



A weekly reflection by members  
of the Precious Blood Community

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*“Woe to Assyria! My rod in anger, my staff in wrath. Against an impious nation I send him and against a people under my wrath, I order him to seize plunder, carry off loot, and tread them down like the mud of the streets.” (Isiah 10:5-6)*

*“I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike.” (Mt 11:25)*

Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! I don't like to reflect on a God who spouts “Woe on Assyria! My rod in anger, my staff in wrath. Against an impious nation, I send him. (Isaiah 10:5-6) For over 300 years Assyria, that great military machine, dominated the Middle East and even served as God's agent to help restore Israel to right living. However, things went awry when Assyria exceeded its commission and arrogantly boasted, “By my own power I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I am shrewd.” (10:13) Perhaps for me the challenge is not so much that God cries “Woe on Assyria!”, but that I find myself sometimes feeling that God is crying “Woe on America!”, that great country that has served nearly 300 years as a world power to bring people together, to take care of the lost, to restore broken relationships. Our national identity seems to be in crisis. Perhaps God is calling us as a nation to reform ourselves.

“The greatness of America lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults.” (Alexis De Tocqueville) This summer the world watches as we prepare for a presidential election that highlights the great polarization that grips our country. This week the Republicans are gathered in Milwaukee for their convention. In August the Democrats will gather in Chicago. What will we hear between now and Election Day on November 5? Will we hear political rhetoric or a call for commitment to each other to work together to fix problems? Will we seek solutions and progress or praise and self-aggrandizement? Will we summon up the best in ourselves to help improve this nation and the world community?

In contrast to Isaiah's “Woe on (proud) Assyria!”, today in Matthew's gospel we hear Jesus pray in gratitude that God has “hidden these things from the wise and the learned...and revealed them to the childlike.” (Matt. 11:25) How does that square with the hatred and selfishness that polarize and divide us as Americans? None of us is perfect, and we all have our lesser moments, but I believe that we, as Precious Blood people, have much to bring to this conversation. Today the Eucharistic Congress opens in Indianapolis, IN. Fr. Zak

Boazman, coordinator of the Eucharistic Revival for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City said, “We want to be set on fire with zeal and love for the Eucharist so that we can bring the message of God’s love back to our parishes, communities, and peripheries of our environments.”

Whoa! Today let’s step back and marvel at the gift we can bring to heal and restore our great nation as we carry the fruit of the Eucharist into the midst of the turmoil that surrounds us. We don’t need to be wise and learned, but we do need to be committed to simply living the message of God’s love.

*Sr. Barbara has been a member of the Adorers for 58 years and served the community in many capacities. Her current ministry is with collaborative governance with the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O’Fallon and the Franciscan sisters of Mary. Sr. Barbara also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Precious Blood Spirituality Institute. To learn more about the Adorers of the Blood of Christ visit: [adorers.org](http://adorers.org).*

*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](mailto:votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org)*