

APRIL 2026

BLOODLINES

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

*TRUTH, WHEN
SPOKEN IN FAITH,
ALWAYS BECOMES
THE DOORWAY
THROUGH WHICH
GRACE ENTERS.*





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

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ONE FAMILY, ONE BLOOD: A MISSION RENEWED IN HOPE

On Monday, March 23, in the stillness and grace of our mission house in Niagara Falls, we gathered as a family whose bonds of charity flow from the chalice of Christ.

The evening before, we had already come together around the table, sharing a meal filled with warmth, laughter, and a quiet, abiding joy that revealed the depth of our fraternity. That simple moment of communion became the prelude to a deeper spiritual unity, preparing our hearts for the grace of discernment.

We came as missionaries who love the Church, who cherish the charism of the Congregation of the Precious Blood, and who find themselves, in a sacred sense, inebriated by the Blood of Jesus—drawn ever deeper into its mystery, its sacrifice, and its redeeming power. There was among us a spirit of reverence and candour, a spirit born when brothers stand together before God with nothing concealed and nothing exaggerated.

In that light, we spoke with honesty about our present reality. With humility, we acknowledged before the Lord and before our founder, St. Gaspar del Bufalo, that the life of the Atlantic Province has grown fragile. The years have advanced, the ranks have thinned, vocations have become scarce, and departures have left spaces that echo with both gratitude and longing. This recognition carried no despair; it carried truth. And truth, when spoken in faith, always becomes the doorway through which grace enters.

Our conversation turned toward the future with the eyes of missionaries. The Blood of Jesus, once proclaimed with fervour across continents, still calls for heralds who will carry its message to a world thirsting for redemption. That call remains unchanged. The form through which we answer it now seeks renewal. In a spirit of discernment, we recognized a path that leads us back to our origins, to a deeper communion with the Italian Province, whose history and heart remain closely united with our own. With fraternal generosity, they have opened their arms to receive us as a district, a mission, or a vicariate.

An informal vote revealed the movement of the Spirit: among us, twelve voices expressed the desire to become a mission of the Italian Province, while one voice discerned a call toward a vicariate. In this diversity, there was harmony; in this harmony, a shared longing to serve. An official vote will be held in June, which will initiate the canonical journey toward the dissolution of the Atlantic Province and our incorporation into the life of the Italian Province.

What took place among us was no surrender of identity, no fading of purpose. It was, rather, a passage—an exodus guided by Providence. The vine is pruned so that it may bear greater fruit.

The seed falls into the earth so that it may rise with new life. We remain what we have always been: missionaries of the Precious Blood, bound as a family, and sent for the salvation of the world. In this moment of transition, there is quiet confidence that the same Blood which called us will sustain us, and that what is offered in faith will be returned in abundance.

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS: FOURTH MYSTERY OF THE CHAPLET OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison together against him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They braided a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. Then they knelt down before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (Matthew 27:27–29)

REFLECTION: THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

What a painful moment in the life of Jesus. To be crowned with thorns is not only to endure the physical agony of sharp points piercing the head—it is to suffer humiliation, indignation, and mockery. It is to be belittled by those who neither know who you are nor understand what you carry within.

This moment symbolizes the many sufferings we face in life: illness, economic hardship, strained relationships, and the quiet burdens we bear.

We, too, can experience being crowned with thorns.



Incoronazione di spine (The Crowning with Thorns), by Italian Baroque painter Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, c. 1603.

Haven't we felt that way at times? As human beings, we encounter challenges that pierce us like thorns—sharp, persistent, and painful. As Christians, how often have we felt judged before we've spoken a word? How often have we been treated as outcasts by those in power? How many times have we been pushed aside, tossed about, or mocked by others?

Yet in this suffering, Jesus stands with us. His crown of thorns becomes a sign of solidarity—not only with our pain, but with our dignity. He transforms mockery into mercy, and humiliation into healing. In him, our wounds are not wasted. They become the very place where grace enters.

REV. GERARDO LAGUARTILLA CPPS

*May St. Joseph assist us in this daily ministry,
and may Mary, our Mother and Queen of the Precious Blood,
grant us the graces we need to lead those entrusted to us to her Son
and to the fountain of His saving and redeeming Blood.*

**IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE
SUFFERING: THANKS FROM
LABUNKI**

*(This letter arrived in October; however,
I neglected to share it with the members.
My sincere apologies.)*



*Hospicjum Santa Galla
Łabuńki, Poland
October 20, 2025*

*Dear V. Rev. Luigino Santi CPPS
Provincial Director*

*As Director of the Santa Galla Hospice, on
behalf of all the medical staff and patients,
I would like to sincerely thank
the Atlantic Province for the
\$10,000.00 donation to our
hospice.*

*This demonstrates your
generosity and sensitivity to
the needs of the vulnerable
and seriously ill, who are
often on the margin of society.*

*These suffering people are
in great need of our help,
services, and simple human
presence, especially during
this dramatic moment in their
lives when they pass away.*

*We will use this donation
to improve the specific
equipment needed for
treatment, purchase a*

*special bathtub for our patients and minor
improvements in our centre and living
spaces.*

*Please convey our thanks to our confreres
throughout the Province and ensure them of
our prayers for the entire Atlantic Province.*

With gratitude,

*Fr. Zbigniew Lesiczka CPPS
Director of Santa Galla*



SANTA GALLA HOSPICE—Where every life is held with compassion, and every soul is embraced in Christ's redeeming love.

DISTRICT MEETING—NEW DIRECTION

A PATH FORWARD

Living in community, day in and day out, can be challenging. Fraternity is a gift—a time of sharing, of being grateful for what we have learned through our ministry, of recognizing the blessings God has given us, and of appreciating one another's friendship.

Yet, we can also be tempted to hold on to fear, unresolved anger, personal guilt, or sorrow. To share honestly with one another and mustering the courage to face these differences requires humility.

God invites us to embrace these challenges and to make the extra effort needed to live in peace with ourselves and with those in our community. Taking the step to go deeper is always worthwhile, for it leads us to discover the sacred within.

Like any friendship, getting to know one another requires openness and a willingness to understand each other. It means asking: What weighs heavily on his heart? What



brings him joy? How can I support him and be a better brother to him?

A true brother honours, appreciates, and celebrates the presence of others. It is easy to focus on the defects and limitations of our brothers rather than helping them grow. When we dwell only on weaknesses, we overlook their sacrifices and forget that each one is a child of God, doing his best with what he has been given. Our human virtues—forgiveness, love, and patience—have the power to heal past hurts. Life is too short to be lived in sadness or constant anxiety. Reconciliation is a gift meant to be celebrated and lived.

Peace and mutual understanding heal the broken heart. If someone cannot accept that he is “stuck” or is unwilling to change, then we may need to let go, move forward, and entrust him to God.

Gratitude is an attitude we often discover later in life, yet it is a practice that can be learned at any time and experienced every day. Finding balance is part of the path toward this peace.

Open dialogue and listening to our brothers with kindness and patience help create a healthy, life-giving community. The challenges may be many, but the opportunities to grow and live in harmony are limitless.

Strengthening our relationships requires courage, humility, understanding, and compassion. Self-respect is essential as we walk the maze of life within fraternity. God asks only that we give our very best: “Do your best and forget the rest,” and “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Practicing self-love is also important. Taking time each day to “re-soul” is essential—whether through a walk, quiet moments alone, or listening to music.

REV. JEROME HOLOGA CPPS

OUR APRIL CHALLENGE

*We have been given a simple
yet profound challenge.
St. Paul writes in Galatians 6:
"BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS."*

DATES TO REMEMBER

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

APRIL 9

James Reposkey

APRIL 15

Carlo Della Vecchia

APRIL 18

Carl Longenback

APRIL 23, 1987

**Founding of the Atlantic Province
Rev. Nicholas Arioli CPPS
First Provincial**

LOOKING AHEAD

JUNE 8 TO 12

ANNUAL RETREAT

Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Niagara Falls

RETREAT MASTER

Bishop John Corriveau, OFMCap

WORDS OF OUR FOUNDERS

*Be of help to all in the community
in the pursuit of forgiveness.*

*Guide them by your good example and prayer,
as well as by your counsel.*

*Let us stand firm
in doing good works.*

— ST. GASPAR DEL BUFALO *Letter 2271*

*Be happy and calm.
Let us do what we must
without anxiety,
and serve God with courage.*

— BLESSED GIOVANNI MERLINI *Letter 95*

Vocation Calendar

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

JEROME HOLOGA

10

DOMINIC JUNG

11

GERARDO LAGUARTILLA

12

GARY LUIZ

13

RON MAHON

14

WILLIAM MNYAGATWA

15

PETER NOBILI

16

LUI SANTI

17

GERMÁN SANTIAGO

18

RON WIECEK

19

WORLD PEACE

20

USC MEMBERS

21

DECEASED CPPS MEMBERS

22

OUR BENEFACTORS

23

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

24

SICK MEMBERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

25

OUR BISHOPS

26

AN INCREASE IN RELIGIOUS AND
MISSION VOCATIONS

27

CANCER PATIENTS AND
THEIR CAREGIVERS

28

RESPONSIBLE CIVIC AND
FEDERAL LEADERS

29

REFUGEES, MIGRANTS, AND
ALL SEEKING SAFETY

30

THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH AND
HEALING OF DIVISIONS

Prayer for Vocations

**LORD JESUS,
through forgiveness Your arms lift me up,
and by Your Precious Blood I am made clean.
Your mercy is Your free gift to me.**

**I turn my heart, my will,
and my mind toward You.
Grant that I may receive You—and the forgiveness You offer—
through faith.**

**O Lord, send generous vocations to serve as missionaries.
Open their hearts to accept Your invitation
to become ministers of peace and reconciliation.
Amen.**

