



SEPTEMBER 2026

BLOODLINES

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

*COME, HOLY SPIRIT,
fill the hearts of your faithful and
kindle in them the fire of your love.*

CF. PSALM 104:30



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

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EDITOR

Fr. Luigino Santi, CPPS

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Gino Marcuzzi

Email submissions to
luicpps@yahoo.ca
by the 25th of the month.

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A YEAR OF RENEWAL, DISCERNMENT, AND FRATERNITY

This year's Province Retreat, held from June 8 to 12, was led by Most Rev. John Corriveau, retired Bishop of the Diocese of Nelson, British Columbia.



His theme, 'Openness to the Holy Spirit', invited us into a deeper understanding of the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives and, more importantly, of who we are called to be as Missionaries of the Precious Blood and, more specifically, as members of the Atlantic Province. Unbeknownst to us at the time, his reflections would guide us toward a deeper appreciation of how the Spirit is working among us. It is truly amazing how God works.

Bishop John's words of wisdom inspired the members of the Province to continue and deepen our discernment of our present reality. His presentations on discernment, synodality, prayer, openness to the Holy Spirit, God's love, and other related themes opened the way for rich and honest dialogue. The conversations and reflections that followed each presentation unfolded naturally and candidly, encouraging us to seek greater clarity among ourselves.

We honestly reassessed our values, our common bonds, and our God-given gifts, while remaining open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we discern where and how the Spirit is calling us to move forward. Our fidelity to living our charism is challenging us to a renewal of heart and spirit. The retreat strengthened our sense of fraternity and renewed our desire and confidence to sustain and strengthen our mission, ministries, and way of life.

It was truly a wonderful week of prayer, listening, reflection, and relaxation.



**FROM GIANO
TO THE
WORLD: A
FOUNDING
ROOTED
IN THE
PRECIOUS
BLOOD**

**Rev. Gerardo
Laguartilla,
CPPS**

Today we
celebrate

the founding of our religious Congregation, the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, by St. Gaspar del Bufalo in 1815, in a small town called Giano—at a time when Italy did not yet exist as a unified nation.

From that small group led by St. Gaspar, who acquired an old abbey in need of much repair, in a town that was little more than a speck on the map, our mission began. Compelled by the power of the Precious Blood, Missionaries now serve in twenty countries around the world in ways St. Gaspar could scarcely have imagined. Yet we remain faithful to his vision: that the People of God can be reinvigorated, inspired, and empowered by turning their minds and hearts toward the Precious Blood Jesus shed for them. St. Gaspar entrusted our Congregation and its mission to the intercession of Mary, our Mother, who was assumed into heaven body and soul.

But this feast is not only about the Assumption of Mary. It is also about us. Mary has arrived where we hope one day to arrive.

Our readings offer us three simple invitations:

1. LOOK UP — We are made for heaven. In the Book of Revelation, we see the striking image of “a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.”

Mary in glory reminds us that this world is not our final home.

Who wants to go to heaven? Raise your hands.
And the rest—where do you want to go?
Who wants to go to heaven now?

Mary reminds us: this world is not our final home.

We can become too attached to possessions, positions, achievements, titles, and recognition. But one day, we leave everything behind.

Saint Paul tells us that Christ has conquered death. Because Jesus rose from the dead, death is no longer the end.

So when life becomes difficult, look up.
When someone you love dies, look up.
When your body grows weak, look up.
When you feel discouraged, look up.
Heaven is our destination.

2. STEP OUT — Serve while you are here. The Gospel tells us that after Mary received the news she would become the Mother of Jesus, she “set out and traveled to the hill country in haste.” She went to Elizabeth.

Mary had received an extraordinary blessing, yet she did not sit back and enjoy it alone. She went out to serve.

This teaches us something practical: if we want to reach heaven, we must learn to serve while we are on earth.

You do not need to do extraordinary things.
Visit someone who is lonely.
Care for an elderly parent.
Help a neighbour.

Listen to your children.

Forgive someone who hurt you.

The road to heaven often passes through the home of someone who needs us.

If we want to follow Mary to heaven, let us first follow her to Elizabeth’s house.

3. MAGNIFY GOD — Let your life point to Him. When Elizabeth praised Mary, Mary did not keep the attention for herself. She said, “My soul

proclaims the greatness of the Lord.”

That is Mary. She never says, “Look at me.” Her whole life says, “Look at God.”

This should also be true of us.

When you forgive, you show people something about God.

When you remain kind even when others are unkind, you show God.

When you remain honest even when cheating is easier, you show God.

Our lives should make people say: “If this is what faith can do to a person, then God must truly be good.”

A story is told:

A little boy was walking one evening with his father. He kept looking at the beautiful stars.

“Papa, is heaven up there?” he asked.

“Yes,” his father replied. “Heaven is our home with God.”

They walked on and saw an elderly woman struggling with her bags. The father stopped, helped her, and carried the bags to her home.

As they continued walking, the boy said:
“Papa, I think heaven is not only something we look up to. Maybe heaven begins when we help someone along the way.”

That is what Mary teaches us today.

LOOK UP — Heaven is our destination.

STEP OUT — Serve people along the way.

MAGNIFY GOD — Let your life lead others to Him.

Happy foundation anniversary to our community and to all our collaborators and partners in mission. May St. Gaspar inspire us, and through the intercession of Mary—who has gone before us—help us live well here on earth so that one day we may join her in heaven. Amen.

**SERVING TOGETHER FOR MISSION AND
COMMUNITY: MISSIO DINNER**

For many years, CPPS Mission Projects hosted an

annual gala dinner to raise funds in support of our mission initiatives in Tanzania and other charitable works. With changes in leadership and a decline in support for organizing the event, the gala was eventually discontinued, and fundraising relied primarily on the annual mail campaign.

In 2024, the St. Gaspar del Bufalo Council 18384 of the Knights of Columbus at St. Alphonsus rekindled this wonderful tradition. As part of their commitment to serving the community, the Council graciously chose to sponsor an annual Missio Dinner in support of the many outreach activities of CPPS Mission Projects, as well as the Vocation and Formation programs of the Atlantic Province.

We are deeply grateful to the Knights of Columbus for their generosity, dedication, and faithful partnership. Thanks to their leadership and hard work, attendance at the Missio Dinner has continued to grow each year, and this year we are expecting approximately 200 guests.

You are warmly invited to join us for this special evening. Please mark your calendar:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026, 6:30 P.M.

ST. ROCH’S CHURCH HALL

Please contact Fr. Lui to reserve your complimentary seat. The Knights of Columbus are generously providing the dinner as their gift to all Missionaries.

It is truly encouraging to witness the Knights of Columbus from our staff parishes working closely together in service to the Church and the wider community. Beyond sponsoring the Missio Dinner, they also prepare and serve a warm, home-cooked meal each month during the winter—partnering with the St. Michael’s Anglican Church community—to support those experiencing homelessness.

Their commitment to supporting our mission projects and caring for the poor in our city is a beautiful witness to faith in action. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Knights of Columbus for their generosity, friendship, and unwavering support of our mission.

“Throughout the pandemic, we ministered to parishioners, and they, in turn, ministered to one another. We emerged from that difficult period strengthened and ready to labour again for the Kingdom.”

MISSIONARY OF THE NORTH: PARISH CELEBRATION

Before Bishop Marcel Damphousse appointed me pastor of Holy Redeemer on August 1, 2019—the feast of St. Alphonsus Liguori—I had already been coming to Holy Redeemer on and off for twenty years to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the parish’s annual penitential services, and once a year for the turkey dinner the Redemptorists hosted for the local clergy. The priests always struck me as a warm and welcoming religious community, and the parishioners as a large, vibrant, faith-filled people. I noticed early on how intentionally the Redemptorists fostered lay involvement, offering parishioners many opportunities to serve in ministries flowing from their baptismal consecration. They also modeled collaborative leadership by including a paid lay pastoral associate on their pastoral team.

The parish’s love for the poor was evident in its long-standing commitment to the Minnow Lake Food Bank, first at the old site and then at the new one. Their willingness to embrace the new evangelization was equally clear in the progress made—prior to my arrival—in adopting the Rebuilt programme and discerning who in the local community was unserved, under-served, or consciously overlooked.

I arrived six months before the coronavirus pandemic restrictions came into effect. Holy

Redeemer weathered the challenges of Covid-19 largely thanks to parishioners who enrolled in the diocesan pre-authorized deposit programme, as well as those who faithfully delivered their envelopes to our outdoor locked drop boxes. Our staff, working from home, regularly called registered parishioners to check on their well-being and to offer support during the isolation and inability to gather for worship. Throughout the pandemic, we ministered to parishioners, and they, in turn, ministered to one another. We emerged from that difficult period strengthened and ready to labour again for the Kingdom.

During this time, the dedication and professionalism of my staff were truly noteworthy: Sharon Houle (Office Administrator), Monique MacIntyre (Lay Pastoral Associate), JM Girard (Building & Grounds Manager), and, two years into the pandemic, Rachel Ross (Building & Grounds Manager, succeeding JM upon his retirement).

Each of them went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that both the pastoral and physical needs of the parish were met.

A wonderful surprise in the post-pandemic period was the large number of immigrant families who began worshipping with us, enriching our community with their cultural gifts and skills. Our volunteer coordinator, Linda Dupuis, was instrumental in creating ministry descriptions and guiding newcomers through the diocesan requirements for ministry and mission. Around this time, Monique retired, and we welcomed Claudia Rodriguez—an immigrant from Colombia—as our Ministry and Mission Assistant. Not only did she excel in her role, but she also helped bring the Latino community into fuller participation at Holy Redeemer, leading us to offer Mass in Spanish once every two months.

After the pandemic, we also welcomed the diocesan offices into the parish rectory, and so my



Bishop Marcel Damphousse joins Rev. Samuel D'Angelo (right) and fellow clergy in celebrating the Eucharist at Holy Redeemer.

cat, Pistachio, and I moved into an apartment in the south end of the city. The Diocese was generous in renovating our shared workspace and continues to be a valued partner in managing common area expenses.

I am deeply grateful to my predecessors and to the Diocese for all they have done to shape Holy Redeemer into the parish it is today. I am equally grateful to those currently serving in paid and volunteer roles in our ministries and missions. Together, we will ensure that Holy Redeemer’s legacy remains strong and that all who come here may find a warm and joyful welcome.

In the words of Pope Francis: TODOS, TODOS, TODOS!

**Rev. Samuel L. D'Angelo, CPPS
Pastor**



Fr. Samuel D'Angelo's latest oil pastel, a 9×12-inch piece entitled *Méditation en le Jardin*. He has been very busy creatively throughout the summer, and upcoming issues of *Bloodlines* will feature additional works from his growing collection.

CELEBRATING LIFE AND MINISTRY

► This year, Frs. John and Mario celebrated their 70th birthdays—and neither shows any intention of retiring. Fr. Lui also celebrated his 65th birthday and has begun collecting OAS. His first instalment was quickly put to good use as he hosted a dinner to mark this new rite of passage.

► On June 24, Fr. Jerome Hologa was appointed pastor of St. Roch’s Church. We continue to hold him in prayer as he guides and walks with his parishioners, helping them discover the love of God in their lives.

DATES TO REMEMBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

SEPTEMBER 9: Samuel D'Angelo

SEPTEMBER 12: René Cerecedo

SEPTEMBER 24: Gerardo Laguartilla

(SEPTEMBER 1, 1966: Established Atlantic Vicariate, Fr. Nicholas Arioli as Vicariate Director)

MONDAY OCTOBER 12, 2026

**Thanksgiving Dinner
St. Roch’s Church**

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21

**Feast of St. Gaspar
St. Alphonsus Church**

SATURDAY OCTOBER 24

**Missio Fundraising Dinner
St. Roch’s Parish Hall**

WORDS OF OUR FOUNDERS

**In the meantime, prayer, study and preparation for the ministry, while cultivating holy humility.
St. Gaspar, Letter 2491**

God is the Father of peace, not of turbulence.

Therefore, let us continue to move forward with trust in God... rest in the heart of Jesus.

Giovanni Merlini, Letter 274

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

For the care of water.

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.



CELEBRATING THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

July brought us together for a joyful celebration on July 1, Canada Day and the Feast of the Precious Blood. The BBQ, hosted by Frs. Mario and Gerardo on the patio at St. Charles Church, created a relaxed and festive atmosphere. Between storytelling, Fr. B.’s colourful tales of his travels, fine wine, and plenty of snacks, the gathering stretched well into the evening—until Fr. Mario finally had to beg everyone to “go home!”

THE UNION OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST
CONGREGATION OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD—
ATLANTIC PROVINCE INVITES YOU TO THE:

**PRECIOUS BLOOD OF
CHRIST PILGRIMAGE
MARTYRS’ SHRINE,
MIDLAND
AT THE SAN NICOLA
DA CRISSA ALTAR**

THEME: WITH A THOUSAND
TONGUES WE GO FORTH TO
DRAW EVERY SOUL TO THE
BLOOD OF CHRIST

- EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION
- ADORATION
- PROCESSION
- ANOINTING OF THE SICK
- EUCHARISTIC BENEDICTION

PRESIDER
REV. GERRY LAQUARTILLA CPPS
HOMILIST
VERY REV. LUIGINO SANTI CPPS

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026

► **7AM DEPARTURE**
ST. CHARLES BORROMEO CHURCH
9:30AM ARRIVAL AT SHRINE

► **BUS FARE \$50**
► SIMPLE BREAKFAST INCLUDED
► BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH

► **CONTACT**
LISA 416.856.3762
GLORIE 647.825.1556
ADORA 647.863.3768
VHAL 647.956.8499

Blood. Frs. Gerardo and Lui guided the USC gathering. After a two-hour drive, breakfast was served on the grounds, followed by free time and then an outdoor Eucharistic celebration.

Fr. Gerardo presided, and Fr. Lui preached on living the Precious Blood each day with joy—welcoming a change of heart and embracing renewal.

**UNITED IN THE PRECIOUS BLOOD:
FOUNDATION DAY AT NIAGARA**

On August 14, the Solemnity of the Assumption and our Foundation Day, we gathered at St. Gaspar House in Niagara for a full and festive celebration. The Mass was presided by Fr. Lui Santi, CPPS, and Fr. Jerome shared the homily. Fr. Ron and the Spanish Community prepared a wonderful summer meal with fine desserts, and the afternoon unfolded in fellowship and fraternity..

The following day, 75 USC members from the Toronto area travelled to Gaspar House, where the festivities continued with a unique blend of Filipino, Spanish, Italian, and East Indian foods—beautifully reflecting the diversity of the Body of Christ. Food, music, prayer, and fraternity filled the day.

Fr. Lui presided at the Eucharist, Fr. Gerardo offered the homily, and Fr. Ron gave a presentation after lunch. Fr. Peter concluded the celebration with Adoration and Benediction. There was also time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, leisurely walks along the Niagara River, fraternity, and a lively sing-along.



USC members gather at St. Gaspar House for a joyful weekend of prayer, fellowship, and cultural celebration.

RENEWED IN FRATERNITY AND MISSION: WELCOMING FR. BENEDETTO LABATE



The recent visit of Fr. Benedetto Labate, CPPS, Provincial of the Italian Province, offered him the opportunity to meet our community and gain a deeper understanding of our present ministries. He was impressed by what he witnessed and remarked, “Although you are a small unit, you accomplish much. I am pleased with how you give witness to our Precious Blood charism.”

His words encourage us as we continue to live our charism with conviction and courage. As a Province, we remain grateful for the many ways the Holy Spirit guides us, renews us, and calls us to deeper fraternity and faithful service.

NEW USC LOCAL DIRECTORS Lisa Endangan of St. Charles Borromeo Church and Margarita Dias of St. Alphonsus Church have accepted the role of USC local directors. These dedicated women will assist Fr. Gerardo in organizing days of recollection, formation sessions, and other USC activities, strengthening the life and mission of the Union within our parishes.



**AI AND THE HUMAN HEART: KEEPING OUR
RELATIONSHIPS AT THE CENTER**

The insightful reflection by Fr. Jerome Hologa, CPPS, on artificial intelligence encourages us to take the time to understand both the uses and capabilities of this technology. I agree with his reflection, as well as with Pope Leo’s recent writings, which caution us about the potential harms of AI and remind us that it must be used wisely and responsibly.

Artificial intelligence cannot replace our relationship with God or with one another. AI—and computers more broadly—are not human beings. Technology does not possess a soul, nor is it truly

intelligent in the human sense. These systems process information and generate responses based on data and patterns provided by human beings. They depend on people to ask questions, provide direction, discern what is true and useful, and exercise sound judgment.

As Br. Guy Consolmagno, SJ, wisely reminds us: “Data is not information; information is not knowledge; knowledge is not wisdom. True wisdom begins with God and ends with God.”

Our journey of faith is rooted in an encounter with a living Person—Jesus Christ. We come to know God and deepen our relationship with Him through prayer, the celebration of the sacraments, and our relationships with one another.

Let us never forget that AI is artificial. While it can be a useful tool and can assist us in many ways, it can never replace the living relationships we share with God and with one another. God is living and real, and so are our brothers and sisters. No technology can substitute for the presence, love, compassion, and personal encounter that are at the heart of our relationship with God and with one another.

Rev. Luigino Santi, CPPS

Vocation Calendar

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

Prayer for Precious Blood Vocations

*LOVING GOD,
all glory and praise to you.
We place the needs of our community and our future
into your hands.
Help us discern how to live more fully
our charism and spirituality.
Fill us with hope and joy as we walk our journey
toward the new heaven and the new earth.
Strengthen us to live faithfully our Bond of Charity
with one another.
Continue to send men to serve the Church
with zeal and generosity.*

*Renew in all of us the joy of our call, the fidelity
of our response, and the deep hope of transforming
our world through the power of His Blood,
which continues to flow through us
and heal the brokenness of our world.*

*May Mary, our Lady of the Precious Blood,
Saint Gaspar, Blessed Giovanni Merlini, and
Saint Maria de Mattias guide us to a new vision,
so that, in our day, we may be renewed daily
as authentic Missionaries of the Precious Blood.
Amen.*