



A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood community

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Fr. Patrick Gonyeau

“Let us not cease studying the
great book of the Crucifix.”

St. Gaspar del Bufalo



St. Gaspar once wrote, “Let us not cease studying the great book of the Crucifix.” In one of the most powerful and precious encounters I’ve ever had with God, I found myself gazing upon Jesus on the cross. I was on a retreat at the time that had a meditation period where we were invited to allow the Holy Spirit to touch our imagination and bring us to the foot of Calvary. As I stood and gazed up, I felt so small, like a young child still learning to speak who can’t quite communicate as clearly as they would like to. I could feel a sense of the sin of my life as well and that it was undeniably true that I deeply needed the saving love of Jesus.

In the meditation, Jesus lifted his head and looked at me. As we looked at each other, He said softly but clearly, “*It was worth it.*” When He said that, the words seemed to go right into the depths of my being and filled me with love, and I understood beyond the shadow of a doubt Jesus died for me. When I recall those words, they still have the same effect upon me, and what helps me most to remember those words is looking at the Crucifix. It seems that the more I can remember what Jesus has done for me, the more I am inspired to share with others His incredible love, because He did it for them too.

In a grocery store a couple of years ago back in Detroit, I was wearing a crucifix, and a woman asked me, “Why do Catholics keep Christ on the cross?” She was kind and sincere, and by God’s grace, I told her this: While Jesus is risen and isn’t on the cross anymore, this represents the very moment He died for me, and I don’t ever want to forget it, that’s why Catholics love the Crucifix. As I finished the brief explanation, I quickly slipped the Crucifix off and asked her, would you like it? “Yes,” she said with a smile, followed by, “Thank you, I’ll put that on right now,” and she did!

Through the intercession of St. Gaspar, I pray that every set of eyes that has read this little reflection will soon gaze lovingly upon a Crucifix and be renewed in the overwhelming love of Jesus. Renewed in the sweetness of heaven's love, I pray that we joyfully and enthusiastically embrace **anew**, living out in words and deeds this incredible love story that God still wants to tell the world. *Glory to the Blood of Jesus!*

Fr. Patrick is completing formation to join the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. He currently serves at The Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue, Ohio, founded by the Missionaries in 1850. To learn more about the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, [click here](#). To learn more about the Sorrowful Mother Shrine [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