



Bloodlines

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

APRIL 2024

PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

Two are better...

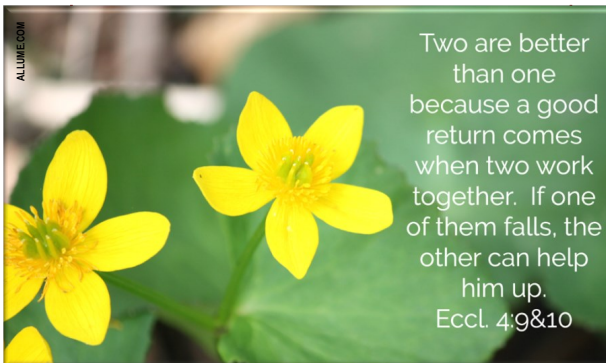
Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

A thriving community can indeed inspire us, but what truly sustains and deepens our faith, ministry, and sense of belonging (community) is when we support and treat each other as brothers in Christ. We have gathered in this community because we recognize the value of togetherness. We hold a firm belief in communal living. Through shared prayers, steadfast commitment to our relationships, and journeying together through struggles and differences, we fortify our convictions and manifest our spirituality within our community.

It is disheartening to hear sentiments such as, "If I do not like it, I will just leave." Therefore, the question arises: are we mature enough to share our thoughts and engage in sincere, prayerful discernment?

The potency of community life emanates from its divine origin. As human beings, we are not designed for isolation but for relationship. As missionaries, it is a privilege to exemplify reconciliation and fraternity in our lives and ministry. In our fraternity, we grasp the essence of being part of Christ's body and endeavor to live out His teachings daily. Jesus instructed his apostles to love one another as He loved them (*John 13:34*) and prayed for unity among believers (*John 17:21*).

Contrary to the individualistic narrative of modern society, we must reject the notion that we can thrive independently. We do need each other. Reflecting on the dedication of our elder members to community life, our apostolate, and our charism, we find inspiration. Amidst our challenges, the spirituality rooted in the Blood of Christ urges us to renew our spirits, fostering joy, hope, and a missionary



Two are better than one because a good return comes when two work together. If one of them falls, the other can help him up. Eccl. 4:9&10

spirit. Our unique charism flourishes when we remain steadfast, especially in trying times. Our collective soul in community is understanding, restored relationship, and forgiveness.

Gaspar, in correspondence to Monsignor B. Cristaldi, expressed his profound joy in witnessing his confreres united for God's glory. He cherished the Institute as God's own and emphasized its significance in reform and glorifying God.

To truly deepen our love for the community and our relationship with Christ, we must defy the prevailing culture by sharing our struggles, prayers, and hopes with one another. This commitment echoes the pledge and promises we made as we entered formation and later confirmed it on the day of our Incorporation. Pope Francis aptly describes us as members of a choir, not soloists. The adventure lies in being available in prayer, mission, and community. Fraternity within a religious community entails relinquishing some aspects of our personal agenda and embracing service to the community with the gifts bestowed upon us by God.



True happiness is found in proclaiming the Word, serving the People of God, and serving one another.
~ FR. LUIGINO SANTI CPPS

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, JOY OF THE RESURRECTION

St. Gaspar reminded his followers that the Precious Blood of Jesus, shed for our salvation, carries within it the transformative power of the resurrection. Just as Christ conquered death and rose to new life, his Blood fills us with a profound and everlasting

joy. This joy stems from the assurance that through his sacrifice, we too can experience spiritual renewal and the promise of eternal life.

During this month, let us pray for the grace to embrace the joy of the resurrection and allow the Precious Blood of Jesus to inspire hope and transformation in our lives. Remember that, just as the Blood flows, so does our newfound hope, renewal and the assurance of

eternal life.

Reflection

Let us glean wisdom from the saints. Tertullian, an early Christian, once proclaimed, *The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church*. Likewise, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, often referred to as the Lily of the Mohawks, embodies this truth. She hailed from a village where only a decade before her birth, her own people martyred Sts. Isaac Jogues, René Goupil, and Jean de Lalande, the early Canadian martyrs.

As a young woman, Kateri endured relentless ridicule and abuse in her village due to her Catholic beliefs. Eventually, she clandestinely fled with some Hurons to a Christian settlement outside of Montreal, where she found a semblance of freedom to practice the Christian faith.

St. Kateri exhibited profound devotion to the Cross, fashioning miniature crosses from twigs and branches to distribute to children. She kept the image of the cross ever-present in her thoughts and spirit, embracing the numerous crosses she encountered in life: persecution for her faith, physical suffering from smallpox, early parental loss, and self-mortification. She comprehended that healing unfolds at the foot of the cross, drawing courage from the example of Jesus during adversity. Her reflection on the cross fostered humility and mercy toward those around her.

Moreover, St. Kateri discovered immense strength and serenity in receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in communion. This sacrament



nurtured her love for Jesus and empowered her to serve others steadfastly.

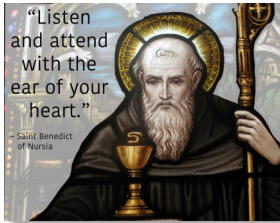
It is recounted that her final words, uttered as she departed from this life, were *Jesus, I love you.*

St. Kateri's legacy is characterized by her charity, patience, and compassion toward children, the sick, and the elderly. She epitomized love for both the Eucharist and the Cross. How then do we emulate her love for the Cross? How do we live out the significance of the Eucharist in our lives?

PRAYER

The Rule of St. Benedict commences with a single imperative: *Listen.*

Authentic prayer, then, is the act of listening to God. Through this receptive posture, we receive graces that fortify our faith and bolster our assurance that our petitions may be heard. Simultaneously, we must remain open to discerning what God asks of us.



Through cultivating a genuine relationship with Jesus — our companion in prayer — we come to recognize our dependency on Him. Jesus is likened to the vine, and we, the branches; without Him, our efforts are futile. Connecting with Jesus, we acknowledge His perpetual presence with us. He is our sustenance, empowering us for ministry, fostering patience, and granting understanding of our surroundings.

Prayer time with Jesus is foundational to our identity as true missionaries. Without it, we risk becoming self-serving, pursuing personal agendas over divine guidance. Embracing the missionary call entails sacrificial service, exemplifying humility, and a willingness to expend time and effort for others.

As we align our will with God's, relinquishing personal desires, we cultivate a deep trust in Him. What was once characterized by tension and heaviness transforms into hope, trust, and assurance. When our hearts are receptive, God offers us three blessings: confrontation, confirmation, and celebration of our

willingness to say "Yes" to His will.

God confronts us by awakening our hearts: am I truly listening to His voice and open to what He may be leading us to consider? God confirms, in other words, He affirms our decisions after we have listened attentively. Finally, God celebrates with us our 'Yes', in that we will try our very best to live God's will.

Listening is being attentive to the Holy Spirit, stirring our hearts, minds and spirits. It is an ongoing practice. To struggle with the emptiness or accept what the Spirit may lead us to. Gaspar says, *let us pray just a bit longer and you will be given a copious supply of illuminations to make a good decision... this will be the fruit of inspirations that the Lord will communicate to you through prayer. (Letter 3205)*

Sister Christina, a cloistered Carmelite nun in Massachusetts, describes the life in the monastery as she says, their day is guided by formal prayer (they pray in the chapel five times throughout the day) and in return, hopefully our life becomes a prayer. Here in the stillness of our prayer, God can see the desires of our hearts, our intentions and our motives. He understands our struggles to live His love and helps us to remain faithful to His will. Setting aside 20 to 30 minutes of quality time each day can do wonders in our personal relationship with our Lord. As we face the day, we go forward with clarity, confidence, trust and peace.

I encourage you to reflect on what truly matters. What is essential for you to hear our Lord? What insights do you gain from dedicated prayer?

RECIPE OF THE MONTH: APRIL

Here is a 12-day challenge: see how far you go:

- ✓ Less complaining, focus on gratitude
- ✓ less pessimism, focus on being optimistic
- ✓ less harsh judgement, think kindly of others
- ✓ less worry, trust Divine Providence
- ✓ less bitterness, turn to forgiveness
- ✓ less discouragement, be full of hope
- ✓ less negativity, be positive
- ✓ less anger, be more patient
- ✓ less gloom, enjoy the beauty that is around you
- ✓ less gossip, control your tongue

- ✓ less sin, turn to virtue
- ✓ less on giving up — let me try anew tomorrow.



LJHR2024: The Most Reverend Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto, celebrates the Holy Mass at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre at the *Lift Jesus Higher Rally*, on March 2nd. The rally, which has separate tracks for adults and youth, draws people closer to God through praise and worship, eucharistic adoration, spiritual talks and the celebration of Mass.

In brief...

► **MARCH 2:** The *Lift Jesus Higher Rally* hosted a Vocation Fair, that Fr. Gerardo and Fr. Lui attended, together with around 3,500 people. In addition to the main speakers, the Adoration chapel was available throughout the day, as were priests for confession; there were also vocation booths and music for the youth. The day concluded with the Holy Eucharist, presided over by His Grace **Archbishop Francis Leo.**

► **MARCH 5:** As my House Visitations continue, Fr. Mario and I travelled to Rochester, NY, where Fr. John

Colacino welcomed us for two days. During our visit, we made a mini pilgrimage to the Abbey of the Genessee, a Trappist monastery about 56km south of Rochester. We prayed in the main chapel,



walked the grounds, and shared coffee in their coffee house.

► **MARCH 11:** Received notice: **Patrick Gilmurray** has been granted an Indult of Departure from the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

VOICE OF OUR FOUNDER: In community living, much patience and composure are needed, otherwise the devil will win out. All must be done with a gentle and ingratiating zeal.

St. Gaspar del Bufalo Letter 2428



RESOURCES:

A reminder to visit and renew our Precious Blood spirituality, which is

prepared by **Fr. John Colacino**, cpps: <http://sanguischristi.com/> or you can log in through preciousbloodatlantic.org. We thank you, Fr. John, for your devotion, love, and faithfulness to the Precious Blood.

We celebrate!

APRIL 23, 1987

The Atlantic Province was founded, and Rev. Nicholas Arioli, cpps, was elected as the first Provincial Superior.

A WORD OF THANKS: As I continue my visitations, I wish to share a thought: I deeply appreciate each of you for your commitment to the community, your dedication to serve the Church and our Congregation, and your patience and perseverance. Your example of steadfastness is a bright light in moments of frustrations and difficulties. Instead of jumping ship, you continue to sail with great loyalty and zeal. I see loyalty and faithfulness lived out each day. Your hard work and devotion to community life, ministry, and the Province are visible signs of your personal resolve filled with courage and hope. For those who choose to complain, sit idly by, or walk away, I pray that your hearts may

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR

April 2024

FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY 24 2024

FEAST OF OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
Merlini House
3:30PM Social
4:45PM Evening prayer
5:15PM Aperitivo
5:30PM Dinner

MAY 27

TORONTO DISTRICT MEETING
Merlini House, 1:30PM to 4PM

JUNE 10 TO 14

ANNUAL RETREAT
Mt. Carmel Monastery, Niagara Falls

JULY 1

- **FEAST OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD**
 - **CANADA DAY**
- Merlini House, Toronto

AUGUST 15

- **FOUNDATION DAY**
 - **FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION**
- Niagara House

be renewed with zeal for the mission of the Church and that you may be given a generous outpouring of the graces found in the Precious Blood of our Lord.

A REMINDER: 'C14, Normative Text: *Prayer in common is an excellent means of fostering union with Christ and the Bond of Charity among the members. The concelebration of the Eucharist, the recitation in common of some part of the Liturgy of the Hours and the proper prayers of the Congregation are recognized as effective signs of community life.*'



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. Email submissions to luicpps@yahoo.ca or mail to 100 Pelmo Crescent, Toronto, Ontario M9N 2Y1, by the **25TH OF THE MONTH.**

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LET US HEAR FROM YOU!
You are invited to share your prayers, reflections, photos, words of wisdom, happenings from your place of ministry.

We remember and pray for...

April 15

FR. CARLO DELLA VECCHIA (2020)

APRIL 18

FR. CARL LONGENBACK (1999)

We pray for our deceased CPPS members, family, friends, and benefactors.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer! We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.



Holy Week Services at St. Charles Borromeo Parish



CW FROM TOP: The assembly — with USC members in the foreground — hold up their palms in commemoration of Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem, as the celebrant processes around the church for the midday Palm Sunday liturgy; Fr. Mario washes the foot of parishioner/apostle Peter, during the Mandatum of Holy Thursday; Fathers Gerardo and Mario sing the recessional, *Lift High the Cross (Crucifer)*, at the bilingual Via crucis, which was prayed on the evening of Good Friday; Sr. Mary Joan kisses the crucifix during the Veneration of the Cross at the conclusion of the Good Friday Communion service.



Vocation Calendar • April 2024



VOCATION PRAYER

O God,

You created me
for a purpose,
a specific task
for the Church
and humanity.

You have always known
the work I was cut out for,
work which only I can do —
and no other.

If I do not accept this work,
it will never be done.

Therefore, I have a job to do.
Make clear to me Your will
and I will follow You
in whatever task this may be.

I know I can do all things
in You, my strength.

I pray, through the
intercession of St. Gaspar,
to invite men
to hear Your call,
to serve the Church
and the Congregation
as priests
and religious brothers.

Amen.

- 1** Alarey Abella
- 2** Mario Cafarelli
- 3** Brother Anthony
- 4** René Cerecedo
- 5** John Colacino
- 6** Samuel D'Angelo
- 7** Brendan Doherty
- 8** Joseph Grasso
- 9** Gregorio Hernandez
- 10** Jerome Hologa
- 11** Dominic Jung
- 12** Gerardo Laguartilla
- 13** Gary Luiz
- 14** Ron Mahon
- 15** Michael Mateyk
- 16** William Mnyagatwa
- 17** Peter Nobili
- 18** James Reposkey
- 19** Lui Santi
- 20** Germán Santiago
- 21** Phillip Smith
- 22** Ron Wiecek
- 23** USC Members
- 24** Deceased CPPS Members
- 25** Our benefactors
- 26** Our family and friends
- 27** The sick
- 28** Our Bishops
- 29** Pope Francis
- 30** Your personal intention

Let us remain united in prayer