



A weekly reflection by members of the Precious Blood Community

April 24, 2024

Sr. Paul Gero, C.P.P.S.

A Eucharist Story

Pray always.

I began my convent journey at fourteen, in the late fifties. (Whew! That was a long time ago!) We aspirants were admonished to pray “ejaculations” during the day. (Glory to the Blood of Jesus. Mary help, O Mother help. My Jesus mercy.) I was, and am, a bit scatter-brained; except for the times we said them out loud while peeling apples, I don’t remember being very faithful to the practice.

I do remember this: Though we had no money and no shopping opportunities, we were expected to acknowledge the birthdays, name days, and jubilees of our superiors and teachers. Once, the classmate who was making the card suggested that we all offer ejaculations for the person, one hundred each. There were about 20 of us; 2,000 seemed a doable number. Except that she accidentally added a zero. Um, I don’t think I ever completed that obligation.

So, I don’t do ejaculations? Oh, wait. I have earworm!* That is to say, I have melodies running constantly through my mind. All the time! Or at least, when there’s “nothing going on.” And what melodies? What do you think? I attend Mass and pray the Divine Office. I plan prayer services. I’m in a choir, a Catholic nuns’ choir. So, the silent parts of my days can sound like:

Holy God, we praise thy name.

The king of love, my shepherd is.

My soul doth magnify the Lord.

Make me an instrument of your peace.

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Blood of Jesus, strength of martyrs.

Pray always. Do it your own way—God will let you know how (and he may make use of your faults)--but pray always.

*It's really called that.

Sr. Paula Gero, C.P.P.S., has been a vowed member of the community for over sixty years. She has served the community in many ministries, including tutoring children recently.

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This weekly reflection is made available to all who are part of our Precious Blood family. Feel free to share it with others. Would you be willing to write a reflection? If so, please contact Vicky Otto at votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org