



MAY 2026

BLOODLINES

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

*COME TO ME,
all you who
are weary
and burdened,
and I will
give you rest.*
MT 11:28



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

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THE FIFTH MYSTERY: JESUS SHEDS HIS BLOOD CARRYING THE CROSS

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood, inspired by the redemptive power of Christ's Blood, pray the Chaplet of the Precious Blood as a way of meditating on the Word of God. In each mystery, we read a biblical verse to deepen our understanding of the sacred moments in which Jesus shed His Precious Blood for our salvation.

In this reflection, we turn to the fifth mystery and meditate on John 19:17: "And He, bearing His Cross, went out to the place called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha."

We have heard this passage many times, and it continues to move us deeply. Though innocent, Christ suffered as one condemned. The guilt that belonged to us, He took upon His own shoulders, doing so out of love—love "to the very end" (Jn 13:1). Jesus came to heal us, to bear the weight of our sins, so that we might be set free. He made our pains and sufferings His own—burdens we deserved because of our disobedience and our turning away from what is good.

We know the Paschal Mystery of our Lord Jesus Christ—His life, passion, and death, leading to His glorious Resurrection. This is the mystery of our salvation, rich in theological meaning and spiritual power. It is the fulfillment of God's promises and the triumph of Christ over evil. On the Cross that Jesus carried, on that blessed Tree, He cried out, "It is finished" (Jn 19:30). From the heights of the Holy Cross, Jesus proclaims with authority: *I have conquered you, Satan.*

"Crosses will never be lacking" (St. Gaspar, #1955). We have all faced difficult moments that left us feeling devastated, yet even in those moments we experienced the concern of others. As children, our parents did everything possible to care for us. This is precisely what Jesus has done. God saw a humanity wounded and burdened by sin and desired to rescue it. For this reason, He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to save the world (Jn 3:16).

Jesus also says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28). He carried the heaviest burden of our humanity and now offers us a lighter, more bearable load. He calls each of us to take up our daily cross and follow Him faithfully, assuring us that He will be with us to strengthen us. Though our burdens may be heavy, "God also gives the strength to carry them" (St. Gaspar, #1698).

FOOTPRINTS TOWARD CALVARY

Jesus carries the Cross and sets out. To walk is to leave footprints. We, too, are called to leave good footprints for those who see us or live alongside us. Footprints guide others so they do not lose their way or forget the goal that lies ahead. Whether we are consecrated persons or laypeople, in whatever vocation we have embraced, we are called to leave good and clear footprints that others can follow, for the works belong to God, and He Himself will care for them (St. Gaspar, #1640).

Jesus walks toward Calvary. When we speak of a place, we speak of a destination, a goal—in Christ, that goal is Salvation. We are called to become “another Christ,” keeping heaven before us through good and faithful actions. In doing so, we walk toward the Christian goal and help others to walk with us, so that all may come to enjoy the presence of God. Yet we must never forget that to reach the Resurrection, we must first pass through Calvary. Let us adore the crosses that God sends us (St. Gaspar, #1182).

Rev. Germán Santiago Estévez, CPPS

LET US BELIEVE

Through Him: Jesus Christ is the bridge between God and humanity. Only through the Cross—through the shedding of His Precious Blood, made present for us in the Eucharist—can we offer perfect honour and glory to the Father.

With Him: We unite ourselves to Christ’s sacrifice by offering our lives, our struggles, and our prayer to the Father in communion with Him—from Calvary, where His Precious Blood was poured out, to the glory of the Resurrection.

In Him: We are the Body of Christ. Our lives, our worship, and our salvation are nourished

by His Precious Blood. In Him we are joined, sustained, and strengthened as members of our Lord.

CANADIAN WITNESSES TO THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

It is inspiring to recognize that several Canadian saints embraced a deep devotion to the Precious Blood of Christ. In the coming issues of *Bloodlines*, brief histories of these holy men and women will be shared.



St. Marguerite D’Youville (1701–1771)

St. Marguerite D’Youville dedicated her life to caring for the poor in Quebec. She believed that to serve Jesus

well was to serve those most in need. With a generous heart, she reached out to the abandoned, the forgotten, and the suffering.

Her life was marked by many trials, yet none led her to despair. Instead, she sought the courage to unite her hardships with the sufferings of our Lord. After the death of her husband and children, she transformed her grief into renewed purpose and mission.

With quiet strength and perseverance, she founded a community of religious women devoted to those cast aside because of poverty. She shared with her sisters a profound love for the Cross, reminding them: “The Cross is the sign of love by which Jesus brought forth new life. In the shedding of His Precious Blood, we learn that He is my way, my truth, and my life.”

She walked the streets feeding hungry children, visited the sick in their homes, and taught simple prayers to prisoners. Her life radiated the compassionate presence of God.

As her community grew, she faced yet another trial when, one winter night, the sisters’ hospital burned to the ground. Still she did not lose heart. Her deep trust in God and her unwavering commitment to the poor sustained her through suffering and loss.

Serving the poor, embracing the Cross, offering her life for Jesus, and enduring hardship—all reveal her sacrificial love for God. Her devotion to the Precious Blood of Christ and to the wounded Christ remains a powerful witness of love for our Church today.

A JOURNEY OF ZEAL: 60 YEARS IN TANZANIA

This year, the Tanzania Province celebrates 60 years of the presence of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood (1966–2026). Several events will take place in July to mark this significant milestone.

The first missionaries from the Italian Province—who arrived in the Manyoni area—laboured with great love. Their steadfast commitment has borne fruit both spiritually and physically, shaping communities and nurturing faith across generations.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to the Italian and Tanzanian Provinces for their dedication and missionary zeal. Their enduring commitment stands as a powerful witness to the proclamation of the Word of God, especially in places where the Good News had not yet been heard.

A NEW CHAPTER IN PRECIOUS BLOOD SPIRITUALITY: The newest members of the Unio Sanguis Christi at St. Alphonsus Parish, united in faith and dedicated to living the charism of the Precious Blood within the parish and community.

WELCOMED INTO THE UNION OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

After a year of formation, nineteen parishioners from St. Alphonsus Church pledged their membership and commitment to the Union of the Blood of Christ (USC). Their incorporation was celebrated at Sunday Mass on April 26.

Each member has chosen a specific ministerial apostolate to deepen their commitment to living the spirit of the Precious Blood in service to the local community. Their ministries include serving with Out of the Cold; assisting at St. Joseph's Centre of Hope for Women; supporting the local Food Bank; visiting the homebound; serving as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the sick; proclaiming the Word as lectors at Sunday Eucharist; providing shuttle service for the elderly to medical appointments; and volunteering at parish activities.

In addition, members have committed to a weekly Holy Hour, daily personal prayers to the Precious Blood, a monthly afternoon of formation and presentations, and an annual USC retreat. This wholehearted self-giving is a true joy. Their service stands as a living witness that devotion to the Blood of Christ calls us to loving service for all.



AI Is Reshaping Our Lives

The Fire No Algorithm Can Kindle

The recent exhortation of Pope Leo XIV, inviting priests to refrain from relying on artificial intelligence in the crafting of homilies, arrives as a moment of clarity in an age fascinated with efficiency and novelty. His words echo a deeper concern—one that touches the very soul of preaching—for a homily is an event of grace before it is ever an exercise in composition.

A sermon lives within the mystery of encounter. The priest stands at the pulpit as one who has listened, who has wrestled, who has allowed the Word of God to pass through the corridors of his own heart. A machine may arrange phrases with elegance, echo theology with precision, and even imitate the cadence of saints, yet it remains outside the sanctuary of lived experience. The Gospel seeks a voice that has trembled before it, a voice that has been pierced and healed, a voice that speaks as a witness rather than as a compiler of insights.

Within every homily there is a hidden movement of the soul. Each word carries the weight of prayer, the silence of adoration, and the quiet struggles of faith unfolding in the priest's own life. When a preacher ascends the pulpit, he offers more than an explanation of Scripture; he offers himself as a vessel. The faithful hunger for authenticity—for a word born in the night of contemplation and brought into the light through sacrifice. A generated text, however refined, lacks the fragrance of that sacrifice.

Technology, in its proper place, serves humanity with admirable efficiency. It organizes knowledge, accelerates research, and opens pathways to understanding once hidden. Within the life of the Church, such

tools may assist in study, language, and the retrieval of tradition's riches. Even so, the homily occupies a sacred space that resists substitution. Preaching belongs to the realm of incarnation, where truth takes flesh in the life of the one who proclaims it.

The danger lies deeper than convenience. A reliance on artificial composition risks creating distance between the preacher and the Word. Over time, such distance may weaken the interior life, for the discipline of prayerful preparation gradually gives way to delegated expression. The priest then risks becoming a presenter of ideas rather than a herald of divine encounter. The Church, in her wisdom, calls her ministers to something greater—to stand as living bridges between heaven and earth.

In urging restraint, Pope Leo XIV calls priests back to the wellspring. He invites them into the demanding joy of personal engagement with Scripture, into the slow work of meditation, into the humility of allowing the Word to challenge and transform them. From such soil arises preaching that carries authority, for it springs from communion rather than construction.

A homily shaped by prayer bears a certain luminosity. It may lack polish in the eyes of the world, yet it possesses a fire no algorithm can replicate. It speaks with the quiet power of truth recognized rather than merely arranged. In an era captivated by artificial brilliance, the Church stands as a witness to something profoundly human and divinely inspired: a voice that has listened, a heart that has believed, and a word that becomes flesh once more in the act of preaching.

Rev. Jerome Hologa, CPPS
Director of Communication

A PLACE OF RENEWAL

St. Gaspar's Chapel, in its simplicity and peace, is a place where people come to renew their trust and faith in our loving Lord. The chapel was blessed by the Very Rev. Daniel Schaefer, CPPS, in October 1980. Over the years, many have come to adore the Blessed Sacrament—some to fulfill their scheduled daily prayer commitment, others for a brief visit, and still others seeking solace, thanksgiving, and peace. Many who enter deeply appreciate the stillness.

In the midst of trials, worries, and burdens, we, as pilgrims, are renewed in hope. Each day begins with Mass, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. At the weekly Friday evening Mass, intentions are offered for all USC members and in thanksgiving for benefactors.

People also come to pray before the relic of St. Gaspar. This devotion allows them to draw closer to his spirit through prayer, reflection, and personal intercession, finding hope amid their own adversities. One devotee shared, "As I leave this sacred space, I feel refreshed and renewed to continue in my daily work."

In earlier years, the chapel was supported largely by the Italian community, with visitors coming from across the city—and even from throughout Ontario and Canada—to bring their prayer intentions to St. Gaspar's Chapel. Today, with changing demographics, there is a growing presence of Filipino, Hispanic, East Indian, and Portuguese faith communities. This diversity is a blessing and a sign of vibrant faith.

The chapel invites all who enter to respond to their calling, to be open to conversion, to offer their petitions, and to give thanks. It is a place of grace, where hearts are touched by the Holy Spirit. The Missionaries of the Precious Blood are deeply blessed to have this chapel as an oasis in the city. Under the guidance of Fr. Alarey and Br. Anthony, St. Gaspar's Chapel welcomes all.

PLEASE NOTE: *Bloodlines* will not be published during the months of June, July, and August. Regular publication will resume in September. Wishing everyone a restful and blessed summer.

DATES TO REMEMBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MAY 24: Jerome Hologa

MAY 27: Anthony Canterucci

WITH THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF YOUR PRIESTHOOD

MAY 2: Brendan Doherty

MAY 4: Mario Cafarelli

MAY 10: Peter Nobili

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

MAY 10: Angelo Della Vecchia

WORDS OF OUR FOUNDERS

'His will will be for us the great balancing scale for every one of our holy undertakings.'

ST. GASPAR, LETTER 1879

'God will help us.

Let us move forward trusting in God, and rest assured.'

BLESSED GIOVANNI MERLINI, LETTER 16

UPDATE

From the Dicasterium pro Clericis: Michael R. Mateyk has received a dispensation from sacred celibacy and from the obligation connected to Sacred Ordination on March 10, 2026.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

THAT EVERYONE MIGHT HAVE FOOD
Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

Vocation Calendar

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1
ALAREY ABELLA | 17
LUIGINO SANTI |
| 2
MARIO CAFARELLI | 18
GERMÁN SANTIAGO ESTÉVEZ |
| 3
BROTHER ANTHONY CANTERUCCI | 19
RON WIECEK |
| 4
RENÉ CERECEDO | 20
USC MEMBERS |
| 5
JOHN COLACINO | 21
DECEASED CPPS MEMBERS |
| 6
SAMUEL D'ANGELO | 22
OUR BENEFACTORS |
| 7
BRENDAN DOHERTY | 23
FAMILY MEMBERS OF CPPS |
| 8
JOSEPH GRASSO | 24
THE SICK |
| 9
JEROME HOLOGA | 25
OUR BISHOPS |
| 10
DOMINIC JUNG | 26
POPE LEO XIV |
| 11
GERARDO LAGUARTILLA | 27
CANCER PATIENTS AND
THEIR CAREGIVERS |
| 12
GARY LUIZ | 28
THE LONELY |
| 13
RON MAHON | 29
WORLD PEACE |
| 14
WILLIAM MNYAGATWA | 30
CANDIDATES IN FORMATION |
| 15
PETER NOBILI | 31
OUR YOUTH |
| 16
AN INCREASE IN VOCATIONS | |

Prayer for Precious Blood Vocations

*O Lord, we come before you
seeking strength through
the Precious Blood of Christ.*

*May its saving power fill our hearts
with courage and resilience.*

*Help us draw upon this grace
in our struggles, that our weaknesses
may be transformed into fortitude.*

*Send us men willing to serve
the Congregation, and renew us in faith
as we trust in your love and mercy.
Amen.*

OUR CHALLENGE FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

*We are given a simple yet profound challenge
from the Prophet Micah:
“Forgive and forget.”
(cf. Micah 7:18)*