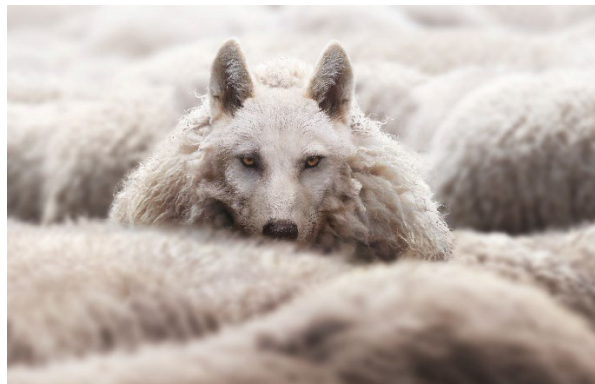


A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood Community

June 25, 2025

Fr. Dave Kelly, C.P.P.S.

“Beware of false prophets.” (Matthew 7:15)



We hear in our gospel the warning about false prophets. The thing about false prophets is that they are purveyors of false narratives.

In October of 2023, the city of Chicago was shaken by the death of a six-year-old boy who was brutally killed in his mother’s apartment. He was a typical little boy who loved basketball, soccer, and going to the park with his mom. They lived in a small apartment on the ground floor of a house in a township just outside of Chicago. They had lived there for two years. The little boy and his mother were Muslim, and that simple fact had tragic consequences. It was learned from court documents that the conflict in the Middle East that inundated the news and enflamed emotions across the country, that the landlord allegedly knocked on the door that connected the living spaces and shouted that “Muslims must die” and proceeded to attack the family killing the child and severely wounding his mother.

I can’t imagine the depth of anger, isolation, and fear that would motivate anyone to take the life of a six-year-old child. And especially when that six-year-old was your neighbor.

In our world today, as those who embrace a spirituality of inclusion and the human dignity of all, the gospel today should not be overlooked – *beware false prophets that reside inside all of us, voices that speak false narratives*. The narratives that we create matter. Narratives often become actions.

I recently attended a trial of a young man I have known for over three years. He was arrested and charged as an adult at the age of 16. He was in the Juvenile Detention Center for over a year and is now in the Cook County Jail. I attended the 4-day trial. I sat near the family whose lives were changed forever. The crime was horrific. You could see the pain on the faces of the family as they heard the account of what had happened that day. The young man on trial looked on as they spoke of him as a person without redemption. But there is more to this young man than this horrific crime. He is also a kind, respectful, and caring person. We need to hold those two truths.

Fr. Greg Boyle, a Jesuit priest and founder of Homeboy Industries, says, “Surely we can hold something as horrible and not make monsters out of anyone.”

Precious Blood Spirituality calls us to hold both narratives and not give in to the temptation to demonize one side or another. The gospel today cautions us to not fall into the temptation to create or promote narratives (false narratives) that dehumanize another.

Fr. Dave Kelly, C.P.P.S., is a member of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and is one of the founders of the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation. To learn more about the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, [click here](#). To learn more about the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, [click here](#).

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