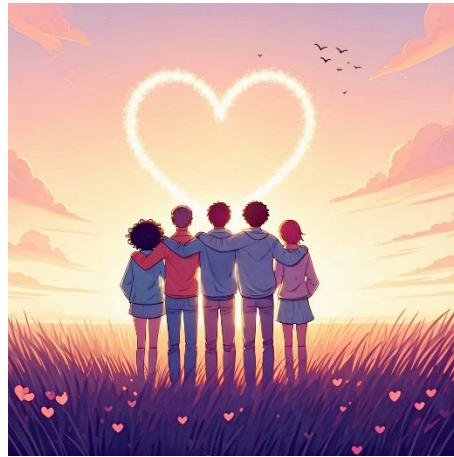


A weekly reflection by members  
of the Precious Blood Community

**April 15, 2026**

**Davon Clark**

“A Gospel Still Unfolding.”



Quiet as it's kept, Chicago is the epicenter of restorative justice in the United States.

Two years before he was assassinated, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. brought the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to live and organize in the disinvested North Lawndale neighborhood, spending a year to build what would become the Fair Housing Act of 1968, an amendment to our Civil Rights.

Before going to law school, Barack Obama was a director of the Catholic-based Developing Communities Project, where he worked with public housing residents in Altgeld Gardens to fight debilitating industrial pollution surrounding their remote neighborhood inside of a web of highways, birthing what we now know as environmental justice.

Kay Pranis, the country's first Restorative Justice Planner of a Department of Corrections, helped form the ideology and practices of Chicago's Restorative Justice

Hubs, of which PBMR is a part of, and how beautifully so: the unbounding devotion to reconciliation and grace of this Mission matches a key factor of restorative justice.

To hundreds of families in our census block, that has meant warm meals, visitations, rides to appointments, and a 68% decrease in violent crime reports since PBMR's founding in 2002. To the City of Chicago, that has meant professionals that serve as elected officials and directors of executive offices that bring human-first experience to the law and policies shaping our criminal legal system – often for the first time in an institution's history. To me, it is a lesson: to show the world how much power comes from the love that guides us, we must allow ourselves to become victims of love.

Truly, every testimonial and success story that has reflected the work that is done here at the Precious Blood Center sounds just as biblical as the next. I do not think a single word I will write while working here will do justice to what one can learn. I sometimes wonder about those that witnessed the Gospel unfold, and what it means to know what you are witnessing. Luckily, our staff is human; while we do not perform miracles, a miracle is a goal in all that we do. That is by example. Precious Blood Spirituality has much kinship with Restorative Justice, and crucial to both is a deep love towards community. I'd like to think that PBMR would be there for a young community organizer living in exile under an authoritarian regime, persecuted for traveling between war-torn villages throughout the Roman countryside to tend to the sick, poor, and forgotten. Maybe he'd do his community service hours on our Urban Farm, or come with us to hold peace circles in the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, or just talk with neighbors over a cup of coffee in our Center's hallways.

I envy the Precious Blood Spirituality's striving towards the most original love that history could know: a love so strong that you would die for it.

Davon Clark is part of the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation family. To learn more about the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, [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](http://pbspiritualityinstitute.org).