



A weekly reflection by members of the Precious Blood Community

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Sr. Paul Gero, C.P.P.S.

A Eucharist Story

Okay, you are going to have to remember *The Lord of the Rings* to understand this story. Or--why not read it again?

I recently heard someone state, in a homily, that Frodo Baggins is a type, or image, of Christ. And I thought, **No, he isn't!**

He can't be; ultimately, he fails! His mission is accomplished, not by him, but by the magical providence of that strangely Godless place—Middle Earth—in which the story unfolds.

Frodo is, however, the type or image of a **Christian**.

You may remember: Frodo has inherited a magic ring. He knows that he can use it to disappear. He comes to understand that possessing the ring is an addiction; the ring begins to possess the owner. And he learns that if the ring is to be kept from the Enemy, it must be destroyed in the evil place where it was made, deep in enemy territory. Reluctantly, he accepts the quest. He is to be the one to destroy the ring.

The road is long and hard. (It takes most of three books!) He encounters exhaustion, cold, hunger, reversals, confusion, betrayal. He is sometimes misled sometimes lost. He is wounded. He is relentlessly pursued. Worst of all, he is more and more possessed by the power of the ring he carries. On the other hand, he has a faithful friend (Sam Gamgee is my very favorite fictional character), some moments of respite, unexpected help (a protective white shirt, magic waybread), and the knowledge of what depends on his faithfulness.

He fails. He is unable to destroy the ring. And yet, the ring, brought to the right place and just in time, is destroyed.

Now, go back and read that again. How much of Frodo's story is every Christian's story? How much of it is yours? Has there been hard work? Confusion? Betrayal? Temptation? Apparent failure? And have you had faithful friends, the white garment of Baptism, mystical Bread for the journey? Do you know what depends on your faithfulness?

Have you a glorious hope about how the story will end?

Sr. Paula Gero, C.P.P.S, has been a vowed member of the community for over sixty years. She has served the community in many ministries, including tutoring children recently.

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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