



Bloodlines

Newsletter of the Atlantic Province
Winter 2017

Committee Reports

The provincial council meeting scheduled for Nov. 17 has been postponed to Jan. 4, 2018.

Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee for the Viability of the Gaspar Mission House

The meeting was held via Skype on October 2, 2017. Present were Sam D'Angelo, Gary Luiz, Alarey Abella, Peter Nobili

The following topics were discussed:

Possible usages of the Gaspar Mission House. Among the suggestions were a house of discernment, a house for retired priests (including diocesan priests), and a place for retreats.

Feasibility of a house of discernment at the Gaspar Mission House. Among the factors in favor included the availability of philosophy courses available at Brock University or online through Athabasca University. Brock University is, however 31.2 km or 26 minutes by away. Options for transportation were also discussed.

Advantages and disadvantages to the Gaspar Mission House as a house of discernment. The surroundings are quiet and there are two distinct parts of the building. There is not a lot of ministry going on in the building at present. It is close to the Buffalo airport for travel to the United States. It would help us to get to know the students better and for the students to get to know us better. Several members mentioned that the distance from Brock University may be an issue. If Alarey were on a trip, who would be in charge of the students? Someone will need to be designated as an assistant to the Vocations Director when he is absent.

Financial information for the Gaspar Mission House. Fr. Peter explained the way finances should be working ideally, including rentals of the barn and the small house which should pay for the utilities and maintenance of the house. If retirees were living there, monies from them would make the house affordable without a large subsidy from the Province. The amount of money needed would depend on the number of discerners and retirees in the house.

Other locales for the house of discernment. Mention was made of St. Alphonsus Church and the grounds of Christ the King Seminary in Aurora, NY with their potential advantages and disadvantages.

Other uses for the mission house. Rental of rooms to diocesan priests was mentioned and a preference the house remain for community members only if the discernment program did not materialize there.

Conclusion and Recommendation. The group consensus was that the Gaspar Mission House may be viable as both a house of discernment in the new wing and a retirement home in the original house and that this should commence in January 2018. After one year, the same committee would evaluate whether the objectives of the house of discernment are being met. If not, they will make recommendations for a change.

Vocation/Formation Committee Meeting

The committee met at the Merlini Study Centre on November 15. Present were Augusto Menichelli (chairperson), Sam D'Angelo (secretary), Alarey Abella, and Michael Mateyk. Regrets from Luigino Santi.

Report from Vocation Director

- **Discerners.** Alarey is discerning with two persons in Canada and four in the Philippines.
- **Visa for Applicants Ronaldo and Keyvin.** Augusto has been dealing with a variety of issues and legal personnel to clear their immigration status. Stefan Juzkiw is the immigration lawyer and Ben Bishop is assisting.
- **Paul Perri.** Alarey presented his application which was accepted. Alarey will write a letter informing Paul including details of when he will move in to the house of discernment in Niagara Falls. It was recommend he take four courses each semester.
- **House of Discernment Guidelines.** Luigino wrote a letter recommending that discerners can also work in a non-parochial setting for their apostolates. All were in agreement.

Proposed Revisions to the Formation Program

Preamble and Title I

- initial formation be done at the house of discernment so that when potential candidates move to Toronto they can proceed with special formation;
- replace the term “students” with the term “candidates” when they are living in the house of discernment while those living at the house of formation would be termed “seminarians.” Those discerning brotherhood would be called candidates throughout their formation process;
- the maximum age for entry into the program be 45;
- the Vocation Director and members of the Vocation/Formation Committee be included among those who recommend potential candidates;
- a joint retreat with members of the house of formation and the house of discernment be added at a time agreed upon by the directors of each respective house.

Title 2

- that Special Formation be done at the house of formation;

- a description of community life be included somewhere in the policies;
- delete all references to the beginning of special formation as the date may vary from candidate to candidate;
- if any international applicants cannot gain entry before January, they go to the house of discernment until such time as they can begin studies in Toronto and have acclimated to life in Canada.

Augusto has spoken with the Provincial about the amount for seminarians' stipends in special formation. He suggested \$150.00 per month plus a bus/subway pass.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2018.

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 4 (B) Ronald Mahon (1951)
- 6 (B) St. Gaspar Del Bufalo (1786)
- 6 (I) Carlo Della Vecchia (1953)
- 6 (I) Luciano Baiocchi (1953)
- 11 (D) Nicola Santoro (1941)
- 11 (B) Dominic Jung (1961)
- 12 (D) Venerable John Merlini (1873)
- 15 (O) Luigino Santi (1994)

FEBRUARY

- 1(I) Phillip Smith (1976)
- 4 Memorial of St. Maria De Mattias
- 6 (B) Ronald Wiecek (1944)
- 6 (D) Albert De Pascale (2001)

- 25 (D) Cardinal Belisario Cristaldi (1831)

MARCH

- 3 (B) John Colacino (1956)
- 12 (B) Gregorio Hernandez Cortes (1975)
- 17 (D) Joseph Gentili (1980)
- 25 (O) Ronald Mahon (1977)

APRIL

- 17 (I) Gary Luiz (1974)
- 18 (D) Carl Longenback (1999)
- 23 Foundation of the Atlantic Province (1987)
- 23 (O) Gary Luiz (1977)



Voice of the Founder

May the Lord, during these very holy days, fill you with a most ardent zeal for his glory. From that zeal flows the eagerness to work hard in the evangelical field in order to maintain, sustain and diffuse the good to his divine glory (Letter, # 2814)



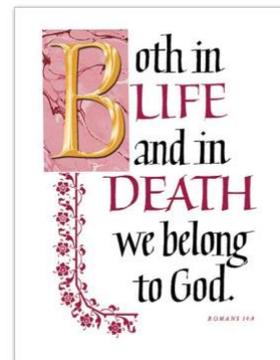
Provincial Retreat

June 11-15, 2018
Mt. Carmel Centre; Niagara Falls,
ON

Retreat Director:

Fr. Scott Lewis SJ

*Vice President and Dean
Associate Professor of New*



*In your charity, please remember in
your prayers:*

*Maximo Abella, uncle of Fr. Alarey
Theresa Santelli, aunt of Fr. John*

Member Profile

Fr. Sam D'Angelo C.P.P.S.

I was born on September 9, 1967 in Rochester, New York, the second-born of identical twins. I also have a sister, Lorisa, who was born ten years later. My siblings and I were raised in Rochester and my family always went to Mass on Sundays, first at Holy Apostles Church and then, when we moved to the suburbs, at St. Mark's Church in Greece, NY. It was there that I first heard the call to be a priest. My pastor, Rev. Joe Donovan encouraged me to consider the priesthood, as I was one of the church's altar servers. When I reached high school, the pastor asked me to lead a youth group at the church, and to become a Lector and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

I graduated from Greece Athena High School in 1986. Still unsure of which direction my life would take; my pastor encouraged me to get a science degree and enough philosophy courses in case I ever decided that the priesthood might be God's calling. Knowing that I excelled academically, he encouraged me to attend a Jesuit school. Heeding Fr. Donovan's advice, I attended LeMoyne College in Syracuse for a year before transferring over to John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio where I graduated with a biology degree and minors in Chemistry and German. It was at John Carroll where I became very involved in Campus Ministry and became a fan of Jesuit spirituality. You name the ministry, I did it at JCU! Rev. Bill Nicholls, SJ and Sr. Mary Noel, OP, sponsored a vocations group that met once a week to discuss various topics regarding religious vocations. That group helped me see the wide variety of options available in religious life. But by the time of graduation, I still was unsure of what God wanted of my life.

So I did what many people do in order to defer decisions---I went to graduate school at the University of Dayton where I received a teaching assistantship in the Biology Department. It was one Sunday, while I attended mass at Our Lady of the Angels Church, that I knew that science was not my calling. The song *Ashes* hit me powerfully that day, and I knew that my life's vision needed a wider view, as the song said.

Since I was from a diocesan parish, I decided to give the diocese a shot. I entered Becket Hall (a discernment house in Rochester) and lived there in community for a year while working at Ward's Natural Science in the Living Materials department. I lived at Becket Hall with four other young men, but I could tell that the diocesan life was not for me. I was reading a book by Michael Scanlon at the time entitled *Let the Fire Fall* in which he recalls his own vocation to the Third Order Franciscans. His call became clear after visiting various religious groups in their places of ministry. So I went on a two-week trip with two of my friends and we visited the Redemptorists, the Passionists, the Mercedarians, the Pallotines, the Eudists, and the Holy Cross communities. After that trip, my vocation took sharper focus. Even after visiting all those groups, I realized that I would like to become a Jesuit, were it not for the amount of education that was required.

One of my fellow discerners insightfully suggested that I look into the Precious Blood Fathers who ministered at St. Jerome's Church. His grandmother lived in East Rochester and he had some familiarity with the congregation. Frs. Masciangelo and Colacino were there. What a

phenomenal mass that was -- powerful preaching by John and prayerful liturgical presiding by Richard! Those were the kind of priests I wanted to be!

Making my vocational discernment known, they invited me out to dinner the following week and from there I contacted Fr. Mario Cafarelli who was the Vocation Director and who resided at St. Roch's Church in Toronto. He invited me to visit for a weekend when he arranged for local community members to go out to dinner to meet me. There I felt the warmth and the love of a family of brothers who thoroughly enjoyed being together. And it didn't hurt that Fr. Mario wanted to watch *Star Trek* afterward or that Fr. Peter gave me an application that very night! I also learned that much of Jesuit spirituality was a part of Precious Blood spirituality because St. Gaspar himself admired the Jesuits and wanted to be one.

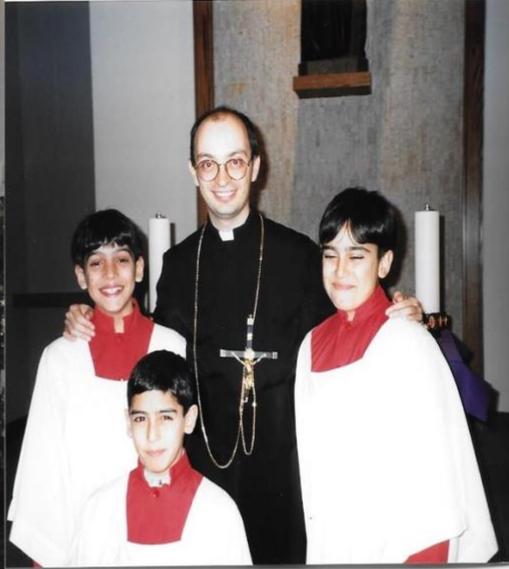
So after being admitted, I went to Kansas City, MO where there was an interprovincial house of discernment for the CPPS. I lived with six other young men who were also in initial formation for the Precious Blood community from the three American provinces. I loved it there and made several lifelong friendships. After the year was over, Fr. Mario sent me to Regis College (run by the Jesuits) in Toronto where I graduated in 1998. I was then sent to live at Via Narni in Rome for six months for my cross-cultural experience and then was quickly incorporated at St. Alphonsus, ordained a deacon at St. Roch's, and then a priest at St. Mark's Church, Rochester, on July 3, 1999.

In the Diocese of St. Catharines, I ministered at St. Michael's Church in Fort Erie as a deacon for 5 months, then at Our Lady of the Scapular Church as Associate Pastor for 8 months, followed by an assignment as Vocations Director in Toronto, where I assisted weekends at St. John of the Cross Church.

Then I made the move North to the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie where I was tasked with combining two worship sites into one, and so became pastor of St. Alexander Church in Chelmsford for 7 years. Bishop Plouffe then asked me to minister in North Bay for a short time as pastor of St. Rita's Church and Holy Name of Jesus Church. Because St. Rita's was predominantly Italian, he felt its eventual closure would be easier with a pastor of Italian descent. When the parish finally did close due to diocesan restructuring, Bishop Plouffe asked me to develop a course of studies and to be the director of the permanent diaconate program for the diocese. So I moved to Sudbury and took an office in the chancery while simultaneously being named pastor at St. Andrew the Apostle Church and liaison to campus ministry chaplains in Sudbury. I undertook the office of Vocation Director for the CPPS as well and after recently resigned from that position after an eight-year stint.

Bishop Damphousse replaced Bishop Plouffeee over a year ago, and since that time I have been asked to continue my work with the permanent diaconate programme and was named chairperson of the presbyteral council. In all of my ministries, I have tried to live the spirituality of the Precious Blood in all that I do and to give a Precious Blood slant to all of my preaching. Did I make a wise decision to join the Missionaries of the Precious Blood? You be the judge! For my part, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in our Province as your brother and consider it a great blessing to have been entrusted with carrying on the work of St. Gaspar. Who knows what the future will bring!

Some scenes from Fr. Sam's ministry



Welcome to a New Candidate – Jerome Hologa



Born on May 24, 1988, I am one of the lucky ones to be raised by extraordinary grandmothers. My grandmother Regina was loving and caring and, above all, a devout Catholic. She did not only work hard to provide for my human, social and intellectual needs but she also made sure I was fully initiated, integrated and grounded in the Catholic faith. She persistently reminded me (though at times, it felt more like nagging) to pray, read my Bible, go to Mass, and say the rosary. We had good conversations about faith, and she explained why she cared so much for my spiritual development. Her desire was for me to mature as a God-fearing person. She counselled me to build and maintain a good relationship with God because in the darkest moments I would need Him to light my way and lessen the burden of my cross. Although I didn't understand many of her spiritual insights, I had a deep inner conviction that Christ is real and I felt His sweet and gentle presence in my life.

The seed of faith planted in me by my grandmother later started to yield good fruits in various facets of ministries in my home parish in Sanza Manyoni, Tanzania. As I became closer to the Church, I was greatly inspired by Fr. Antonio Zanette's ministry – the way he gave himself fully to the service of his flock. I also wanted one day to preach the Good News tirelessly myself, to bring water to those without, to provide food for the hungry, to send to school children and young people who are denied access to better education, and to care for the sick, the old and the dying. I remember I used to tell my grandmother and others how I wished one day to become a

good priest like Fr. Antonio Zanette. Never running out of encouragement, she exhorted me to never stop believing. Others thought I was dreaming -- and indeed at that time, I was just a dreamer.

As I matured, I started asking myself if there was more to life. What is the purpose of my life? I questioned and examined my values, beliefs, goals and dreams. It became clearer that I had many questions with only a handful of answers. My spirit was troubled. But it was not until I started practicing the examen prayer that I started experiencing spiritual consolation for the many questions that made my soul restless. Through the examen prayer, I learned to appreciate more the experiences of my life – the good ones, the bad ones, the proud ones, the shameful ones, the happy ones, the sad ones, the right ones and the wrong ones. And these experiences taught me the invaluable lesson that I am a unique creation of God, and that He placed in me unique gifts, abilities, passions, dreams and desires to serve Him, others and the world. But unless they are under His control, they will be misused, misapplied, misdirected, abused and wasted. With prayer, spiritual direction and discernment, I came to accept the responsibility of using whatever God has entrusted me with to serve others as a faithful steward of God’s grace in the priesthood. I felt called to improve my skills and knowledge in order to lead myself and other Christians to God. I felt called to discover and communicate spiritual truths to others. I felt called to witness and be an example of the love of God – working towards promoting unity, peace, reconciliation and the fullness of life, not only for Catholics but for all people. Filled with enthusiasm for doing something for God’s glory, I joined the Consolata Seminary Mafinga in 2003 for my Ordinary and Advanced Education – an exciting journey that would one day lead me to Toronto, Canada.

Although the journey of my discernment has evolved over the years, the desire to become a disciple of Jesus and the kind of priest I always wanted to become have remained steadfast. With the Church so rich in diversity and various forms of ministry, the “Good Shepherd” beckons as the ideal priest I have always loved to become. A priest for me participates and partakes, in a unique way, in the mission of Christ – he is *in persona Christi*. Just like Christ, a priest becomes the pastor, servant and shepherd who gathers, teaches and leads the flock towards God. Jesus the Good Shepherd laid down his life for the sheep and in the same way a priest goes out among his flock and gives himself completely to those he serves.

As I brought this desire to the Lord in prayer and to my spiritual director, the Precious Blood appealed as the fertile soil for the seed of my vocation to grow and bear good fruit. My spiritual gifts, abilities, personality, experience, passions and skills-set seemed to match the Precious Blood’s apostolate. More importantly, I have witnessed the image of the “good shepherd” among many of the Precious Blood Missionaries. Deserving of special mention are Fr. Egidius Seneda, Fr. William Mnyagatwa, Br. Maganga, my beloved professor Fr. Celestine Sahaya Soosai and my inspiring pastor Fr. Lui Santi. Moreover, I am moved by how the Precious Blood Missionaries bring love to the global periphery – to marginalized people. At one point between 2009-2011, I worked closely with Fr. Antonio Zanette, IMC whose generosity brought water to many villages of Sanza Parish Manyoni. He did such an incredible ministry in collaboration with the C.P.P.S water project. I still remember the happy faces of mothers and children as the machines drilled out water! That experience stuck with me and it has always reminded me that I was part of a life-changing experience. All of this made the decision to join the Precious Blood in the Atlantic Province an easy one. My sole desire is for my ministry to draw smiles among those I will be entrusted to serve. May God help me to respond and correspond faithfully to His call.

**Scenes from the Feast of St. Gaspar in Toronto and
Entrance into Special Formation of Gerardo Viaguartilla**





New Precious Blood Spirituality Book is Planned

One element of the Pastoral Plan of the General Curia is to continue to deepen the Congregation's appreciation and understanding of our Spirituality. To that end, the General Curia will be publishing a new book of essays on Precious Blood Spirituality.

The book will take a thematic approach with possible themes of how our Spirituality addresses such themes as immigration, violence, care of creation, poverty, LGBT, lay perspectives, feminine perspectives, and intercultural issues. These themes are just a few examples of the possibilities. We want to hear from new and fresh voices. Basically, we want to hear how you are living out our Spirituality in your context today.

We need your help. Are you interested in writing a short essay on one of these topics or a similar topic? Please contact Rev. Jeffrey Kirch, C.P.P.S., secgencpps@gmail.com, if you are interested or if you have questions.