



A weekly reflection by members  
of the Precious Blood Community

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“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock.”  
(Acts 20:28)



I once believed that the first step in helping someone dream beyond their current reality was to remove immediate burdens—overdue bills, housing insecurity, joblessness. I’ve come to understand that true transformation begins by creating emotional safety through relationships is equally important. Restorative justice invites us to see the whole person, not just their crisis. Anger or resistance often hides deeper wounds—grief, fear, or trauma. Healing begins not with solutions, but with presence.

When I joined the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation family, I assumed my warmth would naturally help me connect. One mom showed me differently; she kept her distance. She continuously refused my offer of coffee and conversation. One day, a bottle of alcohol slipped from her coat. I caught it and handed it back without comment or judgment. On her next visit, she accepted the coffee. Eventually, she shared her struggle with addiction. This encounter taught me: it’s not about *me*. It’s about being present: creating space where someone feels safe enough to be vulnerable. Love grounded in mutual dignity does not push—it listens, waits, and remains. This relational equity allows us to gently foster accountability, not as punishment, but as restoration.

Paul's farewell in Acts 20:28-38 reminds us that spiritual leadership is rooted in humility and care. "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock," he urges—not to control, but to shepherd with love. His tears and prayers show the depth of relational ministry. "It's not about you" becomes a spiritual truth—justice is not ours to own, but God's to reveal. Restorative practices call us to dismantle judgment, fear, and separation, and walk with others in truth and grace. As Paul entrusted his work to God's grace, so must we. In doing so, we become vessels of healing, reconciliation, and beloved community.

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This weekly reflection is made available to everyone in our Precious Blood family.  
Feel free to share it with others. Would you like to write a reflection?  
If so, please contact Vicky Otto at [votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org](mailto:votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org)