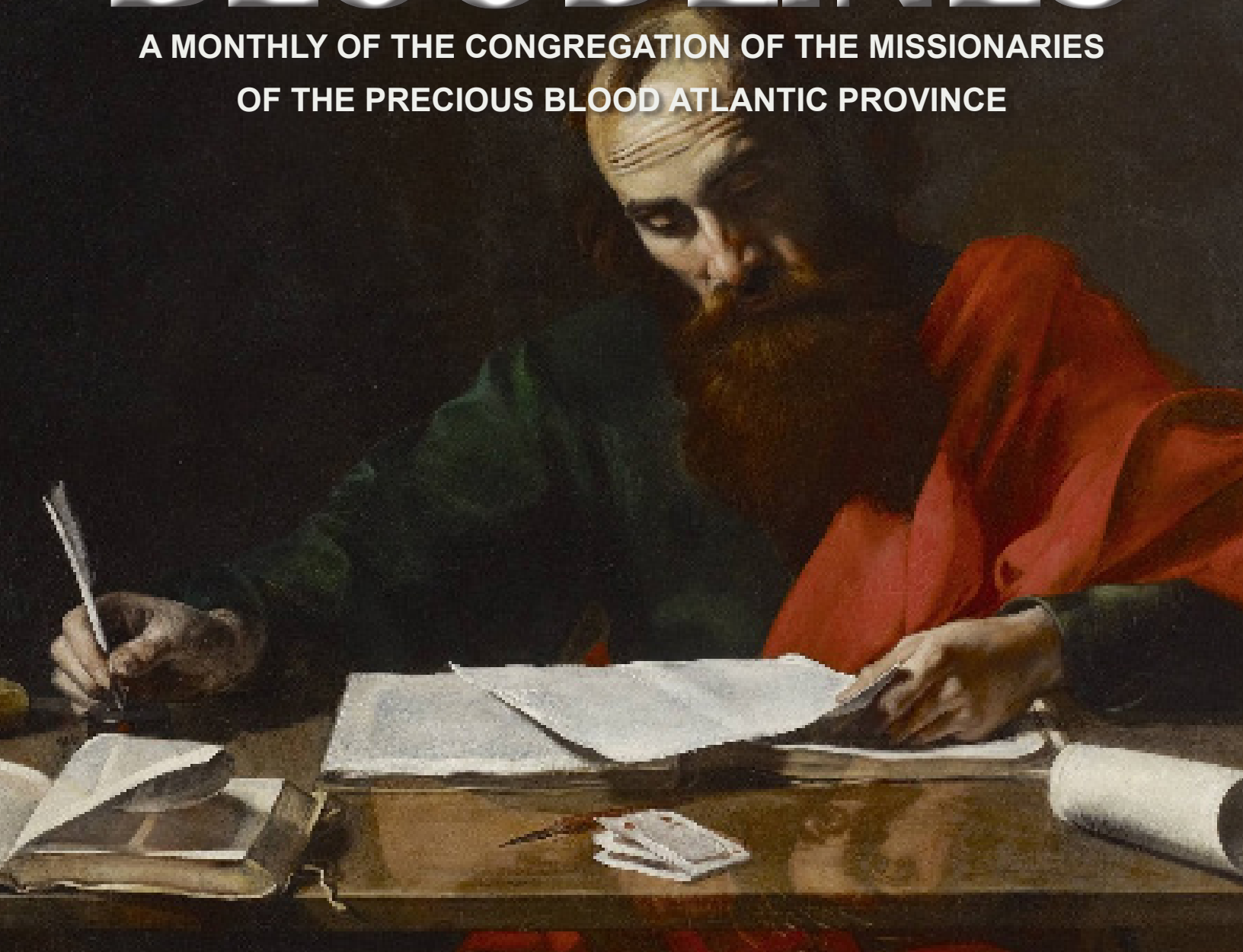


FEBRUARY 2026

BLOODLINES

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



*Just as St. Paul placed himself
at the service of others,
we too discover a deeper courage
to speak the truth
and to serve generously.*



BLOODLINES is a monthly publication
by the Congregation of Missionaries
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ROOTED IN CHRIST, SENT IN HOPE

Pope St. John Paul II, in his 1990 encyclical *The Mission of the Redeemer*, emphasized the missionary dimension of the Church, affirming that every missionary is called to live with authentic missionary zeal. This zeal gives meaning to our pastoral care, our prayer, and our personal sacrifices.

St. Gaspar longed to leave Rome for foreign lands, but through the guidance of his spiritual director and Pope Pius VII, he came to understand that Rome itself was his “mission land.” With this conviction, he set out to preach and evangelize throughout the Papal States with unwavering fervour. Proclaiming the Gospel gives hope, for it animates the Church’s mission, our ministry, our fraternity, and our spirituality. Blood of Christ—Hope for the world.

The life of St. Paul teaches us two important lessons. First, we must be firmly rooted in a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Such a conviction naturally overflows into our communities and into every relationship we form. Second, just as St. Paul placed himself at the service of others, we too discover a deeper courage to speak the truth and to serve generously. This sense of purpose gives rise to missionary hopefulness and zeal.

How do we keep this zeal alive amid the many tasks entrusted to us?

First, on a personal level, we must remain attentive to our ongoing curiosity while also deepening our understanding of our tradition and appreciating why we live it.

Second, we must care for our mental health; we are human beings, and we have only one Messiah.

Third, it is essential to cultivate meaningful relationships with priests and religious—both within and beyond our community—as well as with lay people, so that we may share our joys and sorrows.

Fourth, ongoing education is vital, for it forms both the human mind and the spirit.

Finally, we are called to preach and to work for peace and justice. In doing so, we live according to the Spirit of Jesus and give glory to God the Father.

Let us live our missionary zeal with passion.





CHAPLET OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST

SECOND MYSTERY: AGONY IN THE GARDEN

The Agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane stands as one of the most profound and heart-rending moments in the events leading up to the Passion of our Lord. It offers to us a unique window into the mystery of Christ's dual nature—being fully God and fully Man—as well as revealing the depth of Jesus' redemptive mission on earth. By reflecting on the Agony in the Garden, we're invited into a more profound understanding of the value and meaning of suffering, the discernment required by obedience to faith, and the transformative power of prayer to submit ourselves to the Will of God.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus experiences intense anguish, described in the Gospels as a sorrow “even to the point of death.” (Mt 26:38) Luke further notes, “And His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” (Lk 22:44b) This agony is not a sign of weakness but a testament to the true humanity of Christ. Like every human being, Jesus is not immune from fear, pain, or the instinct for self-preservation. His Precious Blood, falling like sweat, reveals the extent to which Jesus is willing to embrace suffering and death for our sins. By facing the real likelihood of his impending fate, Jesus enters fully into the human condition, embracing it in all its vulnerability. This is Jesus' solidarity with humankind: God becomes man, not in some theoretical or

And His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Lk 22:44b)

spiritual sense, but in the very real experience of human suffering and the limits of human existence.

The agony in the garden also reveals Christ's divinity. His prayer—"Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as you will" (Mt 26:39)—expresses both a deep and personal Father-Son relationship, as well as a humble submission to His Father's divine plan for humanity. In this tension between human fear and divine obedience, the Church sees the mystery of Christ divine and human wills united, but also distinct. The agony in the garden is not merely about facing physical pain then, as it is also about Jesus' willingness to bear the spiritual weight of the world's sins while also struggling with accepting His Father's will.

The agony in the garden is also a prelude to Christ's redemptive sacrifice on the Cross. In the garden, Jesus freely accepts the "cup" of suffering, as a part of His Father's will. This act of obedience un-does the disobedience of Adam. Whereas the first Adam faltered in a garden, seeking his own will over God's, the "new Adam," by contrast, triumphs in the garden of Gethsemane by surrendering Himself completely to the Father's plan for Him and for humanity.

Christ's agony in the garden ultimately unveils the depth of Christ's love, for He chooses to embrace the Cross out of love for each person. This "suffering with" (aka, compassion) is not abstract; it's personal and particular. It leads to our redemption and salvation.

HOW TO LIVE OUT THIS MYSTERY

Think of your garden of Gethsemane. Where do you seek to be alone with God outside of

Church? Take some time to go there this week and be honest with God about your vocation and its struggles. Pray for discernment.

Take a walk in the crisp morning air. While walking, ask God to give you an insight into some person who is struggling in life and how you might help ease their burden.

Think about how your own blood brings you life and energy to overcome life's difficulties. Pray for someone who is sick or lonely or on the margins and visit them this week, so that they will know that they are not alone.

REV. SAMUEL D'ANGELO CPPS

BLESSED GIOVANNI MERLINI: A MOMENT OF COMMUNION AND DEVOTION

On January 12, the USC of Toronto hosted a silver olive-tree reliquary containing relics of Blessed Giovanni Merlini. The USC and the parishioners of St. Charles Borromeo Parish gathered for veneration. More than 150 people came throughout the day to venerate the relic, spending moments in meditation and reflection, and concluding the day of prayer with the Eucharist, a hymn, and thanksgiving.



We thank the USC and Fr. Gerardo for encouraging this devotion to our dear Blessed Giovanni Merlini.

LESSONS IN CARING Winter arrived early this year, and the Knights of Columbus—Westbridge Council at St. Roch’s Church were ready to offer a helping hand. The Council donated 100 winter coats to children in need within the parish and surrounding area. We thank the Knights for their ongoing dedication and commitment to serving the less fortunate.

CORE VALUES (MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD)

Core Value One: “The Gospel and the spirituality of the Blood of Christ call us, as individuals and as a Congregation, to witness a life of conversion, transformation, and renewal.” ► As a Province, we continue the discernment that began at the Provincial Assembly of 2025. The ongoing discussions, reflections, and willingness to renew the spirit are truly encouraging. The “pastors” in the Toronto area (Frs. Alarey, Mario, Jerome—Fr. Gerardo was also invited) gathered to share and explore new ways of witnessing our spirituality and, even more importantly, to support one another. They agreed to meet again in March to continue the conversation. ► It was a very positive and insightful day, marked by personal reflection and communal understanding. Glory to the Blood of Jesus. Amen.

CATHOLIC CALLING APP Catholic prayers in various languages, Mass enrolments and intentions, daily inspirational quotes from St. Gaspar, other saints, and Scripture, as well as a discernment bot—these are all available through the Catholic Calling App (CCP), created by the Vocation Office. Fr. Samuel reports that 150 people visit the app regularly. You are invited to log on, download the app, and share it with friends and anyone who wishes

to deepen their love and devotion to the Precious Blood. Thank you, Fr. Samuel. For more information, contact Fr. Samuel at: sdangelocpps@gmail.com.

MINUTES OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING: January 12, 2026

The Provincial Council met by Zoom on January 12 at 1:00pm. All members of the Council were present: Frs. Santi, D'Angelo, Cafarelli, Doherty. Fr. Colacino recorded the minutes.

OPENING PRAYER Fr. John led the opening prayer on the memorial of Blessed Giovanni Merlini.

***O GOD,
who granted to the presbyter
Blessed Giovanni Merlini
to draw from contemplating the mystery
of the Blood of Christ
wise discernment for leading your people
along the path that leads to you,
grant that we too, conformed to your Son,
the Lamb of sacrifice,
may become wise witnesses of your love.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.***

(This is an unofficial translation for private use pending approval from the Holy See of an official version for use in the liturgy.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Meetings of October 21 and June 27.

► A clarification was offered regarding the Rochester mission house having its status changed to a residence by the provincial assembly. It remains open as such after Fr. John decided not to move to the Friendly Home.

► Both minutes were approved unanimously after a motion by Fr. Mario, seconded by Fr. Sam.

REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL TREASURER

► Fr. Peter reported that the Bathurst property has still not been sold. A serious offer fell through because the prospective buyer wished to delay closing by a full year. The realtor will list the property at the end of February or early March, as the current market conditions are not favourable. We will be satisfied with the lower end of the estimated value of the property. Our partners are not prepared to buy us out.

► As for provincial finances, we closed the year in a stronger position than the previous one, with approximately Can\$45,000 in savings. Overall, the accounts remain healthy, even though fewer members are working and generating income. Expenses have also been lower than in past years.

VOCATION/FORMATION REPORT A report on Joseph Kibuule's visit to St. Alphonsus and an update to inquirers.

MODERATOR GENERAL In a recent conversation with the Moderator General, Fr. Lupi noted that he is less concerned about the size of a province than about its fidelity to our charism and its financial viability. Other provinces are smaller than our own, and our normative texts do not mandate a minimum number of members for a province.

FOLLOW-UP TO PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

A discussion regarding the Development Office's consideration of hiring a lay director noted that such a move would be costly, and maintaining the current arrangement appears to be the most prudent option. Nonetheless, the Council should retain a measure of oversight.

VISIT TO FRANK CARDINAL LEO The Provincial met with Cardinal Leo, who expressed his satisfaction with our ministry in the archdiocese.

PERSONNEL An update on members.

THIS MONTH'S CHALLENGE

After having celebrated the Jubilee Year of Hope, we now enter this new year spiritually renewed. A monthly challenge has been given to us, and this month's challenge is ALWAYS BE HONEST, inspired by a reflection on Proverbs 12:22. We are encouraged to live this wisdom from Scripture with sincerity and integrity.

DATES TO REMEMBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

FEBRUARY 6

Ron Wiecek

REQUIESCANT IN PAGE

FEBRUARY 6

Albert DePascale

FEBRUARY 25

Cardinal Bellisario Cristaldi

LOOKING AHEAD

DAY OF RECOLLECTION

FEBRUARY 24

LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Fr. Peter Poole will lead us in an afternoon of prayer and reflection.

Merlini Mission House will host the day, beginning 1:30pm, followed by a social and dinner. RSVP to confirm your attendance. Thank you.

JUNE 8 TO 12

ANNUAL RETREAT

Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Niagara Falls

If you are unable to attend, please inform the Provincial.

WORDS OF OUR FOUNDERS

We try to do all the good possible for the glory of God; and let us become saints.

— ST. GASPAR DEL BUFALO
Letter 1070

Let us give thanks to God for all the good he brings out of us.

— BLESSED GIOVANNI MERLINI
Letter 381

Vocation Calendar

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

JEROME HOLOGA

10

DOMINIC JUNG

11

GERARDO LAGUARTILLA

12

GARY LUIZ

13

RON MAHON

14

WILLIAM MNYAGATWA

15

PETER NOBILI

16

LUI SANTI

17

GERMÁN SANTIAGO

18

RON WIECEK

19

WORLD PEACE

20

USC MEMBERS

21

DECEASED CPPS MEMBERS

22

OUR BENEFACTORS

23

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

24

SICK MEMBERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

25

OUR BISHOPS

26

AN INCREASE IN RELIGIOUS AND
MISSION VOCATIONS

27

CANCER PATIENTS AND
THEIR CAREGIVERS

28

RESPONSIBLE CIVIC AND FEDERAL
LEADERS

Prayer for Vocations

LOVING GOD,

**As their Saviour and brother, Jesus Christ, inspired them,
St. Gaspar and Blessed Giovanni Merlini gathered dedicated missionaries
for the ministry of the Word and for preaching your love and hope.**

**We give thanks for the many hundreds who, through the ages,
have answered the call to serve the Church and the community
of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.**

**Bless all who are discerning a vocation, and the men who will continue to serve
the Congregation, the Church, and the world as religious and ordained priests.**

**We humbly ask that you never cease to enkindle in them a deep love for you
and for your people, and that you strengthen all of us who serve with zeal,
compassion, and holiness.**

**We pray this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

