

Prayers for Racial Justice during the Octave of the Precious Blood

Introduction:

On the Feast of the Precious Blood, July 1, Members and Companions of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood celebrate the redemptive value of the Precious Blood of Jesus. This year let's extend our prayer to an Octave of Prayer. There are reflections for each day with action steps each day. Let your voice be heard. It is your challenge to hear the Cry of the Blood.

These prayers are taken from our traditional Precious Blood Prayer Resources and now prayed in the context of our contemporary situation. The daily prayers can be prayed any time of the day, but we suggest 3:00 p.m., the hour that Jesus poured out the last drop of his Precious Blood for the redemption of all people.

Day One, July 1

The blood of Christ refreshes our souls,
gives us new courage, liberates our lives.
The blood of the poor soaks into the land,
cries out for justice, yearning for peace.

We are redeemed in the blood of Christ.
We are washed in love.
Sent by the blood, stained by the blood;
we are servants of the blood of Christ.



THE CUP OF SALVATION

"What gift can ever repay God's gift to me? I raise the cup of salvation as I call on God's name!" Psalm 116:13

Out of darkness into light, from slavery to freedom, we share with you, our God, at the altar, a cup of liberation when you bring us into community life and call us to the apostolate.

"I am competent of doing nothing more than to pray, to be silent and to suffer. Let us always keep in contact with each other through the wounds of Jesus Christ." St. Gaspar

Today's Action: Read today the Kansas City Province's Corporate Stances Against the Death Penalty, Against Gun Violence, and for Comprehensive Reform of the Immigration System.

- The Death Penalty: <https://preciousbloodkc.org/corporate-stance-against-the-death-penalty/>
- Immigration Reform: <https://preciousbloodkc.org/corporate-stance-for-comprehensive-reform-of-the-immigration-system-2/>
- Gun Violence: <https://preciousbloodkc.org/corporate-stance-against-gun-violence/>

Day Two, July 2

The bones of the weary ache for an answer,
searching for vision, shout out with new
strength.

We are redeemed in the blood of Christ.
We are washed in love.
Sent by the blood, stained by the blood;
we are servants of the blood of Christ.



THE CUP THAT MAKES US REEL

*“Awake, awake! Arise, O Jerusalem, you who
drank at the Lord’s hand the cup of God’s wrath; who drained to the dregs the bowl of staggering.”*
Isaiah 51:17

With the poor and marginalized, with victims of war and violence, with immigrants and those on death row, we commit ourselves to sharing their cup. We trust that you have not rejected any of us, and it is you who work with us.

“May the divine blood be for us the fountain of ample blessings and you, through this devotion, have reason to be consoled.” St. Gaspar

Today’s Action: Read Fr. Ron Will’s reflection on George Floyd’s murder. (See: [The times call us to ‘Step out, stand up, and speak clearly’](#)) We are called to be more than agents of change. We are called to be agents of transformation. Transformation is like metamorphosis, like a caterpillar to a butterfly. It requires shaking off what was in order to become the new. A New Creation.

Day Three, July 3

The blood of the wounded looking for healing,
teaching compassion, we touch with our hands.

We are redeemed in the blood of Christ.
We are washed in love.
Sent by the blood, stained by the blood;
we are servants of the blood of Christ.



THE CUP OF DISCIPLESHIP

“Jesus said to them, ‘You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?’ They said to him, ‘We can’” Mark 10:38

In our youthful eagerness and enthusiasm, we have made many commitments often without knowing the consequence. Stir up within us the waters of our baptism and give us a share in the charism of Gaspar so that we might be in our time your faithful disciples.

“Let us remain in the wounds of Jesus Christ, our only mansion, and let us not lose courage.” St. Gaspar

Today’s Action: Every human being is created in the image and likeness of God. Reflect on what implications does that have for you personally about how you treat the immigrant, the marginalized, people of color.

Day Four, July 4

Blood of new covenant welcomes the stranger,
seeking communion, we are companions.

We are redeemed in the blood of Christ.

We are washed in love.

Sent by the blood, stained by the blood;
we are servants of the blood of Christ.



THE CUP OF THE COVENANT

"Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for the forgiveness of sins.'" Matthew 26:27

We share this cup when we gather at your eucharistic table. May this blood create among us a new covenant and bind us in charity and enable us to practice reconciliation.

"Do everything, indeed, with a peaceful spirit, not becoming excited or agitated. God is a God of peace."
St. Gaspar

Today's Action: Do you know the names, phone numbers, and email addresses of your state's Senators and Representatives in Washington, D.C. and your own state's Representatives? If not, [look them up on the internet today.](#)

Day Five, July 5

The cup of salvation poured out in service,
stream of redemption, we thirst to be free

We are redeemed in the blood of Christ.

We are washed in love.

Sent by the blood, stained by the blood;
we are servants of the blood of Christ.



THE CUP OF BLESSING

"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?" 1 Corinthians 10:16

You have blessed our society with every good thing we need to do your will. We ask you to continue to bless us as we learn to share this cup with an ever wider circle of people until all the walls have come down, those far are brought near, and your good news reaches the ends of the earth.

Let us praise God who makes use of the weakest instruments for the great work of God's glory."
St. Gaspar

Today's Action: Send a message today to your Senators and Representatives raising your voice for those who have not had a voice, those who have been ignored for so long. Help your Representatives hear the Cry of the Blood. [Find contact information here.](#)

Day Six, July 6

The blood of the cross bringing us closer,
bonds us in charity, we long to be one.

We are redeemed in the blood of Christ.

We are washed in love.

Sent by the blood, stained by the blood;
we are servants of the blood of Christ.



THE CUP OF CREATION

"You make plants grow for people, food to eat from the earth and wine to warm the heart, oil to glisten on faces, and bread for bodily strength." Psalm 104:14-15

Creator God, everything you made is good. As we eat our meals together in the lineage of Gaspar and Maria, warm our hearts and lift our spirits. Let us delight in our bodies as well as our minds and souls, and take joy in this incarnate world. Let us be signs of joy and laughter in a world of despair and confusion.

"The glory of God is the main purpose for this holy union that must be set up in the wounds of Jesus Christ." St. Gaspar

Today's Action: St. Paul wrote: "We though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf." George Floyd's murder has caused our country (even the world) to take an honest look at that truth and to confess how each of us are part of the problem, and to ask how can we now be part of the solution. Name areas/systems in your own town where people of color have been under the knee of our systems. What is one thing you can do today to bring that awareness to another person in your circle of influence?

Day Seven, July 7

The breath of the dying conspiring for life,
remembering mercy, we comfort with hope.

We are redeemed in the blood of Christ.

We are washed in love.

Sent by the blood, stained by the blood;
we are servants of the blood of Christ.



THE CUP OF INHERITANCE

"O Lord, my allotted portion and my cup, you it is who hold fast my lot." Psalm 16:5

We have inherited the charism and spirituality of Gaspar and Maria. Together we share the cup of life. Keep us firm in this commitment, build us up, and give us a thousand tongues to proclaim the glory of the precious blood.

"Let us give thanks to God for the good achieved and the fruits of the missions. To God, be honor and glory! It is God who makes us fit for the ministry." St. Gaspar

Today's Action: How can you be one of those thousand voices today proclaiming the dignity of every human being redeemed by the Precious Blood of Jesus? Step out, stand up, and speak clearly today.

Day Eight, July 8

As we hear the cry of the blood
We affirm that Black lives matter.

We are redeemed in the blood of Christ.
We are washed in love.
Sent by the blood, stained by the blood;
we are servants of the blood of Christ.

THE CUP OF THE NEW CREATION

"For I tell you, from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the reign of God." Matthew 26:20

When we drink this cup, let us always remember the peace and justice we yearn for and which we cannot bring about without you, Jesus. Let us commit ourselves to working together for the coming of that time when love will reign and all will be seated at the table of the Lamb.

"In the meantime, be an apostle, and especially encourage the devotion to the divine blood." St. Gaspar

Today's Action: We are a wounded Church. Silence has cost us. The Church's voice has been muted. You are one of the thousand voices called to speak out for justice for all. How will you do that today?

