



A weekly reflection by members of the Precious Blood Community

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Sr. Theresa Walter, C.P.P.S.

**The Intersection of Eucharist, Community Life,
Precious Blood Spirituality and the Reign of God**

I live in a community, Casa Sofia, with several women from different cultures in Guatemala. Over the years we have become a welcoming, healing community. Our common language is Spanish, although occasionally we can hear other languages spoken during phone conversations. Once in a while, we have an Agape, a celebration of Christ in our midst. In our evening prayers, we share our reflections, mostly on the daily readings. We pray for the political situations in our countries. We share life and pitch in. In a small way we are living Eucharist, manifesting God's Reign, and deepening in Precious Blood spirituality.

“When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” (Luke 14:12b-14)

When we come together at Eucharist, we celebrate and manifest the One Table of God's Reign. The Eucharist not only reminds us to be welcoming and open to others but makes that happen in our gathering and in our life. We come to Eucharist with our longings and needs, which we align with the longing of God for unity, for love, for peace, and for reconciliation. We dream of God's Reign, longing for the reconciliation of polarizations in our world and in our lives. We commit our own lives to God's Reign, opening our hearts to the miracles of healing and reconciliation that God works among us. Our attitudes, language, and actions become more welcoming and more inclusive as we align ourselves with God's longing imaged by the banquet parable. While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples, said “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, for this, is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father.” (Matthew 26:26-29)

How can we live this in our families and communities?

- We can make every effort to be welcoming in our homes, in our celebrations, in our lives. That also means being a welcoming person, inviting into my space whomever I encounter, like Jesus did.
- We, in the Precious Blood family, see other people as precious. We delight in their company. We lament their suffering, their blood shed. We cherish people.
- We invite everyone and expect an inclusive gathering. We aren't satisfied until we recognize diversity in our midst.
- We resist every temptation to polarize, exclude, isolate

In Casa Sofia we don't come close to the One Table, Jesus' dream of unity, but when we come together, we have a glimpse of God's Reign, we experience Eucharist and we celebrate and cherish each other.

Sister Terry Walter is the founder and co-director of Adefagua, a mental health program in Guatemala, and is co-director of Casa Sofia, a ministry of the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Guatemala.

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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