



A weekly reflection by members  
of the Precious Blood Community

**April 22, 2026**

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“There was great joy in the city.”  
(Acts 8:8)



My name is Angela. My sister, Mary Harkenrider, has helped oversee and grow the Urban Farm at PBMR for more than ten years. Mary often calls me on her way home from a day at the Farm to reflect on and share her enthusiasm for her work at the Farm. I think it is her way of contemplating over a day’s work without committing it to paper. She has recounted countless stories about the people she has encountered over this decade. Having been to the Farm numerous times myself and having attended and supported many PBMR events, I offer this reflection on her behalf.

What connection can be made between the readings of April 22<sup>nd</sup> and the work at the PBMR Urban Farm on 51<sup>st</sup>?

As a sideline observer of the ministry at the PBMR Urban Farm, I believe that the answer to this question lies in the deep sense of welcome that permeates almost every aspect of this critical work.

The first reading begins, “There broke out a severe persecution of the church in Jerusalem, and all were scattered.” Yet those who were scattered went about preaching

the word. Through this, there was much healing, and “There was great joy in that city.” The Psalm echoes the joy of those connected by faith and community. And in John’s Gospel, Jesus – the Bread of Life – proclaims, “I will not reject anyone who comes to me.”

The first thing that one can see stepping into the gate at the PBMR Urban Farm is a mural depicting a sprinkling can that showers love upon the city and the harvest.

WELCOME!!! I have heard stories of people stopping in because the beauty of the growing plants reminds them of their childhood in lands far away. These people return to the farm time and again because of the warmth with which they are greeted.

CONNECTION!!! There are stories of people receiving an abundance of produce from the farm to carry back to their own community. GENEROSITY!!!

In our own time, when divisiveness and fear can have a tendency to scatter the people into hiding, the PBMR Farm is a beacon of light that welcomes all. Thus, those who have been hungering physically, emotionally, and spiritually continue to be fed. There is much joy in this city, and we give praise to God!

Mary (and Angela) Harkenrider are part of the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation. To learn more about the Urban Farm and about the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, visit [www.pbmr.org](http://www.pbmr.org).

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](http://pbspiritualityinstitute.org).