



Seven Characteristics of a Precious Blood Parish

There are seven characteristics that define life in a Precious Blood parish, according to Fr. Jeffrey Keyes, C.P.P.S., pastor of St. Edward Church in Newark, Calif. These characteristics are faithful to the spirit of St. Gaspar, the founder of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

- **A Precious Blood parish is collaborative.** The leadership takes a team approach among the laity, priests, sisters, brothers and deacons. St. Gaspar never thought of himself as working alone.
- **A Precious Blood parish is all-embracing.** This principle stretches everyone involved in parish life. “Our spirituality is supposed to stretch us,” he said.
- **A Precious Blood parish is generous.** “Since God has been unreasonably generous with us, it is imperative that we witness some of that generosity for the world,” Fr. Keyes said.
- **A Precious Blood parish encourages prayer.** Prayer places us in solidarity with a broken world.
- **A Precious Blood parish is contemplative.** “We live in a world that is filled with individualism,” Fr. Keyes said. “We can simply learn to hold the world in God’s embrace of the powerlessness of the cross.”
- **A Precious Blood parish has a missionary spirit.** When we become parochial, we lose our identity as missionary.
- **A Precious Blood parish is explicit in its identity.** A parish should work for the poor, the hurt, the sick and the dying, all under the banner of the Blood of Christ. “Who will speak if we don’t?” Fr. Keyes said. “This isn’t just my voice. This is the voice of Jesus calling out for all people.”

