



A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood Community

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“Lovely lady dressed in blue teach me how to pray. God was just your little boy when you showed him the way.”

The readings for today have me reflecting on blessings, why we pray to Mary, and how her humble submission to God’s plan for her was essential for our redemption. The blessing from Numbers – The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace! - is a common blessing repeated even today as we wish for good grace on family and friends and at funerals. I wonder if it was the foundation of a common Irish blessing I learned from my grandmother,

“May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face,

And the rains fall softly upon your fields.

And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of his hand.”

Often my friends who are not Catholic ask why we worship Mary. Of course, I explain we pray for her intercession as the mother of God but do not worship her as a God. This distinction is often misunderstood. Mary was necessary for Christ to become human, die on the cross and save all of us willing to follow him. Mary was also the one my grandmother taught us to reach out to as we learned how to pray; so, Mary has always been for me a gateway to prayer, to recognizing God’s grace and to showing gratitude. At an early age, my grandmother taught my siblings and I to pray to her in the following way,

“Lovely lady dressed in blue, teach me how to pray,

God was just your little boy when you showed him the way.

Did you lift him up sometimes gently on your knee?

Did you sing to him the way my mother does to me?

Lovely lady dressed in blue teach me how to pray

God was just your little boy when you showed him the way.”

There were more verses, but these imprinted on me for life. So, I shared this prayer with my sons and still today turn to Mary when I need to improve my prayer life and communication with Christ. Eventually this led to a commitment to say the rosary regularly, and frequently thank her, Queen of Peace, for her difficult journey as Mother of God. She gave inspiration to me when I became a mother, and shows mothers how to endure the loss of a child. On this Solemnity of Mary, I remain humbled by her example and grateful for her intercession that has allowed my faith life to flourish. Without her there would not be a birth of Christ to celebrate. Without her we would not all become adopted children of God, blessed with mercy and forgiveness for our sins, redeemed by the precious body and blood of her Son, Jesus Christ. May we all continue to adore Him and be grateful to her.

Kathleen S. Jagger, Ph.D., MPH was appointed the 12th President of Newman University in July 2020. She was drawn to the mission, core values and the established Newman Code. To learn more about Newman University, [click here](#).

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