



A weekly reflection by members of the Precious Blood Community

November 15, 2023

**Fr. Ron Will, C.P.P.S.**

**“As Jesus continued his journey to Jerusalem” (Luke 17:11)**

The first thing that strikes me in this Gospel is that Jesus traveled through Samaria and Galilee. Jews and Samaritans were hostile toward each other. That culture barrier did not stop Jesus. He wasn't afraid to cross a polarized boundary. Then he reached out and healed lepers, another ostracized group in the Jewish mind. And after being healed, the Samaritan leper came back and gave Jesus, a Jew, credit for the good deed that he had done for him.

As Precious Blood people, we are sent to be ambassadors of reconciliation. That includes crossing into uncomfortable territory. There are a lot of polarized areas that we prefer to avoid these days. Some of us may even dread going to extended family Thanksgiving dinners this year, because there will be people at the table with very different church theologies and very different political beliefs.

Will you follow our current culture and demonize a person who has a different viewpoint than you do? Or will you follow Jesus and tread with love into uncomfortable territory? It is part of the cost of discipleship to cross over. Research indicates how actions of crossing over are vital to overcoming some of the negative effects of polarization. You will have to accept the reality that crossing over is going to mean choosing to be uncomfortable, and regularly opting to feel out of place. However, for most people, the challenges pale in comparison to what can be encountered when one actually crosses over into the other group and meets the “out-group.” When one chooses to encounter the other, the likelihood of seeing the person who embraces the idea, and not just the idea with which one disagrees, becomes more likely.

For a Precious Blood Missionary, crossing over is not really an option. It is essential to the life of a missionary disciple. We are called to “put on the mind of Christ.”

**Throughout his career, Fr. Ron Will, C.P.P.S. has dedicated his ministry to helping form intentional disciples of Jesus. He is a member of the leadership council for the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and currently serves as the Spiritual Director for the [Precious Blood Renewal Center](#).**

*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)*