



Bloodlines

A MONTHLY OF THE CONGREGATION OF MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD ATLANTIC PROVINCE

JULY 2023

UPDATE FROM FATHER RON MAHON, CPPS

I received an email update from Ron Mahon.

Ron is facing trying times.

His sister is now in hospice, and he is spending as much time with her as he can.

He continues to deal with his own medical issues regarding his heart and lungs. His lungs and pancreas are affected by sarcoidosis, where nodules appear.

He had minor strokes, which affect his memory and bring on anxiety. The medications are many, as are the side effects which upset his sleep pattern.

He reassures us that he has very good doctors and has regular follow-ups to monitor cancer risk because of sarcoidosis. Ron appreciates the messages and calls that he has received from the community and asks us to hold him and his family in our prayers.

— LUI SANTI CPPS

MARKING MILESTONES

Fathers Mario, Samuel, William, and Lui celebrate ordination anniversaries: Fathers Mario and Lui, 40 years; Samuel, 25 years; and William, 50 years. We extend sincere *Auguroni!*, *Congratulations!*, and *Hongera sana!*, to you, dear Fathers, as you continue your ministry proclaiming the Blood of Christ.

GRACIOUS AND LOVING GOD,
we thank You for the gift of our priests —
Fathers Mario, Samuel, William and Lui.
Through them, we experience Your presence in the sacraments.
Help our Fathers to be strong in their vocation.
Set their souls on fire with love for Your people.
Grant them the wisdom, understanding,
and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.
Inspire them with the vision of Your Kingdom.
Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.
Allow them to experience joy in His ministry.
Help them to be an instrument of Your divine grace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.



tu es sacerdos in aeternum

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

Summer is upon us and, with two community celebrations — July 1, **Feast of the Most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ**, and August 15, **Foundation Day** — it is a time to laud these days.

Together with Father Gary in Niagara Falls, we are planning a festive day to honor and celebrate the **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** and **Foundation Day**. The day is meant for members to relax and enjoy



community time. A concelebrated Mass is scheduled for 11:30am and a catered lunch will follow. The afternoon is open for socializing and enjoying each other's friendship. ► Kindly confirm your

attendance at our get-together by calling or emailing **Gary Luiz**, by **August 1st**. Please bring your alb; stoles will be provided. ► An RSVP reminder will be sent out in July. We hope to see you there!

We celebrate!

YOUR BIRTHDAY

July 12 Joseph Grasso
July 16 James Reposkey
July 29 Patrick Gilmurray

THE ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR ORDINATION

July 1 Alarey Abella
July 3 Samuel D'Angelo
July 30 Josephat Msuya
July 31 Joseph Grasso



PRECIOUS VOCATIONS

the new Vocations Director (third

As reincarnation!), I will be approaching the ministry, this time around, with the realization that we need to discard old wineskins in favor of new ones. Posters and brochures are a thing of the past and are limited in scope to who can view and receive them. Even vocation websites are on their way out, although I will develop one that is updated with the latest news and information on what is happening. I believe that an online digital presence is the public square of our day and the best way to reach out to 18- to 40-year-olds who may be considering a religious vocation.

Toward this end, I will be developing social media platforms that are representative of our worldwide Congregation, our Province, and our individual members' ministries. I will ask you to assist me in this outreach by promoting the social media platforms as they are developed and to be open about your own vocation and ministry when I am ready to highlight our individual members online. I have been impressed by several congregations that have already plunged head-on into this kind of outreach.

Eventually, I would also like to

offer virtual retreats to interested people and, if you are interested in presenting, I would be most open to your collaboration. Maybe an app with our community prayers and a place to ask for prayers could be developed as well!

It is my prayer that those who choose to engage in our social media outreach will ask honest questions and may draw closer to our CPPS charism, and perhaps, consider embracing the vocation of a Missionary of the Precious Blood in our world today. And if their discernment leads them closer to their God-given vocation and away from ours, we can consider it time well spent as well!

In addition, I would like to develop a visual brand image for our vocation ministry that we can use in our church and province publications. Every month, I will also send out via email some suggestions for our weekend homilies, on ways we can connect the weekend scriptures to our charism and our vocation. Diocesan vocation events are also welcome! If your diocese is having one, please let me know! When we have someone who is serious about discernment, I will be happy to schedule a one-on-one visit with them and, if they are ready, to bring them around to visit our community mission houses, parishes and members. Our Vocation-Formation Committee will discern best steps to take, once a discernor is ready to take things to the next level.

As a community member, one of the ways you can support the vocations ministry is by identifying men in your ministries that might have a vocation. Another way you can support the vocation ministry is by praying for vocations on a daily basis. The most important way we can all support the vocation ministry

We remember and pray for...

1 OUR DECEASED CPPS MEMBERS, FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND BENEFACTORS.

2 OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE ILL:

▶ **PHILLIP SMITH:** *May you find rest and be restored to health.*

▶ **RON MAHON:** *May you find strength and renewed hope.*

▶ **DOMINIC JUNG:** *May you be patient and courageous in your suffering.*

3 MEMBERS WHO ARE BEGINNING A NEW

ASSIGNMENT: *May our Lord continue to guide you in your pastoral ministry and may St. Gaspar inspire you to be zealous missionaries proclaiming the Blood of Christ:*

▶ **ALAREY ABELLA**

▶ **MARIO CAFARELLI**

▶ **GERARDO LAGUARTILLA**

▶ **MICHAEL MATEYK**

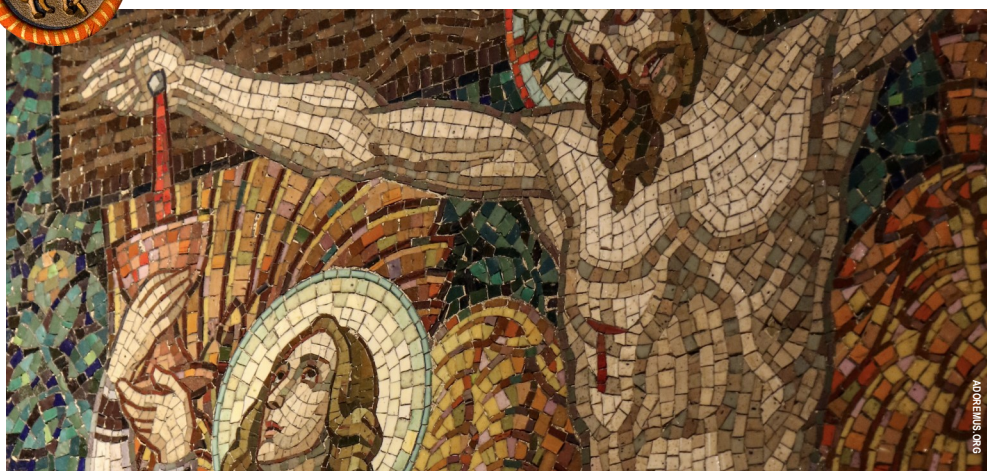
▶ **JOSEPHAT MSUYA**

▶ **JAMES REPOSKEY**

▶ **PHILLIP SMITH**

is by being joyful, faithful, and passionate about the vocation which we have already embraced and to which we have pledged our lives. As this is a community appointment, I am open to any additional suggestions or ideas you may have. Just text, call (705.507.4288), or email me at sdangelocpps@gmail.com. May St. Gaspar and Venerable John Merlini intercede for us!

Blessings on your ministry and on all that you do to the Honor and Praise of the Precious Blood!
– **SAMUEL D'ANGELO CPPS**



THE CROSS AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS FOR OUR SALVATION

It is the Church's custom to celebrate the month of July in honor of the Precious Blood of Jesus.

The Litany of the Precious Blood lists many attributes of the graces flowing from Jesus. But to get to understand what we praise, we need to go back to the Cross of Jesus and the whole crucifixion event.

Being inheritors of a piety that has been going on for many years may hinder us from getting to see the weight of sin that Jesus carried on the cross for our redemption.

We have the custom of placing crosses on the walls of our homes, and we wear the cross — for some, in the form of expensive jewelry. These and many others are regarded as religious symbols.

While celebrating the Glory of the Blood of Jesus, we should keep uppermost in our minds what Jesus went through when he was apprehended and taken to the Sanhedrin.

The truth is that Jesus' — like all other deaths by crucifixion in his time — was brutal, humiliating, dehumanizing and painful beyond words.

One condemned to such death was stripped naked, nailed to a

cross and then left for hours, or even days, to suffer the excruciating pain (*ex cruce* = from the cross) to expire. When at last the tortured criminal died, his body was left on the cross for days, allowing for animals to pick over his remains.

Jesus' rapid burial was exceptional. Joseph of Arimathea, a high-ranking Jewish official, who might have had a great admiration for Jesus, offered a favor.

St. Paul reminds the Corinthians, who had perhaps given in to too much emphasis on resurrection and realized eschatology: "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified." (*1 Cor 2:2*)

Paul emphasizes that the crucifixion of Jesus was the price of our salvation, something that could not be addressed in any other way, and only a power outside man, the Son of God, could do.

On that cross, Jesus took upon himself the worst of humanity and swallowed it up in the ever-greater divine mercy.

“ IN JESUS, GOD’S LOVE becomes a living reality — from a simple gift to humanity to an act of atonement in the person of the suffering servant. ”

Christ chose to save us by suffering. It is from his suffering that we receive the grace of his Blood.

The Cross of Jesus glorifies God, as St. Paul says: "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself." Jesus' sacrifice is the highest point of divine revelation to the world. In Jesus, God's love becomes a living reality — from a simple gift to humanity to an act of atonement in the person of the

suffering servant. God confronted evil himself because man was incapable of doing so (Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth* [4]).

A Christian, a devotee to the Blood of Jesus, is challenged to look at Christ's highest sacrifice for humanity with gratitude.

A gratitude in action, which calls us to know how God has put humanity at the highest level so that one does not repeat what the Sanhedrin did to Jesus. The Blood of Jesus calls us to know that life is sacred. That life is seen in every person: each is created in the image and likeness of God, and each has been ransomed by the Blood of Jesus and, because of that, we have been spared from death.

A Christian has the obligation to avoid at all costs the shedding of other people's blood by mistreatment.

What is happening right now in our world calls us to question: where are Christians when all this is taking place? Why do we Christians keep silent in the face of what is happening in countries like Syria, Yemen, Nigeria, Haiti, Ukraine, and many others?

Why don't we hear Christian prophetic voices speaking loudly against what is done by weapons of war? The blood of Abel continues to cry in our

world by what is done by the military-industrial complex, by those in power who wage war, pitting one ethnic group against the other, nation against nation. In all this, so much blood of innocent people is shed and lives are lost.

On a social, personal level, we see people divided by political differences which result in radical positions of one group against the other: the mischaracterizations of people when one part is not happy with the other's position on a subject matter or stand in life. These and many other real situations have never brought a healthy conversation nor a peaceful society.

A Christian is called to be a brother and sister's keeper, to hear the cry of blood of those brothers and sisters whose sufferings need a response from others. To let Christ's voice speak profoundly in one's conscience to stand against all types of evil.

The stream of mercy from Christ's Blood gives us a mission to let that mercy become a real action through us reaching out to others: a call to become peace messengers by challenging humanity to use our God-given talents for the well-being of humanity rather than destruction.

Having known how Jesus endured his suffering for our sake should help us to appreciate the price of our salvation and value what Jesus' death and resurrection has purchased for every human being.

The month of July calls us to put these realities of our time into proper perspective, in the light of the gospel, to take a real Christian stand and guide the



world. Christ has indeed made us, for our God, a kingdom.

– JOSEPHAT MSUYA
CPPS

Cantalamessa, Father Raniero. *Homily for Good Friday*, March 25, 2016.

Ratzinger, Joseph [Benedict XVI]. *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*, 2007.

Rutledge, Fleming. *The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ*, 2017.

CYCLE 'A' SUNDAY PRECIOUS BLOOD SUGGESTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

– SAMUEL D'ANGELO CPPS

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Whoever welcomes you
welcomes me, and whoever
welcomes me welcomes the one
who sent me.*

MT 10:40

This verse invites us to speak about the precious blood spirituality value of hospitality and inclusion. It challenges us all to foster a welcoming atmosphere and welcoming ministers for all who visit us and who come to us for ministry. Do we know the names of those who worship with us? Do they feel comfortable inviting others to worship in our community? What needs are still being unmet?

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Come to me, all you
that are weary and
are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.*

MT 11:28

This verse invites us to welcome all, but most especially those that are heavily burdened by sickness, hardships of any kind, and those who feel like giving up. The Precious Blood of Christ invites us to help carry one another's burdens and to enter into solidarity with those who are feeling that the weight of the world is upon them.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The entire first reading from Isaiah today stresses the efficacy and power of the Word of God to accomplish God's will in those ready to embrace it. PB spirituality challenges us to preach the Word with boldness and integrity and to inspire our parishioners to delve more fully into the Word of God as a daily spiritual practice, in order to discern the will of God for our times.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Various images of the Kingdom of God are included in today's gospel. Like Jesus' blood which was poured out on the cross to forgive our sins, these verses challenge us to be creative and energetic in our work of expanding God's reign to include all segments of society. Who are those who still feel excluded from God's reign? These verses challenge us to build communities who include the stranger, the outcast and the judged. They challenge us to witness to the values of the Kingdom in our everyday lives. What values of the Kingdom do our parishes need to develop more fully?

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*We know that all things work
together for good for those
who love God, who are called
according to his purpose.*

ROM 8:28

Love of God for us is what motivated Jesus' passion and death on the cross. What does our love for God motivate us to do? How are we called by God's love to make a return to the Lord for all that the Lord has done for us? Do we collaborate with others in bringing about 'good' in the world?



PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

TO ACCEPT *CHANGE* IN OUR LIVES IS DIFFICULT.

Change is to be open to make something or a situation different; to alter or to modify. We all become comfortable to remain in our *comfort zone* and it takes a lot of energy and self-understanding to take the next step to accept the change, the new.

I wish to thank our members who accepted and were open to change, those who were asked to accept a new assignment. It was a sacrifice for all of you. To *let go* of your present assignment and move to a new assignment is a fine witness to your missionary spirit. I appreciate and am most grateful for your openness and willingness to see the goodness and to trust the process. Some resistance was met, yet with heartfelt conversations and deep prayer, the Holy Spirit moved your hearts to respond with a "Yes, and I accept."

Sometimes there is a reason even when we do not know what it is ... a bigger picture, even when we cannot see or understand it. We cannot even pretend to completely comprehend it. God asks us to believe the good things — and the benefits are part of that bigger picture of you. The assurance is that we are not alone in this change. God is part of it and He walks with us.

Also, I wish to thank you for electing a fine leadership team. We have been communicating on a regular basis and addressing the

“*BE GRATEFUL FOR
graced moments that our Lord
was present and alive
in your heart and ministry*”
and then, ... be thankful.”

issues and concerns which were expressed during the recent Assembly. Please continue to pray for us that we remain open to the Holy Spirit who guides and inspires us to do good, to be faithful to our charism and our ministry.

I wish you a restful summer. I encourage each of you to take some quiet time to reflect on the blessings that our loving Lord has bestowed on you this past year, areas in your life in which you have grown and changed; be grateful for graced moments that our Lord was present and alive in your heart and ministry and then, ... *be thankful*. And remember, I am always available and can be reached anytime.

Special blessings be upon you!
— LUI SANTI CPPS

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023, 1PM

Present: V. Rev. Luigino Santi, Rev. Samuel D'Angelo, Rev. Jerome Hologa

Regrets: Rev. Patrick Gilmurray

COMMUNITY APPOINTMENTS Secretary

Rev. Patrick Gilmurray

Treasurer

Rev. Peter Nobili to work with our accountant, Peter Plagianakos,

to maintain accurate and clear records of provincial finances

Regional Director of USC

Rev. Gerardo Laguartilla

Vocations Director

Rev. Samuel D'Angelo

Formation Director

Rev. Patrick Gilmurray

Development Office

Rev. Jerome Hologa

Archives

Rev. Gary Luiz

Vocations/Formation

Discussed possible options; follow-up at our next Council meeting

Community Member Updates

Rev. Jeffrey Finley: Revisited his status: Jeffrey has been granted an Indult (effective January 12, 2022 to January 2025)

COMMUNITY MEMBER RESIDENCES AND APPOINTMENTS

For those who have changed from a previous assignment, the appointment is effective July 1, 2023.

ST. ROCH'S CHURCH

Toronto

- ▶ Rev. Michael Mateyk (Pastor)
- ▶ Rev. Jerome Hologa (Associate Pastor)
- ▶ Rev. William Mnyagatwa (In residence)

ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO CHURCH Toronto

- ▶ Rev. Mario Cafarelli (Pastor)
- ▶ Rev. Gerardo Laguartilla (Associate Pastor)
- ▶ Rev. James Reposkey (Retired, in residence)

Mark your Calendar

JUNE 10 TO JUNE 14 2024

**RETREAT Mount Carmel Monastery
Niagara Falls ON**

S **PREAD**, extend broadly and promote evermore the devotion to the *Divine Blood* and you will find peace and tranquility.
— St. GASPAR Letter #2137



ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH Toronto

- ▶ Rev. Alarey Abella (Pastor)
- ▶ Br. Anthony Canterucci
(Retired, in residence)
- ▶ David Gonzalez
(Student, in Initial Formation)

MERLINI STUDY CENTRE Toronto

- ▶ V. Rev. Luigino Santi
(Provincial Director)
- ▶ Rev. Peter Nobili
(Treasurer)
- ▶ Rev. Brendan Doherty
(Retired, in residence)

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH Fort Erie

- ▶ Rev. Patrick Gilmurray
(Pastor)

HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH Sudbury

- ▶ Rev. Samuel D'Angelo (Pastor)
- ▶ Rev. Josephat Msuya
(Itinerant Priest in the Diocese
of Sault Sainte Marie)

GASPAR MISSION HOUSE Niagara Falls

- ▶ Rev. Ron Wiecek
(Spanish ministry)
- ▶ Rev. Gary Luiz
(In residence)
- ▶ Rev. Phillip Smith
(Recuperation, in residence)

MEXICAN DISTRICT MEMBERS

A discussion arose as to various possibilities for ministry and location of the members currently serving in the Mexican district. (To be continued)



2023 PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY CPPS members of the Atlantic Province convened in Niagara Falls, Ontario, for this year's Electoral Assembly, from May 1 to 4. We pray for our elected confreres as they embrace their mandate.

Did you know?

During a brief visit in Niagara Falls with Father Patrick Gilmurray (who is on sabbatical until September), he shared with me some exciting appointments that he accepted with the Diocese of St. Catharines.

He is a member of the Diocesan Synod Committee and was elected to the Council of Priests in November 2022. In addition, the parish is undergoing a renewal process: he feels that the parishioners are benefiting from this journey and that the parish is flourishing since he has been assigned to this community.

Let us continue to hold in our prayers our members who work in parish ministry, that they walk closely with the People of God with openness and patience.

2023 PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR
Father Luigino Santi
CPPS



VICE PROVINCIAL
Father Samuel D'Angelo
CPPS



SECOND COUNCILOR
Father Jerome Hologa
CPPS



THIRD COUNCILOR
Father Patrick Gilmurray
CPPS



Bloodlines

BLOODLINES is a monthly published by the Congregation of Missionaries of the Precious Blood Atlantic Province.

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JOSEPHAT MSUYA CPPS
LUIGINO SANTI CPPS

DESIGN EDITOR GINO MARCUZZI

We welcome your submissions.
Please send your articles/photos/artwork to
Father Luigino Santi by the **25TH OF THE MONTH.**



In gratitude for your five decades of ministry



Adapted by Gino Marcuzzi from 'Member Profile', in 'Bloodlines Summer 2017'

BORN IN Uniontown, Pennsylvania, Father James

'Jim' Reposkey was one of two sons of parents of Hungarian-Italian descent. He attended public elementary and secondary school.

After receiving his First Holy Communion, he became an altar boy and, at the age of eight, decided that he would like to become a priest.

He lived close to the church and would be called very often to serve Mass. As a child, he would 'pretend to celebrate Mass', digging up things to use as vestments — and his dad, who was a bartender, provided him with a cocktail glass that served as a 'chalice'.

As Father Jim grew older, his pastor and the associates saw this *vocation* taking root and gave him the opportunity to get involved in the day-to-day tasks of the parish, helping in the rectory and in the church. His parents and family supported his wish and did not try to discourage him from pursuing his *calling*.

Father Jim made the decision to enter the seminary, under the auspices of the Diocese of Greensburg, and completed a special two-year Latin program at St. Pius X Seminary in Erlanger, Kentucky. He then earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from St. Francis Seminary in Loretto, Pennsylvania. He began his theological studies at the Seminary, but left and taught at St. Mary and St. Joseph Parochial Schools in Uniontown for one and a half years.

He remained close to the parish and his Pastor, Father Nick Thomas, who was very supportive of him and his temporary decision.

As it so happened, a Precious Blood Missionary, Father Robert Hunt, gave a mission at St. Thérèse Parish, and Father Jim had the occasion to sit and talk to him. His spirit was rejuvenated and, with the help of Precious Blood Father Frederick Falce, Father Jim returned to his preparation for the priesthood with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

He studied for the Atlantic Vicariate in Rochester. He was professed in 1972, received his Master of Divinity degree from St. Bernard's Seminary, and was ordained at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, by Bishop William G. Connare, on May 4, 1974.

Father Jim's first assignment came as Associate Pastor at St. Roch's Parish (Weston) in 1974; three years later, he was appointed Pastor and remained in this capacity until 1992.

LET US
DO GREAT WORK
FOR THE
GLORY OF GOD
AND LET US
BECOME
SAINTS



ST GASPARD DEL BUFALO



DEO GRATIAS On June 28, Father Jim Reposkey celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Charles Borromeo Church in gratitude for the gift of his long-standing pastoral service. Also pictured are concelebrants Father Josephat Msuya, Deacon Sergio Spadafora, and Father Luigino Santi.

He then moved to St. Alphonsus Church (Toronto), and ministered there until 2016.

His third assignment was at St. Charles Borromeo Church (Toronto), where he served as Pastor until 2023 — the year of his retirement (and where he is currently in residence).

Father Jim is grateful for his pastorate, thanks to which he was able to forge many friendships and to see the kids and adults grow and make their mark in life. He feels blessed by St. Gaspar for his vocation: for the opportunity to minister to the people of God in three parishes and to have lent his abilities to the Atlantic Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

DEAR FATHER JIM:
In your retirement years,
may God continue to bless you
and strengthen you in your
resolve to carry out your
Priesthood, dedicated to the
Most Precious Blood of Jesus!

Moments from Our May Assembly





Vocation Calendar July 2023



VOCATION PRAYER

O GOD,
You have chosen us
for this day
and this hour:
in good times
and in bad,
in sickness
and in health.

Help us to discover
that we belong to You
and to one another.

May our family
be strengthened
in the life-giving
Blood of Jesus;
that charity and love
may grow,
wounds may be healed,
and respect for life
be achieved.

For Your love
and the protection
of families
and all Brothers,
Sisters, Priests
and Missionaries,
we give You thanks.

Amen.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1
Alarey Abella | 17
William Mnyagatwa |
| 2
Mario Cafarelli | 18
Josephat Msuya |
| 3
Brother Anthony | 19
Peter Nobili |
| 4
René Cerecedo | 20
James Reposkey |
| 5
John Colacino | 21
Lui Santi |
| 6
Samuel D'Angelo | 22
Germán Santiago |
| 7
Brendan Doherty | 23
Phillip Smith |
| 8
Patrick Gilmurray | 24
Ron Wiecek |
| 9
Joseph Grasso | 25
USC members |
| 10
Gregorio Hernandez | 26
Deceased CPPS Members |
| 11
Jerome Hologa | 27
Our benefactors |
| 12
Dominic Jung | 28
Our family and friends |
| 13
Gerardo Laguartilla | 29
The sick |
| 14
Gary Luiz | 30
Pope Francis |
| 15
Ron Mahon | 31
Our Bishops |
| 16
Michael Mateyk | |

Let us remain united in prayer