



Bloodlines

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

SEPTEMBER 2024

PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

Nurturing the Growth of Our Institute

DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL

In the past 15 months, our Province has witnessed and experienced much. Comments, criticisms, and questions have surfaced and are always welcome and need to be heard. I am thankful for your honesty and openness in sharing your reflections and observations.

As a community, we have felt sorrow and joy, experienced hurt and forgiveness, and seen both decline and renewal with a revived hope.

Embracing *change* is challenging and requires time to embrace its new reality. Relying on God's spirit for understanding and clarity enables us to move forward and discern His presence in every situation. As **Venerable John Merlini** often said, *May God's Holy will be done*. Merlini remained steadfast and calm with his members, consistently voicing his confidence in the triumph of trust in the Precious Blood.

It is heartening to witness our progress in enhancing fraternity within each of our houses, embracing each other's gifts, personalities, and quirks, and prioritizing communal prayer time. Through this, we are nourished to live the Bond of Charity that strengthens us in our ministry. As Merlini asserted, *We believe that community life is the fountain of our apostolic strength*.

We have much to be grateful for. Two candidates will enter formation in September. A new Vocation/CPPS app has been developed to reach a broader audience and spread our spirituality to a younger generation.

The Development Office has refocused its fundraising efforts, supporting not only the poor in Tanzania but also CPPS communities worldwide and other charitable causes.



A bookkeeper has been hired to learn from **Fr. Peter Nobili** the intricacies of the Treasurer's office. Starting May 2025, the *Precious Blood Family Magazine* will be available online, making it accessible to more readers. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament under both species, Body and Blood, at St. Gaspar's Chapel (St. Alphonsus Church) has reopened and there is an increase of the adorers who come to pray. For the past 40 years, this chapel has been a source of sharing the devotion of the Precious Blood and a place of prayer. A renewed sense of community spirit is evident, with increased member participation and attendance at community gatherings. Members now seem more content in their respective community houses, where respect and understanding are valued.

As a Province, we remain a small unit, uniquely beautiful in our own way. Let us continue to be faithful in passionately proclaiming our love for the Precious Blood in our ministry and compassionate in caring for one another. Both St. Gaspar and Venerable John Merlini understood the signs of their times and faithfully carried out their missions. Gaspar sowed the seed by



founding the Congregation, and Merlini dedicated his life, spirit, and energy to nurturing the growth of the Institute.

~ **FR. LUIGINO SANTI CPPS**

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, COURAGE OF MARTYRS

Martyrdom has always been with the Church, and it always will be. This month is dedicated to martyrs. In the face of violence, war, totalitarianism and persecutions, it might seem like faith is defeated by evil. However, the testimony of martyrs, illuminated by the Blood of Christ, reveals a deeper truth.

Tertullian's words, *Our number increases every time we are cut down by you: the blood of martyrs is the seed of (new) Christians*, highlight a force unknown to the world: power of Christ's love which has been poured into our hearts. Even in apparent defeat, love remains victorious. This truth resonates in the 21st century, where Christians, like Jesus, face persecutions due to unwavering faith and commitment to the marginalized. The inspiring legacy of martyrs reminds us of the strength found in heroic fidelity, offering a beacon of hope in challenging times.

DEAR CONFRERES:

September 1. This morning, I received a letter from the Moderator General announcing the XXII General Assembly, which will take place in Rome from September 1 to 20, 2025. The theme of this gathering is *Blood of Christ, Hope of the World*.

The purpose of the Assembly is to discern a vision and set priorities to guide our congregation over the next six years. We will also identify the qualities needed for general leadership and elect the Moderator General and General Councillors.

In preparation for the General Assembly, a prayer has been prepared for members worldwide to recite daily for the success of the meetings. Please find the prayer below.

If you have any concerns or questions that you would like considered at the General Assembly, please forward them to me so they can be added to the agenda.

Additionally, at our Provincial Assembly in June 2025, we will elect a delegate to participate in the XXII General Assembly.



Let us discern wisely when selecting this participant.

In September, the Generalate will provide further details about the celebration of the Beatification of Venerable Giovanni Merlini. I will communicate this information as it becomes available.

Fr. Jerome Hologa and I will be visiting the Tanzanian Province from September 3 to 23. We ask for your prayers for the success of our meetings and discussions. During my absence, please contact Fr. Samuel D'Angelo, vice provincial, if an urgent need should arise.

Prayer for the XXII General Assembly of the Precious Blood
Blood of Christ: Hope of the World
Compassionate God,
we give you thanks and praise
for your wonderful,
yet suffering creation,
as we share the healing and
reconciling presence of
the Precious Blood of Jesus, your Son.
Open our eyes
and enlighten our hearts
so that we may know what is the hope
to which You have called us,
the hope that does not disappoint.
Reawaken our desire and commitment
to serve Your holy people
as we journey together,
fellow pilgrims on the Way
of Your Kingdom.
May the wisdom and anointing
of your Holy Spirit
rain down upon us
as we discover visionary commitments
and leaders, who in the spirit of
Saint Gaspar and Venerable/Blessed
Giovanni Merlini, will empower
our Congregation to be a dynamic
force for renewal in the Church.
As we raise the cup of salvation,
and call upon Your name,
may we then pour out our lives
each day to advance that
"new order of things that Christ
brought about in the shedding of
his Precious Blood." Amen.

Please remember in your prayers Michael Mateyk, CPPS, who is on a Leave of Absence from ministry and residing at Merlini Mission House.



Archbishop Leo together with Precious Blood Frs. Nobili, Cafarelli, Laguartilla, Santi, Doherty, and Rev. Arthur Lee (Pontifical Master of Ceremonies) at Merlini House.

SPOTLIGHT On June 5th, His Grace Archbishop Francis Leo graced Merlini House with his presence. Following Evening Prayer, he engaged in a moment of profound prayer, venerating the relic of St. Gaspar.

Enthralled by the chapel's beauty, he found it to be a place of tranquility and prayer. The evening unfolded with dinner, during which His Grace reminisced about his time living among our CPPS missionaries in Dayton. His remarks echoed a profound sense of fraternity and a warm embrace by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. His Grace and Fr. Brendan exchanged a plethora of anecdotes and recollections from their shared hometown of Montréal. *Vive Québec!* His Grace assured us that he will return for another visit.

C.P.P.S. EUCHARISTIC ASSEMBLY

The US Province hosted a Eucharistic Assembly in the spirit of this Year of Eucharistic Revival. It is a time of renewed appreciation and reverence for the Eucharist. Representing the Atlantic



Province, Fr. Gerardo Laguartilla and Fr. Lui Santi travelled to St. Louis, MO (June 17 to 20). The days were filled with prayer, discussions, reflection, presentations, and daily Eucharist.

The presenters emphasized and reflected on the importance of the Eucharist in our lives and ministry. Their reflections were 'infused with the Precious Blood of Christ'. They shared and provided very real, concrete ways of being a Eucharistic people.

As Fr. Jeff Kirch, Provincial Director of the US Province, noted, *the days together filled us with hope, courage and a deep sense of purpose.* The Blood of Christ nourishes and strengthens us to continue our mission of forgiveness and renewal in our ministry and community, and spirits.

HOUSES OF PRAYER

Our MISSION HOUSE in Rochester, NY, is a sanctuary for renewing and revitalizing your spirit. Our mission is to nurture spiritual growth, renewal, and peaceful reflection. Fr. John Colacino, the house director, has led numerous retreats and days of prayer. He offers compassionate spiritual direction and personalized retreats tailored to your needs.

As a Province, we are privileged to provide such a tranquil space for you. I warmly invite you to take time for yourself and consider bringing a friend to share in the tranquility and beauty of our Mission House. To reserve your days of renewal, please contact Fr. John. GASPAR MISSION HOUSE in Niagara Falls, Ontario, rests gracefully along the scenic Niagara River. Officially serving as the Provincial House, it also provides a nurturing home for our semi-retired members. The tranquil atmosphere offers a haven for rest, fraternity, quiet reflection, and prayer.

Surrounded by expansive grounds and a riverside walking trail, the house features a chapel where daily Eucharist and liturgies are celebrated. Shared meals with our confreres further enrich your experience, ensuring both spiritual and physical renewal during your stay.

To arrange your time among our brothers, or simply to rest and enjoy quiet time, please contact Fr. Ron or Fr. Phil. They look forward to welcoming you to this peaceful retreat.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF SORROWS

Our mother of sorrows,
with strength from above you stood by the cross,
sharing in the sufferings of Jesus,
and with tender care you bore him in your arms,
mourning and weeping.

We praise you for your faith, which accepted the life God planned for you. We praise you for your hope, which trusted that God would do great things in you. We praise you for your love in bearing with Jesus the sorrows of his passion.

Holy Mary, may we follow your example, and stand by all your children who need comfort and love.

Mother of God, stand by us in our trials and care for us in our many needs. Pray for us now and at the hour of our death.

Amen!



POLISH PROVINCE CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOSPICE SANTA

GALLA IN ŁABUŃKI, POLAND

On Sunday, June 2, at the Mission House of the Holy Spirit, the festivities were presided over by **Bishop Marian Rojek**, who also met with the staff and patients of our institution; it was a great honour for us.



The Santa Galla Hospice in Łabuńki, Poland, has been run by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood for 25 years. We gave thanks today at the Eucharist, for this work of God, which has come into being, thanks to the dedication and commitment of many people with hearts open and sensitive to God's inspirations and the need of suffering people.

Since March 2024, I have had the opportunity not only to continue and serve here as director of the hospice and president of the Friends of the Hospice Association, which looks after its operation and fundraising for its upkeep through the various collections organized.

I am discovering its value and its great need. I have realized that this very place needs not only constant financial support, but above all, spiritual support: it needs constant prayer and the sacrifice of one's life for these people whom God sends us, who are fighting this final battle not only with their illness, but also a spiritual battle to be well prepared to meet their Lord.

It is not easy to accept one's illness, to be persistent in one's suffering, to sort out the backlog from one's life regarding forgiveness of oneself and others, reconciliation with those by whom we may have been wronged and deceived, the use of the sacrament of the sick, the sacrament of confession.

It is only with God's help that this is really possible and, together with Mary, to stand daily at the cross of those who are suffering and need our help, our

prayers and our presence, so that they are not alone. With the gift of prayer and God's blessing.

~ **FR. ZBIGNIEW LESICZKA CPPS**

TOWARD A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR ECUMENISM IN CANADA

As the new Director of the Diocese of Sault Ste Marie's Office for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue, I was invited by **Bishop Dowd** to attend the CCCB-sponsored Forum on Dialogues to relaunch the Ontario Conference for Christian Unity, Religious Relations with the Jews, and Interfaith Dialogue. The event was held from June 27 to 29, at St. Augustine Seminary in Toronto, which has now made itself available for booking events in the summer. Forty-five Catholic representatives from all over Canada attended the event, including ten bishops.

The purpose of the event was to develop a national strategy for ecumenism sponsored by the CCCB. To do this, we were given the opportunity to network with other ecumenical and interfaith Officers as well as the Commission's Dialogue Representatives, and to learn from each other's experiences.

Ad Intra strategic goals were to form bishops and ecumenical officers to carry out the responsibilities associated with the search for Christian unity as well as a national commitment to ongoing education of laity, seminarians, and clergy at all levels on how we can all contribute to ecumenism.

Support for spiritual ecumenism as part of the strategic plan entails promoting and assisting with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at the local level, preparation of ecumenical prayer resources by the liturgy office of the CCCB, visiting other churches and ecclesial communities, and enabling bishops and clergy to meet periodically with leaders of other Christian communities.

Support for the ecumenism of love as part of the strategic plan would entail recognizing valid baptisms whenever possible, developing ecumenical friendships, fostering a culture of encounter including local councils of churches and ministerial associations, inviting observers, where appropriate, to Catholic events and attending as observers when invited to non-Catholic events. Bishops would strive to attend regional gatherings of the LAURC

(Lutheran, Anglican, Ukrainian, and Roman Catholics).

Support for the ecumenism of truth as part of the strategic plan would involve commitments to dialogues with various Christian traditions. Other interfaith dialogues, while not having the goal of unity per se, are intended to build friendship, respect, and trust between Christian and non-Christian members. Such theological dialogues on the national level would be accompanied by a designated bishop or staff person. As in the past, they would also be helpful in creating bilateral statements, in preparing resources, and in building better relations and trust between the respective members. Another purpose of the dialogues is to seek to identify what we have in common as well as where we differ theologically and pastorally. Work will need to be done to better communicate the work of national commissions to dioceses and to the people in general.

Support for the ecumenism of life as part of the strategic plan would involve working together for justice and the common good, sharing prayer and spiritual activities together, and even sharing our physical resources, such as buildings, whenever appropriate or necessary.

Bishop Donald Bolan summed it up best when he urged us all to follow the Lund Principle: *Churches should act together in all matters, except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately.*

(www.encyclo.co.uk) Sage advice coming from a committed ecumenist! In that same spirit, as Missionaries of the Precious Blood, may we all commit



to the core CPPS value of ecumenism in all ways that are possible in our respective ministries.

~ **FR. SAM D'ANGELO CPPS**

PRAYER

We continue with the series on Prayer, as Pope Francis asks us to prepare ourselves, and leading to the Jubilee Year 2025.

Opening our heart to God is done in quiet time with prayer. This spiritual practice requires discipline and loyalty rather than a chore.

Life as a follower of Christ is founded on faith, not on feelings. Spiritual growth comes about when we are faced with hardships and that steadfastness is essential if we are to



We celebrate!

- YOUR BIRTHDAY
- SEPTEMBER 6
- MICHAEL MATEYK
- SEPTEMBER 9
- SAMUEL D'ANGELO
- SEPTEMBER 12
- RENÉ CERECEDO
- SEPTEMBER 24
- GERARDO LAGUARTILLA

grow in our relationship with God. We develop a fruitful prayer life when we incorporate quiet time with God in our daily schedule. Initially it is to be scheduled, but slowly the desire to be with our Lord pulls you away from the noise of the day. Prayer will deepen your joy in discovering God in your life. **MEDITATION.** Meditating is not an Eastern religion mindset. Meditation is found in Scriptures, and it helps to renew our love for Scriptures and is a helpful guide for time spent in prayer. Meditation is *pondering* on the words of Scripture with an attentive and open heart, welcoming the Holy Spirit to work in you. In the Gospels, we see Mary often *pondering* before she acts. This pondering is to reflect upon a decision that is made. It is a careful consideration.

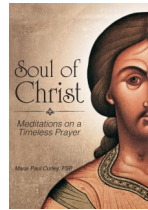
In the Old Testament, Joshua ponders and meditates, where God told him to meditate on his law, (Joshua 1:18). In Psalm 1:2, blessed is the person who *delights in the law of the Lord and meditates on his law day and night.* Our goal is to empty our minds and to renew our spirit on God's will. This ancient practice deepens our relationship with God. As Paul reminds the community in Philippi, (Philippians 4:8) they are to 'think' how they are to live. To *think* or to *ponder* upon God's truth we come to understand God's will in our own lives.

Openness to God's ways brings a sort of correction. An awareness that something is out of step with God's will and my own life. A receptive heart and mind listens and is ready to accept a newness, a change. As you ponder, think, and listen:

What does it teach me about God?

What does it teach me about myself?
Pondering and meditating invites us to mold the way we think to God's truth. The Holy Spirit brings clarity to how we are to remain faithful.

Sr. Marie Paul Curley, FSP, dedicates an entire chapter of her book to the



Precious Blood of Christ. The chapter will be divided in four issues of *Bloodlines*. Permission granted: Excerpted from *Soul of Christ: Meditations on a Timeless Prayer* by

Marie Paul Curley, FSP, ©2014, Pauline Books and Media, Boston.

BLOOD OF CHRIST, INEBRIATE ME.

The *Anima Christi* prayer invites us to enter fully into the new life of the Paschal Mystery — Jesus' suffering, dying, and rising for us.

"BLOOD OF CHRIST"

The Church has always had a special devotion to the Precious Blood of Christ, as we know from reading the New Testament:

You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silvered gold, but with the *precious blood of Christ*, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. (1Peter 1:18-21; emphasis added).

Blood is a very powerful symbol of both family and life. Sharing blood means sharing life: to be part of a family. The loss of blood means death. Shedding blood for another is to save and love them in an unparalleled way.

In the Old Testament, the Covenant between God and His Chosen People was celebrated with the blood of the animal sacrifices. In the New Testament, Christ's sacrifice of His life and His very Blood is the only and final sacrifice for our redemption. The passion and death of Jesus on the cross is the definitive expression of all those symbolic meanings of blood — but *transformed* in the light of His resurrection. When we are baptized, we enter into Christ's death and resurrection: we each become a child of God and part of God's family; we are

We remember and pray for...

September 2, 1992
NICHOLAS ARIOLI

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



IN GRATITUDE AND THANKSGIVING

On May 31, 2024, **Maria Carpino** returned to our Heavenly Kingdom to be with God. A cherished parishioner of St. Alphonsus Church and a founding member of the USC in the Toronto area, Maria faithfully supported the devotion of the Precious Blood at St. Gaspar's Chapel in Toronto, under the guidance of **Fr. John Colacino, CPPS.**

Maria's unwavering commitment to promoting the devotion and maintaining regular devotees for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, both in Body and Blood, became her primary vocation in her later years. Maria was a dear friend and benefactor to many of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. She possessed a radiant smile, a joyful spirit as a USC member, and an inspiring reverence for the Blood of Christ made a profound impact on those around her. She died with advanced Alzheimer's. She will be remembered as a faithful, dedicated, and caring follower of St. Gaspar.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE.

free from the power of sin and come to life in Christ; and we share in the self-giving love of Jesus, called to extend His reconciliation here on earth to all humanity.

What might have been going on in Jesus' mind and heart when He lost so



much blood at the scourging; as He hung on the cross and felt His life and strength drain away? If we listen to the words Jesus spoke at those extreme moments, we discover that Jesus was not engulfed by self-pity, sorrow, loss or anger. "Father, forgive them." "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." "It is finished." His thoughts and sentiments, even at these moments of enormous anguish, were about the Father and about saving us.

The Precious Blood of Jesus poured out for us on the cross bridges the gaps of time, earthly sorrows, and doubts that weaken our faith. The Precious Blood of Jesus shed for us is mysterious, stark proof of God's faithful love for us.

NAVIGATING STORMS IN OUR LIVES

Gospel: Matthew 7:25

There are moments in our lives when we face hardships. These challenges can make us feel lost, as if we have nowhere to turn. The weight in our spirits, hearts, and attitudes affects our entire being. What is happening? What do we do now?

The Gospel passage from Matthew mirrors these feelings.

"The rain fell." When a rift with a family member leaves us estranged. What next? Or when a community member chooses a different path despite our shared history. Where do we go from here?

"The floods came." When illness threatens our ability to serve now and in the future. Why this trial? Or when a close friend shares struggles with our children's substance abuse. What can we offer?

"The winds blew." When a ministry effort fails, and we shoulder the weight of responsibility. Or when baseless rumours circulate within our community.

Yet, the Gospel passage also offers a reassuring response: **"The house did not collapse."** Why?

Reality and life are not flawless. We are called to trust in our loving God, who knows our limits. His compassion and care give us the courage to remain faithful and hopeful. We are invited to walk closely with Jesus, who stands beside us, offering strength.

We find this divine strength first when we carry our crosses confidently, knowing God is with us. Secondly, we

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER 14

THANKSGIVING DAY
ST. ROCH'S CHURCH
DINNER: 1PM

OCTOBER 21

GASPAR DAY
ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH

DECEMBER 3

FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER,
OUR PATRON
ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO CHURCH
DETAILS TBA

find strength in prayer — not just a one-time plea, but an ongoing conversation where we share frustrations, hurts, and confusion as we would with a trusted friend. Thirdly, strength comes as we partake in the Body and Blood of Christ, spiritual nourishment that sustains us.

Lastly, we find strength in asking our Blessed Mother to accompany us on life's journey as she always directs us to her Son, our hope and anchor. Do not fear the rain, floods, or winds.

Trust in God's faithfulness. In the words of St. Gaspar, *Plants are shaken by contrary winds, but their roots are firmly set, well-founded. Therefore, cast away your fears; I wish to see your soul resting securely and confidently in God.* (Letter 1918)

God's grace, indeed, is the mystical staff and supportive cane we all need in our missionary life.



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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GINO MARCUZZI

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

VOICE OF OUR FOUNDER

IT IS PRAYER
that makes the divine call recognizable through withdrawals, silence and recollection.

St Gaspar del Bufalo
Letter 1016



THE JUBILEE PRAYER

FATHER IN HEAVEN,
may the *faith* you have given us in your son,
Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

June Retreat





Vocation Calendar • September 2024



VOCATION PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

YOU CALLED
St. Gaspar del Bufalo
to renew the Church
through the ministry
of the Word
and the proclamation
of our salvation
in Christ's
Precious Blood.

Continue to call dedicated men
to share in this mission,
who will serve
as brothers and priests,
and who will respond
to the cry of the blood
in our world today.

Give them the grace, courage
and strength they need
to answer your call
and live as
your ever faithful servants.

We ask this,
in the name of Jesus
who shed his Blood for us,
and with the guidance of
our Blessed Mother Mary
to help them
in their vocation
to respond
in faithful service.

Amen.

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

Let us remain united in prayer