their souls and that of their relatives until the fourth generation.**

(Blessed by His Holiness Pope Leo XIII in Rome, April 5, 1890.)

If you are concerned about the salvation of the souls of your family, please pray this prayer every day of July and for the rest of your life. Record the day you begin. Cover your prayers with the Blood of Jesus!

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In honor of the Precious Blood of Jesus.

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