



Bloodlines

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

DECEMBER 2024

PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

December 3rd: A Day of Gratitude and Renewal

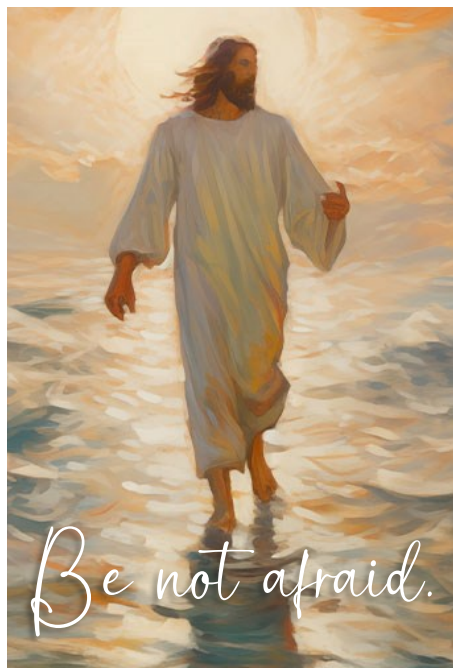
December 3rd is a very special day. Not only is it the feast of St. Francis Xavier, our patron saint, but it also marks the anniversary of the day I was incorporated as a Missionary of the Precious Blood. Many other members in the Province also celebrate their anniversary of Incorporation on this day.

It was on this special occasion that I made a solemn pledge of service to God, to the Church, and to our Congregation. The memory of that day remains vivid, even after 42 years. I can still clearly recall being called forward by name by the Provincial, **Fr. Mario Dariozzi**, CPPS. When our names were called, we responded, "Present." That simple word marked the end of one journey—my years of formation and preparation—and the beginning of another, one in which I publicly declared my intention to dedicate myself fully and completely to the service of God and the Congregation.

By responding "Present," I expressed my willingness and openness to God, humbly acknowledging the gifts and talents He has entrusted to me. Though our missionary vocation originates in the sacrament of Baptism, this moment allowed me to personally voice my commitment.

Each year, I set aside December 3rd as a quiet day of reflection—almost like a mini-retreat—to thank God for the privilege of serving Him and the Congregation. While I cannot deny that some years have brought their share of challenges, the joys and blessings far outweigh the struggles. God's voice continues to echo in my heart, saying, "Be not afraid, I am with you." This reminder fuels my conviction and renews my joy in service.

I was welcomed into the Community to serve it wholeheartedly. Taking the initiative to join, my desire to share in



the Community's vision, charism, mission, membership, and spirituality has not waned over the years. A willingness to serve the Community, rather than be served, remains a top priority. As St. Gaspar asked his confreres, "Why did you come? Why are you here?" Answering these questions requires continuous discernment, shared reflection, and prayer.

Spending quality time alone with God—in silence, stillness, and thanksgiving—strengthens our friendship with Him. In this sacred space, we can be vulnerable, intimate, and true. By encountering Christ anew, we are renewed in our missionary life and apostolate. Here, we are transformed, encouraged, and nourished to continue our ministry of love and service. It is in this space of prayer that we are made ready to be "present" to one another in the community and to the people we encounter each day. In this silence, I hear the answer to Gaspar's inquiry.

Our thanksgiving calls us to take another step: to put our gratitude into action. It challenges us to invite others to consider a vocation to serve the Church and the community. We

promote vocations not merely by words but by how we live out our own missionary calling. The most important way to encourage vocations is by showing joy in our ministry. There is so much joy in being a missionary, and we need to let that joy shine forth in everything we do. When we live our vocation with authenticity and enthusiasm, it becomes a powerful witness to others.

Whether in the classroom, in our preaching, in our daily tasks, or when we pray for vocations, we radiate joy through our actions. We become instruments of hope, and in doing so, we draw others to consider the same path.

How can you encourage missionary vocations in the Congregation or the Church?

By remembering and giving thanks for the gifts we have received and by living in a way that makes those gifts visible to others.

Glory to the Blood of Jesus.
~ **FR. LUIGINO SANTI** CPPS



Sr. Marie Paul Curley, FSP, dedicates an entire chapter of her book to the Precious Blood of Christ. The chapter will be divided into four issues of **Bloodlines**. *Permission granted: Excerpted from Soul of Christ: Meditations on a Timeless Prayer by Marie Paul Curley, FSP, © 2014, Pauline Books & Media, Boston.*

JESUS FREED US BY HIS BLOOD (Following Jesus' Way)

Jesus could give Himself so completely and freely because, even on earth, He lived in the Trinitarian communion of love. He invites us to enter into that same life-giving communion. As children of God and brothers or sisters of Christ, we share in the riches of His grace and the fullness of His relationship with the Father and the Spirit.

In every Communion we receive, Jesus invites us to immerse ourselves in the flood of God's love, allowing Divine Love to flow through us and transform us. Receiving Jesus in the Eucharist transforms us a little more into His likeness.



In one of his meditations, **Blessed Alberione** compared an ill person needing a blood transfusion to our need to receive Christ: *We need a blood transfusion. The blood of the donor must come into contact with the vein of the person in need of strengthening. When those veins are intimately joined, the blood flows from one to the other. The sick and weak person receives the life-giving blood they need. Similarly, there must be communication and union between the heart of Jesus and our hearts, so that His divine blood flows into us. Gradually, our blood is replaced by His. When this union, this total fusion between our will and His will, takes place, our will is replaced with the will of Jesus; our feelings are replaced with the feelings of Jesus. We live in Jesus. This is love. We are lost in Jesus. It is no longer I who think, feel, or act. It is Jesus in me. It is Christ who lives in me. You can make great progress along this path.*

What is the fullness or ‘new life’ that I sense God inviting me toward? How have my Communion transformed me into being more Christ-like? *(Use these questions to examine your attitude toward the Eucharist and explore ways to receive Holy Communion with deeper fervor and devotion.)*

We can pray:
***Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
 Engulf me in Your love.
 Transform my selfishness
 into a self-giving love.
 Transform my petty concern
 into concern for others
 who do not know You,
 those suffering without hope.
 When I receive You,
 let the mingling of Your blood
 with mine change me forever.
 Through Your Church, sanctified by
 Your blood, engulf the whole world
 with your love.***
*(You may want to pray the Litany
 of the Precious Blood.)*

**FINAL REFLECTION ON PRAYER:
 YEAR OF PRAYER**

We now consider those moments when our prayers appear to go unanswered. We think, for instance, of the fervent prayers we offer for our sick children or friends enduring great pain. In our disappointment, we may feel that God is

deaf to our pleas, and we may even be tempted to stop praying. However, Jesus, our great teacher of prayer, taught us in the *Our Father* to ask for many things but, above all, to seek that God’s will be done.

A mature faith requires trust in the Lord’s providence and his greater plan for our lives and our world. Yet, it is natural to feel deep disappointment when our petitions seem to go unheard. Jesus shows us by his example that God understands our sufferings, yet does not always immediately grant our wishes. In Gethsemane, Jesus offered a prayer that seemed to go unanswered, yet his complete trust in the Father’s will led to our salvation and the glory of the resurrection.

Evil never has the last word. If there are times when we walk in the dark, guided only by the light of faith, may we never abandon our trust in the Father’s will to work together for our ultimate good. (5/26/21)

NAMING OF ROCHESTER MISSION HOUSE

The Provincial Council has revised its previous decision regarding the naming of the mission house in Rochester. The new name, Giano Mission House, provides a clearer connection to our identity and aligns with the names of our other mission houses, such as Merlini Mission House in Toronto and Gaspar House in Niagara Falls. **Fr. John** expressed openness to welcoming visitors, hosting retreats, and the summer formation program, as well as organizing a celebration for May 24.

**GIANO MISSION HOUSE
 Rochester, NY, USA
 Welcome to Giano Mission House!**



Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ (Eph. 2:13)

**MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD ATLANTIC PROVINCE
 1261 Highland Avenue
 Rochester, New York 14620
 (585) 244-2692
<https://preciousbloodatlantic.org>**

Who are the Missionaries of the Precious Blood?

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood are a Roman Catholic religious community founded near Rome in 1815 by St. Gaspar del Bufalo. Initially drawn from the secular clergy, they sought to live in community, preach parish missions and retreats, and center their spirituality on the Blood of Christ. Today, the Missionaries are engaged in a variety of ministries beyond preaching. They serve in more than 20 countries and number over 500 members worldwide. Known by the initials *C.P.P.S.*, the community is a *society of apostolic life*. Unlike traditional religious orders, its members do not take the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience but are united in the *bond of charity*.

What is a “mission house”?

While diocesan priests typically live in rectories, priests who belong to religious communities live in houses where the spirit and tradition of their community can be maintained. Monks, for example, live in monasteries. St. Gaspar wanted his missionaries to live in *mission houses*, which were intended not only as residences where the missionaries would live in community and pray together but also to invite others to share in their life and spirituality. In St. Gaspar’s own words, mission houses were to be *continuous missions, open to all (Letter 1309)* and indeed *a sacred haven (Memorandum to Pius VIII)* for the *sanctification and the spiritual cultivation of souls. (Letter 2140)*

MISSION STATEMENT

The Giano Mission House provides “a sacred haven” for those seeking to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ who inaugurated a new humanity in his Blood and calls men and women to growth in the Spirit, following the pattern of his own death and resurrection.



VISION STATEMENT

Inspired by the vision of St. Gaspar del Bufalo, the Giano Mission House undertakes a variety of ministries that provide opportunities for “the sanctification and the spiritual cultivation of souls.” These include regular celebrations of the Sacred Liturgy; periods of guided prayer and recollection; courses and lay associate programs, publications, and spiritual direction.

Why is there a mission house in Rochester?

Over the years, the Missionaries of the Atlantic Province have staffed several parishes in the Diocese of Rochester, including Most Precious Blood Church, St. Anthony’s Church in Rochester, and St. Jerome’s Church in East Rochester. In recent years, the number of missionaries prepared to be pastors has declined. Concurrently, other missionaries have sought to revitalize the lifestyle envisioned by St. Gaspar. Consequently, the mission house in Rochester is an effort to bring our Founder’s vision to life once more. The house was formally established and blessed on December 8, 1995. *Given the “signs of the times,” these ministries aim to contribute to the growth of individuals in the following ways:*

- *Grounding spirituality in the theological and mystical traditions of Western and Eastern Christianity;*
- *Exploring the interconnection between psychological and spiritual growth;*
- *Sponsoring ecumenical and interfaith initiatives to promote mutual respect and understanding;*
- *Espousing a spirituality of non-violence and peace;*
- *Reaching out to the religiously unaffiliated or disaffected.*

MISSIONARY OF MERCY

On September 12, 2024, I received the Decree of Appointment, *Misericordia et*



Misera, from Pope Francis, accompanied by a letter of support from His Grace, the Most Reverend (Cardinal-Elect) Francis Leo, Metropolitan Archbishop of

Toronto, for the ministry of Missionary of Mercy for the Jubilee Year 2025. I am deeply humbled and honored to receive this appointment, which I will fulfill during the Jubilee Year of Hope. Please hold me in your prayers so that I may remain true to this mandate.

PASSING THOUGHT

Proclaiming the Blood of Christ, this sacred human blood shed for us, represents God’s ultimate expression of love for humanity. God demonstrated his boundless love by allowing his Son, Jesus Christ, to pour out his Blood as a profound treasure and gift for us. According to St. Gaspar, Blood is the most eloquent symbol of God’s love. It is more than just a symbol; it is love itself. Those who embrace the spirit of the Precious Blood can heal those with hardened hearts. By understanding the power of the Blood, the world can be cleansed from the leprosy of sin, greed, selfishness, and pride. This devotion to the Precious Blood enhances all other Catholic devotions, serving as the foundation, support, and soul of all spiritual practices. It is a life-giving stream that leads to new life.

STREAM OF MERCY

Every day, the Missionaries of the Precious Blood are given opportunities to proclaim the Blood of Christ—whether they minister in parishes, teaching, chaplaincy, spiritual direction, Hispanic ministry, or through retreats and prayer. We honor and thank each and every Missionary for their zeal, passion, and commitment to being powerful witnesses to the Blood of Christ.

This month we acknowledge **Fr. John Colacino**, CPPS, the director of Giano Mission House in Rochester, NY. Giano Mission House provides ‘a sacred haven’ for those seeking to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ, who inaugurated a new humanity through his Blood and calls men and women to grow in the Spirit, following the pattern of his own death and resurrection. Fr. John is a spiritual director who leads retreats and days of prayer. His **humility** and **simplicity** encourage those he guides to listen deeply and then return to their lives as life-giving people. Thank you, Fr. John.

BLOOD OF CHRIST, INCARNATE WORD OF GOD

The Nativity of Christ represents God’s willingness to be vulnerable, to

experience human life, and to empathize with the human condition.

The Nativity and the Blood of Christ are intricately connected. The vulnerability displayed in Jesus’ birth foreshadows the ultimate sacrifice he would make for humanity. The manger in Bethlehem, where Jesus was laid, becomes a poignant symbol of his approachability and the accessibility of his precious gift of salvation.

His birth marks the beginning of a life filled with compassion, teaching, healing, and ultimately, the sacrifice that grants believers forgiveness and eternal life.



CHILD JESUS,
grant that we may hasten to you in the poor, the suffering, and the persecuted.
Amen.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

With the transition of the water projects, elementary and secondary schools, and many other activities of the CPPS Mission Projects to the Tanzania Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, the Development Office continues in a new capacity to provide help and assistance to the less fortunate within Precious Blood communities worldwide, as well as to other charitable causes.

By refocusing the Development Office, our missionary outreach continues to offer hope and compassion. As missionaries, our mission is to bring the love of God to those we serve. Our efforts and fundraising initiatives aim to meet the needs of those who are suffering and in places where the Good News has yet to be heard or seen. St. Gaspar encouraged his members to be committed to the ministry of the Word, both in word and in action.

VOICE OF OUR FOUNDER

Humility is the dearest to me, but it is a teacher that gives lengthy lessons.

St. Gaspar del Bufalo
Letter 3785



We celebrate!

YOUR BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER 22
ALAREY ABELLA

YOUR ANNIVERSARY

DECEMBER 3
BRENDAN DOHERTY
JOHN COLACINO
MARIO CAFARELLI
LUIGINO SANTI
WILLIAM MNYAGATWA
SAMUEL D'ANGELO
ALAREY ABELLA
MICHAEL MATEYK
GERARDO LAGUARTILLA

YOUR ORDINATION

DECEMBER 3
JEROME HOLOGA
GERARDO LAGUARTILLA
DECEMBER 13
JOHN COLACINO

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 8, 2025
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
MISSION DINNER
ST. ROCH'S PARISH HALL

MARCH 25
DISTRICT MEETING
Merlini Mission House 1:30pm
MARCH 27
Niagara Falls
Gaspar Mission House 1:30pm

JUNE 9 TO 13
RETREAT
Mt. Carmel Retreat House
Niagara Falls, Ontario

ST. ROCH'S PARISH COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO WELCOME THE SWAHILI COMMUNITY

This group comprises lay faithful of East African origin who have immigrated to Canada. While they primarily reside in the Greater Toronto area, their presence extends to London, ON, Hamilton, Niagara, Barrie, and Bowmanville.

The 372 registered members hail from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Congo, Sudan, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. This vibrant community held their first Swahili Mass on March 7, 2011, at Our Lady of

Lourdes Parish, Toronto. Due to logistical challenges, they could not continue at this location. In 2012, they approached Fr. William Mnyagatwa, CPPS, and were graciously permitted to hold Mass celebrations on the second and fourth Sundays of every month.

During the Covid lockdown, the community seamlessly transitioned to weekly Zoom services. Upon receiving clearance for in-person gatherings, they resumed their weekly Masses, continuing to foster a strong sense of faith and unity.

Our Mission is to establish a solid and enduring Catholic Christian community that thoughtfully incorporates African cultural values and practices, as embraced by the Church, in our worship and apostolic actions. To this end, our Mass readings, homilies, and songs are predominantly in Swahili, with English or tribal languages included on special occasions.

In the last 2 to 3 years, we have welcomed a significant influx of new immigrants, primarily asylum seekers, who have found a spiritual home within our community. Additionally, we have been called upon to support them financially and economically, as many reside in shelters or, in some cases, face homelessness while navigating the Canadian Immigration system.

The community also offers members the chance to meet in more localized settings for prayer and socialization. It is at this level that we provide support during bereavements and celebrate joyful occasions together. Truly, we are blessed to have this home away from home, which has served as a refuge for many of us in countless ways. We thank Frs.

William and Jerome, who continuously open their doors and provide warm hospitality to our brothers and sisters from Central and East Africa. *Asante sana!*

LINE OF SERVICE USC members are devoted women and men who seek to deepen their life in Christ by sharing in the spirituality of the Precious Blood. Through prayer, study, and service, they strive to live out the promises made for them at their baptism. Several times a year, these members assist with various tasks for the community, the Development Office, and its mail campaigns. This year's Christmas appeal and calendar stuffing party was a marathon—a full day dedicated to the glory of God. The missionaries are immensely thankful and appreciate all their efforts and generosity. Many USC members also contribute behind the scenes through the power of dedicated prayer.

We remember and pray for...

DECEMBER 19
RICHARD MASCIANGELO

DECEMBER 28
ST. GASPAR DEL BUFALO

Our deceased CPPS members, family, friends, and benefactors.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR
December 2024

FOR PILGRIMS OF HOPE

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



Bloodlines

BLOODLINES is a monthly published by the Atlantic Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. It is sent to the Incorporated members of the Province and Provincial Directors of the various Provinces. Your input and contributions are welcome. Please email your submission to luicpps@yahoo.ca or mail it to 100 Pelmo Crescent, Toronto, Ontario M9N 2Y1, by the 25TH OF THE MONTH.

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LET US HEAR FROM YOU!
You are invited to share your prayers, reflections, photos, words of wisdom, happenings from your place of ministry.



Vocation Calendar • December 2024



VOCATION PRAYER

God,

OUR CREATOR AND
REDEEMER,
by the blood of Your Son,
You have brought
all people near.

Raise up faithful ministers,
especially priests, brothers,
and sisters for Your Church;
so that the world may see
the fallen lifted up,
the old made new,
and all things
brought to perfection
through Him
who is their origin,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.
Amen!

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1
Alarey Abella | 17
Peter Nobili |
| 2
Mario Cafarelli | 18
Lui Santi |
| 3
Brother Anthony
Canterucci | 19
Germán Santiago |
| 4
René Cerecedo | 20
Phillip Smith |
| 5
John Colacino | 21
Ron Wiecek |
| 6
Samuel D'Angelo | 22
USC Members |
| 7
Brendan Doherty | 23
Deceased CPPS Members |
| 8
Joseph Grasso | 24
Our benefactors |
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Gregorio Hernandez | 25
Our family and friends |
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Jerome Hologa | 26
The sick |
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Dominic Jung | 27
Our Bishops |
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Gerardo Laguartilla | 28
Pope Francis |
| 13
Gary Luiz | 29
Cancer patients and
their caregivers |
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Ron Mahon | 30
The lonely |
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Michael Mateyk | 31
The forgotten |
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William Mnyagatwa | |

Let us remain united in prayer