

A weekly reflection by members  
of the Precious Blood Community

**September 11, 2024**

Sr. Regina Siegfried, ASC

“Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day. Behold your reward will be great in heaven, For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. But woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in the same way.”

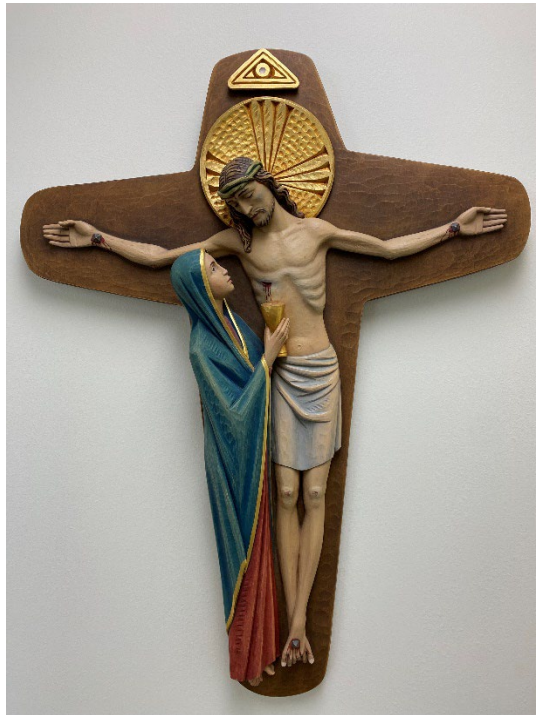
Jesus walked out of Matthew and Mark’s recounting of the Sermon on the Mount with its ringing words of the Beatitudes until he reached the plain where Luke picked up the narrative that we now know as “the sermon on the plain.” Luke’s rendition of the Beatitudes graces us with blessings and warns us with woes.

The poor, the hungry, the weeping, and the hated are the socially abandoned, and they are the blessed of Jesus’ message. Imagine this rag-tag group trudging after Jesus from the Mount of the Beatitudes to hear the Sermon on the Plain. Some may have left the journey before reaching the plain; others may have joined the followers of Jesus on the trek to the plain.

Precious Blood family members would be right there in the midst of the poor, the hungry, the weeping, and the hated; we’d try to alleviate their sorrow and tend to their physical, social, and emotional needs. That’s who we are. That’s what we do. This is what prophets proclaim.

Luke’s recounting of the Sermon on the Plain balances the blessings with warnings to the rich, the well-fed, and the laughers who already have more than they need. False prophets can expect warnings and woes because they have ignored those who weep with and for the poor of our society. Precious Blood people can reflect on ways to challenge the rich, well-fed, and content so that all are blessed and cared for, and protected. The challenge is in the words of today’s Gospel passage; how we respond is in our hearts.

The Adorers of the Blood of Christ celebrate September 15, the traditional feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, as “The Woman of the New Covenant.” Although the liturgy for September 15 will be subsumed by the celebration for the twenty-fourth week in Ordinary Time, we ask you to remember the ASCs and pray with us. The new covenant urges us to live it as Mary did, faithful to God’s plan and in solidarity with all our brothers and sisters who seek the life promised in the Beatitudes.



*Sr. Regina Siegfried, ASC, has been an Adorer of the Blood of Christ for over forty years. She spent her career serving as a teacher and sharing her faith with others. After receiving her doctorate, she served as a professor of theology at Saint Louis University. She has also written extensively about the history of the Adorers congregation. To learn more about the Adorers, [click here](#).*

Twenty-three years ago today, our world changed. Let us remember all those who perished that day in prayer:

God of love we place in your loving arms the thousands of innocent lives  
that were lost on that unforgettable morning of September 11, 2001.

We also remember the courage of the countless men and women  
who put their lives at risk in order to rescue, alleviate and bring solace to the afflicted.

Help us to continue to work for a world free from every form of hatred, violence and ignorance.

May terrorism -- in all its forms -- disappear from the face of the earth. Amen

- Fr. Alberto Cutie

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)