



# Bloodlines

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

JUNE 2024

## PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

# To be a zealous disciple...

In our community prayers, we daily beseech, ...*grant us many more zealous members who will serve the Society in humility and obedience...* we ask for our beloved father, the zealous priest, John Merlini...

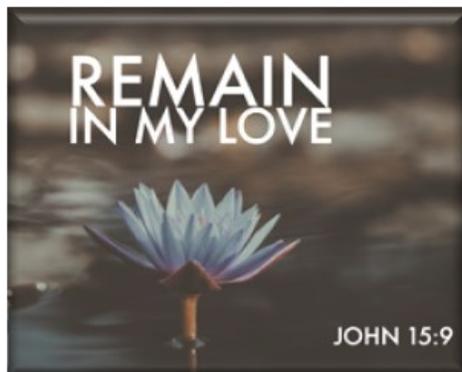
St. Gaspar is often hailed as a zealous missionary of the Precious Blood. When uttering these words, I am confronted: am I a zealous missionary? A disciple? What does it truly entail to embody zealous missionary spirit? What challenge have I embraced?

Years ago, during a course on death and grieving, I encountered a distinctive practice prevalent in Scandinavian countries, known as *Swedish Death Cleansing*. It's a deliberate process where the elderly release many possessions, aiming to leave behind few belongings so their family members aren't burdened after their passing.

Sorting through their possessions prompts deep reflection on life's true essence. It becomes a liberating phase, enabling them to enter their final years with clarity of mind and a lighter heart.

The Gospel of John, with its call to 'remain in his love' and the metaphor of 'I am the vine, you are the branches', reminds us that to be zealous disciples, we must be deeply rooted in Jesus. We must shed unnecessary material possessions, burdens, and past hurts. When we abide in Him, the stream of Jesus' spirit and love flows into us, fostering joy, peace, patience, and humility. By grafting our lives to Jesus, we embrace a spiritual rendition of Swedish cleansing. Can we relinquish distorted affections that distract us from remaining in Jesus' love? Is there self-absorbed love or the craving for approval from others? Is there vengeful love, finding pleasure in others' suffering?

In letting go, we become freer to extend self-giving love to others. Jesus promised to abide in us, ensuring our



joy is complete. All we truly need is His love — let us abide in that love. Let us be zealous missionaries, living as Jesus did. For in sharing His life, we find holiness, zeal, and freedom.



~ FR. LUIGINO SANTI CPPS

## Reflection

Cardinal Désiré-Joseph Mercier, Belgian educator and prominent figure in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century revival of St. Thomas Aquinas' philosophy, encapsulated a profound truth when he wrote, *In order to unite, we must love one another; to love one another, we must know one another; to know one another, we must go and meet one another*. This isn't merely an abstract ideal but a call to concrete action within communities. Mercier further emphasized that the transformation of hearts and spirits, essential for progress, hinges on sustained, heroic prayer.

Reflecting on the letters of Venerable John Merlini, one observes a profound commitment to living the truth without imposition, fostering an environment where mutual respect and listening prevail, and collaborative efforts serve the greater good of the Church. It is a call to embrace fraternity, spirituality, and apostolate in unison, aspiring towards unity.

The shedding of Jesus' blood on the cross signifies reconciliation, rooted deeply in love. This love, expressed tangibly through acts of charity, lies at the core of our missionary endeavours. We are anchored in the Bond of Charity, we find the courage to trust in God's love, allowing compassion and mercy to

flow among us, illuminating paths of forgiveness and hope.

Despite our imperfections, let us not lose heart. The scriptural wisdom on almsgiving underscores its transformative power. When we give or share whether material possessions or intangible virtues, we relinquish ownership, purifying our hearts and minds. Almsgiving extends beyond material generosity, encompassing our thoughts, intentions, and attitudes. It's a surrender, allowing Christ to illuminate our being, stripping away pride and judgmental tendencies, thus affirming our allegiance to Him. Living the essence of Christ's sacrifice purifies us inside and out, making us vessels of His grace.

## THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, EUCHARISTIC DRINK AND REFRESHMENT OF SOULS

The Blessed Sacrament contains the Body and Blood and Divinity of Jesus Christ. Devotion to the Holy Eucharist is devotion to the Blood of Christ. On the Solemnity of Corpus Christi we remember Jesus' gift of himself on the cross, the wellsprings of the Church's Sacraments. On the cross our Passover was sacrificed.

St. Gaspar stressed the significance of frequent participation in the Eucharist and receiving the Precious Blood.

Our world is hurting. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist. This month, focus on the Precious Blood's real presence in the Eucharist, nourishing and strengthening you on your spiritual journey.

**JESUS, ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST, grant us the grace to offer our lives as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to you.**

## WRITING OUR PRAYER

Many saints dedicate long hours to prayer, immersing themselves in silence to listen to God's voice. In addition to this sacred time, they diligently record their thoughts, inspirations, fears, burdens, and their relationship with Jesus. These notes become cherished moments with God alone.



Maintaining a prayer journal is a valuable practice that deepens our understanding of our circumstances. Taking

the time to articulate our experiences in prayer heightens our awareness of God's presence and action in our lives. It redirects our focus and cultivates openness to God's will. The Holy Spirit guides our thoughts and reignites our commitment to serving the People of God.

In his prayer journal, Pope John XXIII writes, *The time I devote to active work must be integrated with the time I dedicate to the work of God, namely prayer. I require more fervent and continuous prayer to imbue my life with character.* Journaling reveals our true selves, enabling us to share with God, as one would confide in a trusted friend, our innermost experiences. Reflecting on our prayer time provides clarity on God's direction for us and may prompt adjustments to our desires. While this step carries risk, approaching it with a genuine, open heart allows us to glean insights and discover Christ's true presence within us.

Try writing reflective prayers for a month and observe your thoughts and growth. Begin by writing one word each day for the first week, progress to one phrase each day for the second week, one sentence each day for the third week, and aim for one paragraph in the final week. Your thoughts will flow naturally, as if composing a letter to Jesus. Over time, journaling becomes an opportunity for growth, gratitude, and humility, as we gain new insights into Christ's love, care, support, and blessings. This communion with God nurtures a Christ-like attitude in our ministry and relationships within our community. As St. Paul reminds the Corinthians, *the inner self is being renewed day by day* through prayerful pause.

Journaling in prayer is a means of centering oneself before God, receiving fresh insights into oneself, and deepening the knowledge of God and self. Gaspar writes to his confidants, *The more one prays, the more good can be accomplished. May you find true spiritual peace through prayer.*

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL HONOURS ST. GASPAR DEL BUFALO**

On February 2, Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, a new Knights of Columbus Council, aptly called St. Gaspar del Bufalo Council 18384, was instituted at

**N.B. Bloodlines will NOT publish during the months of July and August, and will resume publication in September.**

St. Alphonsus Church, one of the parishes under the care of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, in Toronto.

There were not a few skeptics when the project first began, but they soon started seeing the power of prayer and the intercession of St. Gaspar del Bufalo, in whose honour the council is named. The council was established rather quickly, in about a month and a half, making it the first one organized in



2024 in Ontario, and the second in the whole of Canada. One notable member of the new council is Brother Anthony Canterucci, C.P.P.S., who will be celebrating his 95th birthday and 75 years as a professed religious of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. He vividly remembers joining the Knights of Columbus in 1949 with his fellow senior high school students in Warren, Ohio.

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Ontario State Deputy Bruce Poulin came back to lead the Installation of Officers. Most appropriately, the formal ceremony was conducted inside the beautiful St. Gaspar Chapel.

Under the leadership of Grand Knight Jose Guevara, members of the St. Gaspar del Bufalo Council 18384 have started working on their program of action to address the needs of the parish and local community.

At St. Alphonsus



Fr. Alarey Abella, C.P.P.S., addresses the officers during their installation.

**VOICE OF OUR FOUNDER**

*'Jesus permits storms and tempests, but he does so to render us strong in the exercise of faith, hope, and charity.*

*Courage! Courage!'*

*Let us remain in the Lord's Heart, that beautiful asylum, that warmth of heavenly love!*

*Oh what burning flames of charity.*

*St Gaspar del Bufalo  
Letter 1388*

**ST GASPAR WAS CANONIZED ON JUNE 12, 1954**

**HERE I AM, LORD. SEND ME.**

*This is a challenge for this coming year. How will you answer?*

Heavenly Father, through the ages, You have called many to serve You and the community: F. Albertini, Gaspar, B. Valentini, G. Merlini, as well as countless Moderators General, Provincials and members. All were different, and each brought unique gifts to Your service. Now today, we too hear Your call to come and follow, to bring our gifts to Your service. Help us, O Lord, to make our reply, 'Here I am, Lord. Send me.', with full and generous hearts, in order that we may be Your instruments in the building of Your Kingdom. We ask that You hear our prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Church, on any given Sunday, especially the second Sunday of the month, members wearing their distinctive yellow and white baldric can be seen assisting parishioners. They are also conducting fundraising events to help the parish and support the projects of Brother Anthony and the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.



# In brief...



**MAY 24:** Merlini Mission House celebrated the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. The afternoon began with prayer in the chapel, seeking the intercession of our Blessed Mother for continuous help and protection, and thanking our Lord for the wonderful news which was received of John Merlini. ► Pope Francis officially recognized a miracle attributed to Giovanni Merlini, advancing Merlini's cause for beatification (v. *Letter from Emanuele Lupi, C.P.P.S., p. 4*). The recognized miracle, which involves the unexplained healing of a gravely ill child, has undergone rigorous investigation and validation by the Vatican's Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.



**MAY 27:** The Toronto District gathered to review the notes and the questionnaire in preparation for the 2025 General Assembly. The personal reflections, discussion, comments and insights were welcome and valued. A summary is being compiled and will be forwarded to the Generalate. Following the meetings, the members relaxed, socialized, and enjoyed a full meal. Fr. Peter kept refilling our wine glasses. He had a bottomless bottle,... it was amazing. Similar to the Gospel story of the Wedding at Cana — new, fresh, and the outpouring of finest wine.





**La Curia Generalizia**

## Missionari del Preziosissimo Sangue

Viale di Porta Ardeatina, 66  
00154 Roma – Italia

Tel. +39 06 574 1656

Fax +39 06 574 2874

Email: [secgen@cppsmissionaries.org](mailto:secgen@cppsmissionaries.org)

Today, Thursday, May 23, 2024, the Holy Father Francis authorized the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints to promulgate the Decree concerning the Miracle attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God Giovanni Merlini, Priest and Missionary of the Precious Blood (Spoleto August 28, 1785 - Rome January 12, 1873).

The Congregation of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, united with the Congregation of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ together with all churches where the Family of the Precious Blood is present in Italy and throughout the world; in communion with the Lay Movements inspired by the spirituality of the Blood of Christ, "we give thanks to God" for the gift received, while with prayerful hearts sharing the common wish that the Beatification of the Venerable Servant of God Giovanni Merlini may soon be celebrated.

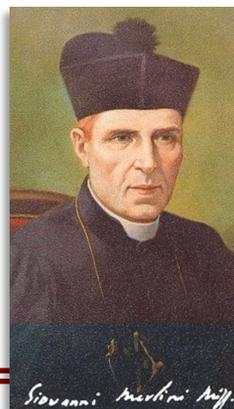
With filial affection and exultation, in unity, we express the Holy Father Francis feelings of deep gratitude for having enriched the Universal Church with a new Blessed, a man of wisdom and discernment, a worker of reconciliation and peace, a missionary of mercy, a witness to the mystery of the Precious Blood of Christ.

May the Holy Spirit grant the People of God that, walking the *via sanguinis*, "the new and living way which Christ inaugurated for us," they may "hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us hope" (cf. Heb. 10:20, 23).

Rome, May 23, 2024.

Emanuele Lupi, CPPS, *Moderator General, Congregation of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood*

Nicla Spezzati, ASC, *Postulator*





We celebrate!

YOUR BIRTHDAY

JUNE 3

MARIO CAFARELLI

JUNE 20

LUIGINO SANTI

JUNE 23

PHIL SMITH

YOUR ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

JUNE 25

MICHAEL MATEYK

JUNE 26

RONALD WIECEK

JUNE 29

WILLIAM MNYAGATWA

OUR JUBILIARIANS

We are grateful for your generous service to the People of God and to the community:

75 YEARS

BR. ANTHONY CANTERUCCI CPPS

25 YEARS

FR. SAMUEL D'ANGELO CPPS

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR

June 2024

FOR MIGRANTS FLEEING THEIR HOMES

We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY 1

- FEAST OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD
CANADA DAY

COMMUNITY AT ST. CHARLES BORROMEO
ARRIVAL: 12PM / LUNCH: 1PM
FR. MARIO WILL CONTACT YOU AS A FOLLOW-UP

AUGUST 15

- FOUNDATION DAY
SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION
NIAGARA FALLS / DETAILS TO FOLLOW

John Mark Comer has a challenge for us in his book, Practicing the Way. Practice Sabbath in a culture of hurry and exhaustion. Practice solitude in a culture of anxiety and noise. Practice prayer in a culture of distraction and escapism. Practice community in a culture of individuality and superficiality. Practice scripture in a culture of ideological infection and compromise. Practice fasting in a culture of indulgence. Practice generosity in a culture of consumerism. Practice service in a culture of injustice and division. Practice hospitality in a culture of hostility. If you can try only one practice, it will make a difference in your life and the lives around you.



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.

CONTRIBUTOR FR. LUIGINO SANTI
DESIGN GINO MARCUZZI

We hope that you have found the material in this year's issues of 'Bloodlines' of interest, informative, and of use to you. We continue to encourage you to send in information, questions, requests, and complaints.

I am grateful and thankful for the great work of editing and formatting done by Mr. Gino Marcuzzi, a parishioner of St. Charles Borromeo Church, in Toronto. God bless you, Gino!

We remember and pray for...

June 20

FR. MARIO BUFALINI

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

REQUIESCANT IN PACE.

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

FATHER IN HEAVEN, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

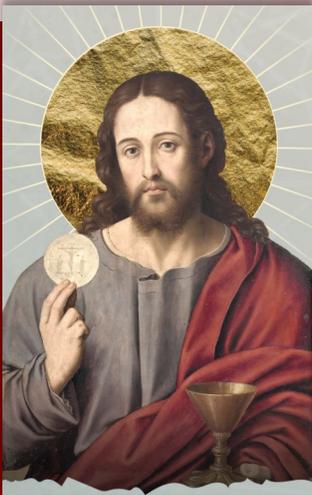
May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.





# Vocation Calendar • June 2024



## VOCATION PRAYER

*We*

humbly pray, O God,  
our Father,  
to bless the Missionaries  
of the Precious Blood.

Bless our country,  
our Province,  
USC members,  
benefactors, friends,  
and families.

Send your Holy Spirit  
upon us  
to give light to our minds  
and strength to our spirits,  
that we may understand and  
fulfill your will.

Teach us to share  
with others,  
the blessings  
we have received,  
so that we build up  
your kingdom of peace.

This we ask through  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and through the intercession  
of St. Gapar del Bufalo  
and our Lady  
of the Precious Blood.

Amen

- 1** Alarey Abella
- 2** Mario Cafarelli
- 3** Brother Anthony Canterucci
- 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** Lui Santi
- 19** Germán Santiago
- 20** Phillip Smith
- 21** Ron Wiecek
- 22** USC Members
- 23** Deceased CPPS Members
- 24** Our benefactors
- 25** Our family and friends
- 26** The sick
- 27** Our Bishops
- 28** Pope Francis
- 29** Cancer patients and their caregivers
- 30** The lonely

*Let us remain united in prayer*