



## **A weekly reflection by members of the Precious Blood Community**

August 2, 2023

Rosemary Niedens

*Jesus said to his disciples: "Again, the Kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it." (Mt 13:45)*

Throughout much of recorded history, a natural pearl necklace was a treasure of almost incomparable value--in fact, the most expensive jewelry in the world. A pearl of great price represents something very precious. During the time that Jesus told this parable, it is said that a Roman general financed a whole war with just one pearl! Knowing that bit of history makes this parable one of the most exhilarating stories of the New Testament.

Why? What was Jesus saying? Who is the merchant? Why does the merchant sell everything to buy the field?

Think about this story with God being the merchant. He was willing to give everything, even his son, because WE were worth the price! We are the pearl of great price! WOW! This reminds me of the hats that many of us wore to St. Maria's canonization. They were proudly emblazoned with the statement: "You are worth the blood of Christ!" God is telling us just that in this parable. God loves us so much that "he sold everything and purchased the pearl of great price."

But there is more: this was done with great joy! Have you ever had the pleasure of giving just the perfect gift to someone you loved? That joy we experience is akin to the joy experienced in this parable. We are the highly desired gift--the Pearl of Great Price. How precious we must be to our loving God!

Joy seems very important in what God says to us. Think about the father of the Prodigal Son, the Shepherd who found his sheep, the Samaritan woman as she was not shunned among many others—joy is a recurring theme! Such joy is so contagious. Isaiah 35:10 tells us that "...everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them..." We are the cherished people of our God, overtaken with the joy of knowing we are loved! Here is more proof that our loving God loves us so much that we are worth the blood of Christ. Joy abounds!

**Rosemary Niedens in an ASC Associate**

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)