



# Bloodlines

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

SEPTEMBER 2025

## VOICE FROM OUR FOUNDER

*You note from this that I am wedded to the ministry and not to my own wishes. I am content only when I do the will of God.*

— Letter 1537, Gaspar del Bufalo

*It consists in a total stripping of ourselves and wanting to live to fulfill the divine will alone.*

*This we shall learn at the feet of Jesus Christ.*

— Letter 19, Blessed Giovanni Merlini

## HOPE IN COMMUNITY AND COMMUNION

We walk together. A moment to reflect and pray

*Acts of the Apostles 4:32 All the believers were one in heart and mind.*

As Pilgrims of Hope, our journey is never solitary. The spirituality of the Precious Blood calls us to recognize and nurture the unity of the Body of Christ—bound together by the Blood shed for all. This unity is not abstract; it is lived daily in our communities, our houses, and among those with whom we minister.

Let us recommit to building strong bonds of fellowship. May we walk together in love and unity, praying for harmony within our communities and asking for the grace to be a source of encouragement and support to one another.

*This summer, members of the Atlantic Province have been actively engaged in missionary work. Within these pages is a collage of events capturing the spirit, joy, and dedication reflected in their many activities.*

### ► MAY 18 – St. Alphonsus Church

Fr. Alarey Abella, CPPS, led a heartfelt procession through the streets of the parish, with our Blessed Mother Mary at the center, guiding the faithful. Parishioners sang, chanted, and prayed the Holy Rosary, offering a powerful witness of love and devotion to Our Lady.

The atmosphere was filled with grace, unity, and deep reverence as the community came together in prayer and celebration.

### MAY 25 – St. Roch's Church

The parish joyfully celebrated the 55th Anniversary of the Catholic Women's League. In a spirit of thanksgiving, the Missionaries were invited to share in this special milestone, joining the community in honoring decades of faith, service, and sisterhood.

### ▼ MAY 26 – Celebrating Our Lady Help of Christians

On this special day, we gathered to honor and celebrate Our Lady Help of Christians with a festive meal shared in joyful fellowship. The celebration began with a heartfelt prayer of thanksgiving, asking Our Lady for her continued help and protection.



**PICTURED: Rita, Antonietta, Linda, Rose, and Connie, together with our CPPS members, joined in this meaningful occasion—reflecting on Mary's loving presence and the grace she brings to our lives.**





## ◀ MAY 25 – Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians

During the celebratory meal, Fr. Alarey wasted no time in delighting both the community and restaurant staff with an impromptu musical interlude. His enthusiasm was so infectious that Fr. Mario had to gently pry the microphone from his hands—just so he could finally enjoy his meal! Thank you, Fr. Alarey, for sharing your joyful spirit with us!

## ▶ MAY 29 – Blessed Giovanni Merlini's Relic Visits Parish Schools

The relic of Blessed Giovanni Merlini made its way into the schools of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, bringing with it a spirit of reflection and devotion. Frs. Gerardo and Lui, along with Gino, Emily, Jennifer, and fellow USC members, visited St. Charles and Regina Mundi Catholic Schools to raise awareness of Blessed Merlini's life and legacy.

The visit began with the recitation of the Chaplet of the Precious Blood, followed by a reading of a short letter written by Merlini and a reflection on the significance of relics and the virtues he embodied.

Staff and students then venerated the relic in a quiet, prayerful atmosphere, accompanied by hymns and moments of silence.

It was a deeply spiritual afternoon that left a lasting impression on all who participated.

▶ **UPPER RIGHT:** A student from St. Charles CS guides fellow students in reciting the *Our Father*.

▶ **LOWER RIGHT:** Students from St. Charles CS approach in prayerful reverence to venerate the relic of Blessed Giovanni Merlini, held by Father Germán.

## Earlier in the Month – Veneration at VJM School

At Venerable John Merlini School, part of St. Roch's Church, Fr. Jerome celebrated a beautiful Mass in honor of Blessed Giovanni Merlini. He shared insights into Merlini's life, his accomplishments, and the importance of praying for his canonization. The celebration was a moving tribute to a man whose faith continues to inspire.





## MAY 31 – Mary’s Day

The Archdiocese of Toronto dedicated this special day to honoring our Blessed Mother Mary.

Dr. Josephine Lombardi, the keynote speaker, delivered an inspiring talk that invited all present to turn to Mary as a model of hope and compassion.

Fathers Germán Santiago and Lui Santi, CPPS, along with members of the Unio Sanguis Christi (USC), hosted a booth to promote devotion to Our Lady of the Precious Blood. Prayer cards, rosaries, chaplets of the Precious Blood, and light refreshments were shared with attendees.

This beautiful day, organized by the Archdiocese, aimed to deepen love and devotion to our Blessed Mother. We were especially honored by the presence of His Eminence, Cardinal Francis Leo, who made a heartfelt visit to our table. He graciously spent quality time engaging in conversation with USC members, leaving a lasting impression on all.



## Provincial Assembly and Discernment Process

**Small group discussion with Frs. John, Mario, and Gerardo**

**Round table sharing and visioning**







## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF PRIESTLY SERVICE,

Fr. Mario is honored for his dedication and spiritual leadership. May his ministry continue to flourish for many years ahead.



## 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](mailto:luicpps@yahoo.ca) or mail it to 100 Pelmo Crescent, Toronto, Ontario M9N 2Y1, by the 25<sup>TH</sup> OF THE MONTH.*

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## JULY 1 – St. Charles Borromeo Church

On the dual celebration of the Feast of the Precious Blood and Canada Day, the community gathered at St. Charles Borromeo Church for a joyful day of faith and fellowship.

Fathers Mario and Gerardo warmly hosted a BBQ, beginning with heartfelt prayers and uplifting chants, followed by a social and shared meal.







### **JULY 5 – Pilgrimage of Hope and Merlini Day**

In celebration of the Holy Year of Hope, five buses filled with parishioners from St. Alphonsus, St. Charles, and Precious Blood Churches journeyed to Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, Ontario.

The day was one of deep thanksgiving to the Lord, marked by a beautiful outdoor Mass and Benediction.

Music and hymns from various language groups enriched the liturgy, reflecting the unity and diversity of our faith community.

A generous lunch was prepared for all to savor.



### **JULY 8 TO 10 – A Joyful Welcome and New Beginnings**



Fr. Samuel D'Angelo, CPPS, warmly welcomed Fr. Lui Santi, CPPS, to Holy Redeemer Parish in Sudbury, Ontario.

The occasion marked not only a meaningful visit but also the unveiling of a major transformation: the former rectory, now beautifully renovated, has become the new Chancery Office of the Diocese. Among the many artworks displayed throughout the hallways of both the Chancery and the parish, two pieces especially cherished by Fr. Samuel are the native art and the painting of St. Pope John Paul II.





## **AUGUST 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM and Welcoming Michael Okafor**

On the Solemnity of the Assumption, the community gathered at Gaspar House in Niagara Falls for a day filled with grace and celebration. This year's feast took on special meaning as we joyfully welcomed Michael Okafor into the Special Formation Program of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

Michael recently completed his Initial Formation and philosophy studies while residing at Merlini House. He will now continue his theological journey at St. Peter's Seminary.

His path to religious life began at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, where he faithfully attended Mass and served as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.

A man of quiet dedication, Michael spent his weekends working at a group home—an experience that taught him deep compassion and patience through service to others.

We invite you to keep Michael in your prayers and to continue praying that the Master of the harvest may send more Missionaries of the Precious Blood to labor in His vineyard.



## **AUGUST 16 – Honouring the Relics of Blessed Giovanni Merlini**

Members of the Union of the Blood of Christ (USC) from the Toronto area gathered at Gaspar House in Niagara Falls for a day of prayer, reflection, and deep spiritual connection.

The occasion centered on venerating the sacred relics of Blessed Giovanni Merlini, which have been journeying throughout CPPS parishes and residences over the past year.

Mass was celebrated in the chapel with 65 USC members in attendance, accompanied by the uplifting voices of the USC Choir. Following the liturgy, a luncheon was shared, fostering fellowship and community. The afternoon featured a thoughtful reflection on the life and legacy of Blessed Merlini, whose example continues to inspire.

Throughout the day, the relics remained in the chapel, offering a sacred space for personal prayer and quiet contemplation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was available, allowing many to experience healing and renewal. Fr. Gerardo opened the gathering with a conference, and Fr. Ron delivered a moving homily during the Mass.

