



A weekly reflection by members of the Precious Blood Community

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***“God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world,
but that the world might be saved through Him.” John 3:17***

What if, one day a year, in every family and every work place or nation there was a day called **“Coming Together.”** The purpose of that gathering would be to unravel the broken relationships that come from hurting one another during the course of that year. Everyone would have an opportunity to share the hurts received and make known the feelings that accompany that hurt.

My guess is that knowing this day would come, almost all of us would resolve our conflicts much earlier, so we could make peace with one another. The thought of everyone knowing the details of the way in which we have inflicted pain on others, would be a deterrent from hesitating to ask the person whom we have hurt for forgiveness. Or, for times in which we are a recipient of injury through the fault of others, to hold on to those hurts, allowing them to build in our memories and making us less free to live the call of our baptism to be followers of Christ.

John Grisham, a masterful writer of mystery in his book **THE BOYS FROM BILOXI** shares the story of Immigrant Families that settled in Mississippi. Without revealing the powerful ending of the book; what I will share is Grisham’s personal concern for justice and how these friends, (Characters in his book) though going in different directions in life share a common belief in the love and mercy of God; and what they are called to as Christians.

The presentation by Fr. Robert Schreiter, CPPS during the Precious Blood Congress at St. Louis University many years ago, shared a message that has remained with me. He said that when a person has been grievously hurt by another, forgiveness must come from **that person to restore peace to their relationship.** St. Josephine Bakhita, Patron Saint of Victims of Human Trafficking helps us to understand the transformation to which we are called. After having been a slave in Sudan, Josephine became a Sudanese-Italian sister in

Italy. A young student once asked her “What would you do if you were to meet your captors” “ Without hesitation she responded: “If I were to meet those who kidnapped me, and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands. For, if those things had not happened, I would not have been a Christian and a religious.”

Josephine and all the saints give heroic witness to their faith in response to living the call to love one another as God loves us. What gives me courage is knowing that with the grace of God, it is possible to make this leap of faith each day, to live a heroic faith or holiness of life to which all of us have been called.

Sr Margaret Washington, ASC, has been a vowed member of the community for seventy years. She has served in many ministries, including education, pastoral ministry, and hospital chaplaincy.

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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