



# Bloodlines

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

NOVEMBER 2023

## PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

### Jesus

SENT HIS  
APOSTLES  
OUT TO

**PREACH THE GOOD NEWS.**

As they moved about preaching and healing, they began to doubt if people were listening to them. They returned home tired, weak, and discouraged. Jesus reminded them that they had the support of a community of faith.

We, too, have the support of a faith community, i.e., our faith parish communities, USC members who share in our spirituality, individuals who have embraced our spirituality and live it in their lives, those who quietly pray for us each day, and our fellow confreres with whom we live, share meals, ministry, and pray together.

We are part of a larger group of believers who help and sustain us in our ministry. We learn to trust one another. These individuals support and give us strength so that we may witness to the Lord. Trusting each other gives new birth, which changes us. It renews our spirits with hope to improve who we are as missionaries.

Jesus had his mother, Mary, who supported him throughout his ministry; Peter, James, and John, who were his closest friends and they listened; Martha and Mary, who provided days of rest and comfort. The Gospel of Luke tells us that 'about one hundred and twenty persons' became the core of the early church community. Each of these small communities tells us that we need each other. We cannot fulfill our apostolate on our own efforts. God has given each of us as true gifts to one another, to appreciate and to learn from each other. Let us remain open to welcome and receive what we can offer to the community. It is the gift of Christ's love. Let us be thankful for Him giving us our brothers and sisters, who motivate us in our daily tasks.

By *welcoming* the Word of God into our hearts, we adopt an attitude of listening. *Listening* attentively is being receptive to God's grace and abiding



presence which He is offering. It takes time to develop a listening heart. As we listen well, through our prayer time and listening to one another, we begin to hear His voice and learn His voice. We come to know Him better, and God's presence is growing within us. Then with a grateful heart and spirit we become *thankful*. Thankful that He is with us. He has not abandoned or forgotten us, but walks humbly with us. Are we listening well? Can we encourage and trust one another to be a better missionary with charity? Are we open to hear God's voice in each other? Let us welcome new life so that we can flourish.

## Reflection

In our Province, we are fortunate to celebrate Thanksgiving twice each year: Canadian Thanksgiving (October) and American Thanksgiving (November). Thanksgiving and gratitude are the spirit of the day. It is so easy to forget that thanksgiving is not reserved for one day but to be lived every day and being grateful empowers our thanksgiving. St. Paul writes, **Thank God in everything no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks, for this is the will of God for you who are in Christ Jesus.**

Being thankful is one of the most acute feelings that we can have. When we become negative or complain, this attitude weakens our spirit. This depletes our hope. Every day we can

find something to be thankful for if we make an effort to see it before us.

As you know, I am recovering and improving slowly, but well from stomach cancer. I have learned to live with cancer. I can admit that God is giving me strength each day and blessings are happening. I live with hope, and this is a fine reason to give thanks.

It is normal for us to acknowledge that we all go through difficult times at one point in our lives. St. Paul reminds us that he too had to learn to be content either way with failure or glory, with sickness or health (*Philippians 4:12*). He realized that complaining and self pity are not good or healthy, but we should be thankful and content. This allowed him to accept his circumstances.

A thankful person is a happy person. If we want to be people of joy, then we need to be grateful. Quickly we can compare ourselves to others and think about what we want or do not have or what others possess. Really this does not please God and it robs our joy. Again St. Paul teaches us that we are not to be anxious and to pray about everything and in thanksgiving. (*Philippians 4:6*). God is not interested in giving us more; rather, we should be more thankful and appreciative for what God has given and what God is doing for us.

Try a simple exercise. Each morning, for two weeks: think and write down on a piece of paper three things for which you are grateful and most thankful. Let your heart hear it and voice your gratefulness.

*At all times and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.*  
- EPHESIANS 5:20



Let us pray and know that we are indeed blessed and ask our Lord to help us remember how good He is to us always.

- FR. LUIGINO SANTI CPPS

## SPIRITUALITY

*No shade, no shine,  
no butterflies, no bees  
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves,  
no birds — November!*

Nineteenth-century poet Thomas Hood captured the essence of the month in a rather negative sense in this rhyme and, while it does capture the month from a climate point of view, it does not tell the entire picture. Traditionally, this month is characterized by the moniker, ‘the month of the Poor Souls’ when the church, on the second day of the month, recommends all the deceased to our prayers. We here in the Diocese of St. Catharines gather at the cemetery, where many of the bishops, priests and deacons are interred, for prayers for them and for all the faithful departed. St. Gaspar had a special place in the Congregation’s prayers to remember especially the deceased members and benefactors on that day and for the entire month.

As Sacred Scripture says, *It is a good and wholesome thing to pray for the dead.* (Maccabees 12:46)

It is therefore a fruitful use of our time to recall the many people in our lives and in the Church’s past who have contributed to our appreciation of the presence of God in our lives. Perhaps the best word to describe this month is: REMEMBER! To remember that God is always with us, to recall the gift of faith given to us by our family, friends, and even occasional strangers who edify us by their trust in God. To appreciate Jesus’s outpouring of his Blood that we might have life through Him. Recently we were reminded in a Catholic publication that there is not enough appreciation for the Blood of Christ in our worship. Perhaps it would be good to reinvigorate that understanding in our lives, our homilies, and our own example.

On November 1st, we remember all the Saints of the Church and their fine example to us. Also during this month, we remember two Province members who celebrate their birthdays: **Gary Luiz** (18) (age 73) and



**William Mnyagatwa** (20) (age 77). We also observe the death anniversaries of two members: **Oreste Cerbara** (1990) and **Patrick Sena** (2012).

It is also during November that the Province celebrates American Thanksgiving, this year on the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month.

So it is, all in all, a good month. A month to remember, to celebrate, and to give thanks. *Happy November!*

– EBART

## HONOURING OUR MEMBERS

The Atlantic Province honoured nine senior members for their dedication to their ministry and service to the Province, on October 2nd.

The afternoon began with a prayer service, followed by a reflection given by **Fr. Gerardo Laguartilla**, who thanked the members, saying:

*Thank you, priests and brother,  
for preparing the people of God  
in the Sacraments.*

*Thank you for risking loneliness  
to serve our people and their families.*

*Thank you, brothers, for putting  
yourselves in the unenviable position  
of dealing with us in the community  
and with the people at our worst  
moments — when we’re anxious, upset,  
depressed, even a little out of  
our minds, focused on our own  
problems, to the exclusion of all.  
When we see the care you have to take  
in listening to the problems  
of so many kinds of people,  
we can’t imagine how you do it.  
How do you listen to angry people,  
whining people, weeping people,  
nervous people, suspicious people,  
and clueless people?*

*How do you listen to them?  
And thank you, most of all,  
for bringing Christ himself  
into people’s lives.*

*In the end, that’s what is so great  
about you: not you, in yourself,  
but who you bring us — Christ.*

A brief time was given for each member to express his gratitude of his many years of service as a missionary. A token of appreciation was given as a sign of treasuring their membership.



### AN INSPIRING ENNEAD

**STANDING:** Fr. Peter Nobili, Fr. Luigino Santi, Fr. Ron Wiecek, Fr. Jim Reposkey; **SITTING:** Fr. Brendan Doherty, Fr. Anthony Canterucci, Fr. Phillip Smith, Fr. William Mnyagatwa; **NP:** Fr. Ron Mahon, Fr. Gary Luiz

A delicious dinner was served with wine and a *bicchierino* of grappa.

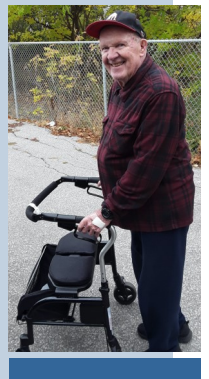
It was a day to celebrate our spirituality, community life, and a clear reminder that our mission is ongoing, it never ends. The day led each member to a deeper understanding, appreciation, and living out the gift of their missionary vocation.

Even in ‘retirement’ we can still be a powerful presence and a light that shines. As we are sent out to the world to touch, to heal, to listen, to be present, to celebrate the sacraments, to preach, we partake in the awesome power of the Blood of Christ. We become the living chalice that we celebrate at the Eucharist and become a cup to blessing in community and to others we meet each day.

And so, **Br. Anthony, Jim Reposkey, Peter Nobili, Brendan Doherty, William Mnyagatwa, Ron Wiecek, Gary Luiz, Phil Smith, Ron Mahon:** we thank you for the dedication and commitment that you have shown and lived by being zealous missionaries!

## WISHING YOU A SPEEDY RECOVERY!

*Our dear Fr. Brendan Doherty is recovering well from knee replacement surgery. He is out every day doing laps around the parking lot at Pelmo and goes to the hospital twice a week for rehabilitation. Keep it up, Fr. B.!*



# We celebrate!

**YOUR BIRTHDAY**  
WILLIAM MNYAGATWA  
November 20

**THE ANNIVERSARY OF  
YOUR INCORPORATION**  
RON MAHON  
November 1

## ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH REACHES OUT FROM ONE INNER CITY TO ANOTHER

Our tiny parish of St. Alphonsus in midtown Toronto continues to be a source of inspiration. Throughout the year, we collect food and clothing and donate the collections to St. Michael's and All Saints Anglican, a nearby community church which oversees *Out of the Cold*, an outreach program. This program provides a warm lunch, twice a week, throughout the year for the poor and vulnerable.

Recently, the parishioners of St. Alphonsus moved beyond the city limits and are now helping the Carmelite Sisters in the Philippines. The Sisters prepare home-cooked meals, then distribute the food packages to the homeless and the poor.

*As of June of this year,  
12,000 lbs of non-perishable  
food items and used clothing  
have been shipped from  
Toronto to the Philippines.*

At our Provincial Assembly in May, the Atlantic Province agreed to donate \$2,000 to this wonderful project. **Br. Anthony** and the parishioners of St. Alphonsus are to be commended for this initiative. The lyrics, 'He ain't heavy, he's my brother' by the Hollies, continues to be proclaimed boldly and generously. Being attentive to the signs of the times, the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, through the leadership of various missionaries, have always impressed on the people to be watchful of, and responsible for, the less fortunate. As St. Gaspar del Bufalo fed, nursed, and cared for the poor of Rome, so our present Missionaries also follow our patron's example.



### PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together  
in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home  
in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.  
Do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us  
down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence  
our actions.

Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together  
to eternal life and  
not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,  
who are at work  
in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father  
and the Son, forever and ever.  
Amen.

*May all who participate in the Synod  
and all who are praying with them  
be blessed with a spirit of hope.*

### PRAYER FOR PEACE SYNOD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 26, 2023

**OH GOD,**  
who cares for all,  
let the whole of humanity  
who have one origin from you,  
form one family,  
without violence,  
without absurd wars  
and with brotherly spirit,  
live united in peace and concord  
for our Lord Jesus Christ  
Your Son who is God,  
lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
for ever and ever.

— CARDINAL LOUIS RAPHAËL SAKO  
PATRIARCH OF CHALDEAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

# We remember and pray for...

ORESTE CERBARA  
November 9  
PATRICK SENA  
NOVEMBER 10

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

**REQUIESCANT IN PACE.**

### PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

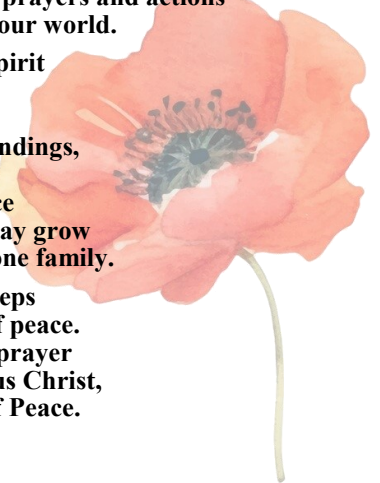
God of love and justice,  
today we remember all men  
and women who died in defense  
of our country and its freedom.

Help us to honour their sacrifice  
through our prayers and actions  
for peace in our world.

Send your Spirit  
to help us  
to let go of  
misunderstandings,  
hatred,  
and prejudice  
so that we may grow  
together as one family.

Guide our steps  
in the way of peace.  
We ask this prayer  
through Jesus Christ,  
the Prince of Peace.

Amen.



### DID YOU KNOW?

On the vigil of the feast of St. Gaspar del Bufalo, St. Gaspar's Chapel (located at St. Alphonsus Church) reopened for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament under both species. The USC, the parishioners of St. Alphonsus, and friends welcome adorers Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm.

On Fridays, Mass and the devotions honouring the Blood of Christ are held for the intentions of our benefactors and the many prayer requests. You are invited to visit the Chapel and find some quiet prayer time in the presence of the Precious Blood of our Lord.

Over the years, the Chapel has been a place for devotion to Christ the Redeemer.

## GIVING THANKS FOR THE BLESSINGS OF THE PAST YEAR

Fr. Jerome, Fr. Ron, Fr. Gerardo, and Fr. William enjoy a Canadian Thanksgiving meal of turkey with gravy, bread stuffing, cranberries, autumn vegetables, and... apple pie.



American Thanksgiving will be featured in our next issue of 'Bloodlines'.

## HAPPY GOLDEN BIRTHDAY, FATHER GERARDO!

On September 24, Fr. Gerardo Laguartilla celebrated a milestone 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. We wish him many, many years of good health, joy, and pastoral ministry. To mark the occasion, the parishioners of St. Charles organized a celebratory dinner in his name. God bless you, Fr. Gerardo!



## In brief...

**OCTOBER 28:** St. Alphonsus Parish sponsored a pilgrimage to Sudbury, Ontario, for fifty-two faithful. Fr. Samuel D'Angelo welcomed them and offered Mass at his parish, Holy Redeemer Church. After Mass, the pilgrims had a choice to visit the diocesan Marian shrine, Our Lady of Lourdes, or the famous Big Nickel, where some travel kilometers beneath the earth's surface. They did not find any gold or nickel. As a point of interest, in the early 1960s, NASA trained their astronauts in Sudbury because the land formation was similar to the terrain of the moon. Since then, the city has beautified the inner city and its surrounding area where the mines are closed, with numerous trees, plants, and full of colour.

The day ended with a shared meal, sweets, and prayers in thanksgiving for the wonderful and restful day and safe return to Toronto.

## IN COMMEMORATION

### ALL SAINTS DAY (NOVEMBER 1):

A day to honour all the saints in the Church. A day to remember and thank our God for their example of fidelity to inspire us to continue being faithful and loving God and one another.

*DEAR GOD,  
thank you for the example  
of the Saints.*

*I desire to join in their company,  
worshipping you forever in Heaven.  
Please help me follow their footsteps,  
and yours, Jesus Christ.*

*Please help me to conform myself  
to Your image,  
seeking Your will in all things,  
as the Saints did.*

*Please help me to devote myself,  
and all that I do, to Your glory,  
and to the service of my neighbors.  
Amen.*

**ALL SOULS DAY (NOVEMBER 2):** A day to pray for the deceased members of our family, friends, and community, and with 'joyous affection' hold the memory of all the faithful departed.



*Happy are those  
who have died  
in the Lord.  
Let them rest from  
their labours  
for their good deeds  
go with them.  
- REVELATION 14:13*

**REMINDER:** According to our Provincial Statutes: Community Life #9 Each year, in every Mission House or residence, preferably in the month of November or during Provincial gatherings, the following Masses are to be celebrated by every priest:

- A** For all the faithful departed
- B** For the deceased of the Congregation
- C** For deceased relatives and benefactors

*All others are to participate in one Mass for each of the above intentions.*

## THE VOICE OF OUR FOUNDER



*Although there are mystical seasons in the soul, nevertheless, in one who loves Jesus, all turns out for the good.*  
- Gaspar del Bufalo, 1830  
Letter 2109

## LOOKING AHEAD...

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 23**  
AMERICAN THANKSGIVING  
CPPS community members at the Parkway in Niagara Falls invite you to celebrate American Thanksgiving. Dinner at 5pm. Social before dinner. Please call Fr. Ron to confirm your attendance.

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 3**  
FEAST OF OUR PATRON  
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER.  
Fathers Mario and Gerardo will forward details for the dinner at St. Charles Borromeo Church.

**JUNE 10 TO 14, 2024**  
RETREAT AT MT CARMEL  
MONASTERY  
NIAGARA FALLS, ON



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

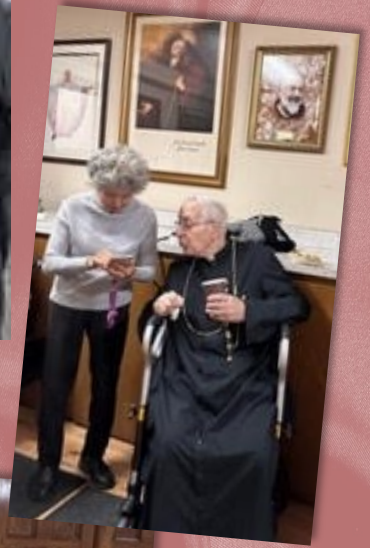
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# Coming Together to Celebrate Our Patron: October 21

The community gathered at St. Alphonsus Parish to celebrate the Feast of St. Gaspar. USC members and the parish choir heightened the celebration, with their gift of song in praise and thanksgiving. The celebration continued in the parish hall with refreshments and a social. Sincere gratitude to the Carmelite Sisters who prepared a light luncheon for the missionaries.



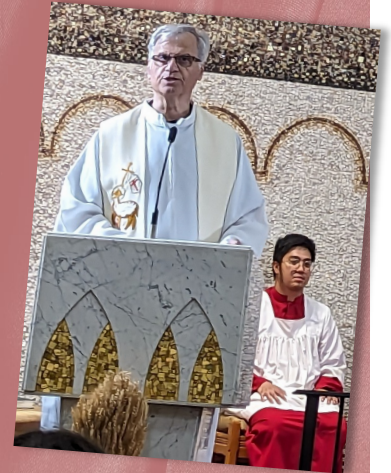
# Coming Together to Celebrate Our Patron: October 27

For those who were not able to attend the Feast of St. Gaspar on the 21st, the USC arranged a second day to remember and honour our Founder. Mass was celebrated at the St. Gaspar Chapel in Toronto, where

Fr. Gerardo presided and Fr. Lui shared the homily. After the celebration of the Mass, quiet time was given to venerate the relic of St. Gaspar. *Would that I had a thousand tongues to endear every heart to the Precious Blood of Jesus.* Fr. Lui quoted a Missionary of the Precious Blood, which encourages us to be faithful living missionaries. "The Blood of Christ is all about LIFE... there is life in the Blood. (And so, as a Missionary of the Precious Blood, and USC member)

...

We are called to lift up life and the saving work of Christ rather than to judge, criticize, offer a negative outlook, lament how terrible the world is, etc. We are called to be a positive force for life and growth, to be people of hope and encouragement.



# Vocation Calendar • November 2023



## VOCATION PRAYER

LOVING AND GENEROUS GOD,  
it is You who call us by name  
and ask us to follow You.  
Help us to grow in the Love  
and Service of our Church  
as we experience it today.

Give us the energy  
and courage  
of Your Spirit  
to shape its future.  
Grant us faith-filled priests  
and brothers  
who will embrace  
Christ's Mission  
of love and justice.

Bless the Missionaries  
of the  
Precious Blood,  
by raising up  
dedicated and generous  
missionaries  
from our families and friends  
who will serve  
in Your Church.

Inspire us  
to know You better  
and open our hearts  
to hear Your call.  
We ask this  
through our Lord.

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

*Let us remain united in prayer*