



A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood community

November 13, 2024

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“To serve others is to walk in the footsteps of Christ.”
St. Francis Xavier Cabrini



Today, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Francis Xavier Cabrini. In March of this year, the film *Cabrini* was released in theaters. This film depicts the life of the first American saint as she begins her work of caring for the poor and the orphaned in Five Points, New York. One of the scenes that jumped out at me was after Cabrini established her house for orphans in the slums of Five Points; Mother Cabrini and her sisters had gone to the market to get food for the evening meal. On their way back to the house, a group of young boys stop them and demand that they hand over their food. The sisters agree to hand over their food, but before doing so, they invite the young boys to join their evening meal, where they would be served a very large and delicious Italian meal. At that, the boys relent and let the sisters go, but not without having received a couple of loaves of bread from the sisters.

During the life of Mother Cabrini, Five Points, New York was a place people avoided. It was overcrowded, dirty, disease-ridden, and crime was commonplace. It was a place that people would rather forget ever existed. In our gospel, Jesus encounters ten lepers. These would be people that others would often avoid for fear of becoming infected by this deadly and

isolating disease. But not Jesus. Jesus does not ignore them, nor does He flee from them. He tells them to go present themselves to the priest. While on their way they are healed.

It is an easy temptation to turn away from the ugliness and woundedness of our world. But as a people redeemed by the Blood of Jesus, we are called to not overlook the wounds. We are called to reach out and to touch them. In doing so, we allow the grace of God to work in us and through us. We become the hands and feet of Christ carrying on the healing ministry of Jesus where all are seen, all are heard, and all are healed.

May our prayer today be that we may continue to share the healing merits of the Blood of Christ like St. Gaspar and Mother Cabrini and all those who have gone before us in faith.

Fr. Greg Evers, C.P.P.S., is a Precious Blood Missionary and serves as Parochial Vicar at St. James the Less Church in Columbus, Ohio. To learn more about the Missionaries, [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