



A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood Community

January 7, 2026

Vicky Otto, D.Min.

“To hope is to see this world become
the world of God.” Pope Francis



I love musicals, and as I reflected on my experiences of the Jubilee Year—especially facilitating the Precious Blood Pilgrimage to Rome in 2025—a line from the musical *Wicked* kept returning to me: “You’ve got me seeing through different eyes.” That lyric summed up how my experiences of the year changed my perspective. I began the Jubilee Year feeling somewhat jaded and not particularly hopeful. But as we come to the end of the Jubilee and close the Holy Doors this week, I find that I have fully embraced our responsibility to be a Pilgrims of Hope.

When the Jubilee began in December 2024 and unfolded throughout 2025, hope felt hard to hold on to. Wars raged across the world, violence persisted in our streets, the climate crisis deepened with its mounting and unequal impacts, and far too many people continued to live without stable housing or enough food. In the United States, polarization drove deep divides in our communities and even our Churches. Everywhere we turned, there were conflicts and challenges. It was and continued to feel overwhelming. Rather than reaching out in a spirit of hope, it felt easier to stay isolated and in our controlled circles with people who echoed our feelings.

As I began work on the pilgrimage, it felt overwhelming to think of all the tasks of getting people from our different communities from all around the world to Rome on July 1. There were multiple meetings to discuss every detail, from how we would communicate activities to everyone in different languages to what prayer experiences would be like and how to ensure the safety of all participants. The list went on and on. The committee, made up of members of our Precious Blood communities from all around the world, never got overwhelmed or discouraged. I looked forward to our meetings because a strong camaraderie formed among the commission members. Different languages, time zones, and video conferencing did not dampen the spirit of everyone gathered. When we finally gathered in person on June 30th at Saint John Lateran, it felt like a wonderful family reunion.

As I moved through the Jubilee days in Rome, it was impossible not to be touched by the spirit and enthusiasm of the participants—even amid the oppressive Roman heat! The radical hospitality for which Precious Blood communities are known was palpable, expressed through the rich diversity of cultures and languages gathered. At the heart of it all was the gift of our spirituality: we celebrated our communion and rejoiced in our shared compassion and hope. In those sacred moments, including being very hot, the Jubilee felt like a living witness to the reconciling love that flows from the Precious Blood.

In a time when reflecting on the state of our world, our country, and even the institutional Church can weigh heavily on the heart, I found myself renewed by the hope that emerged during the days of the Jubilee. Seeing through different eyes, I encountered communities alive with the Spirit of the Precious Blood—people, rooted in compassion, listening deeply to one another, and willing to cross boundaries to draw others together in moments of uncertainty. In these encounters, I sensed the hope Pope Francis spoke of when he proclaimed the Jubilee Year: *“To hope is to see this world become the world of God.”* As the Holy Doors close and will not open again until 2033, my prayer is that the grace of those hot days in July will remain alive within us because we saw for a moment the world of God. May we, as members of the Precious Blood family, continue to be living witnesses of reconciliation, tenderness, and hope, offering our wounded world the love it so deeply longs for.

Vicky Otto is a Companion of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and currently serves as the Executive Director of the Precious Blood Spirituality Institute. To learn more about the Institute, [click here](#).

This weekly reflection is made available to everyone in our Precious Blood family. Feel free to share it with others. If you would like to write one of these reflections occasionally, or to learn more about Precious Blood Spirituality, visit our website: pbspiritualityinstitute.org.