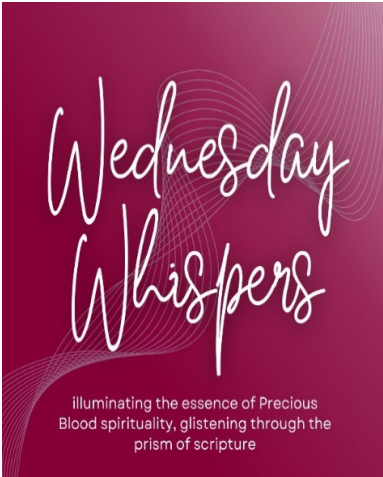




A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood Community

October 29, 2025

Fr. Bob Flannery

“All people will come from the east and west and
recline at the table of the Kingdom of God.”
(Luke 13:22-30)



God often works in strange and unpredictable ways, and as our second reading today from Saint Paul’s letter to the Romans, “All things work for the good for those who love God.” I grew up in Lawrence, Kansas, and I met my first Adorer of the Blood of Christ when I was in junior high at Saint John’s Grade School in the year 1961. One of my classmates’ siblings was Sr. Barbara Borders, an ASC from Wichita. Sr. Barbara came into our classroom wearing her full habit with the black habit, wimple, veil, and red sash, as a follower of Jesus.

This charism of the Adorers eventually led me to become part of the first Ruma ASC Associates class in 1977. God’s providence had brought me to the Diocese of Belleville in Illinois back in 1969 after I had met and become good friends with several seminarians of the Belleville Diocese while on a retreat at Conception Seminary in Missouri. After college, I decided to join the Diocese of Belleville. Since then, as a seminarian and then a

priest, I have met or ministered with ASCs throughout the Belleville Diocese, including ministering with six ASC sisters who were pastoral associates or teachers where I served. In my various travels and ministry, I have also met ASCs in Guatemala, Milwaukee, Washington, D.C., Belgium,

When I became spiritual director at The American College Seminary in Louvain, Belgium, the day I arrived in 1982, my very first visitor was Sr. Mary Catherine Girrens, General Superior of the ASCs in Rome. Also, while helping to present a Ministry to Priests workshop/retreat in Canberra, Australia, in 1986, I stayed at the Archbishop of Canberra's home. When the sisters taking care of his residence walked in, lo and behold, I saw them wearing the "heart and cross" on a chain. They were from Croatia and helped me celebrate my 40th birthday. Finally, in 2019, while accompanying a group of students from The American College in Belgium on a trip to Rome, I arranged lunch at the ASC Generalate. Little did I know or remember, it was the birth date of St. Maria De Mattias! What a celebration we had!!

In all of these encounters with the ASCs, I saw the sisters, associates, and sojourners, junior and mission associates, living out faithfully the charism of our beloved foundress, St. Maria. My life has definitely been enriched and changed due to the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. As the Gospel for today's Mass says, "All people will come from the east and west and recline at the table of the Kingdom of God." Thank you, Sister Adorers, for helping to bring all of us in the ASC family to God's heavenly table!

Fr. Bob Flannery was ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Belleville and just retired after serving for over fifty years. He became an Associate with the Adorers in Ruma in 1977. To learn more about the Associates of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, [click here](#).

This weekly reflection is made available to everyone in our Precious Blood family. Feel free to share it with others. If you would like to write one of these reflections occasionally, or to learn more about Precious Blood Spirituality, visit our website: pbspiritualityinstitute.org.