



# Bloodlines

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

MAY 2024

## PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

# Evangelii gaudium

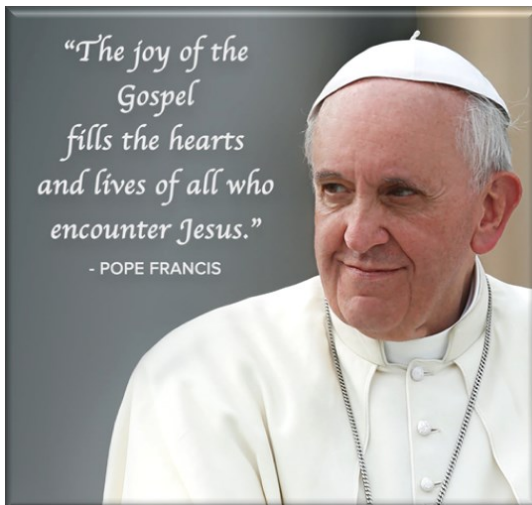
*The Gospel's joy fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. (Evangelii Gaudium)*

Pope Francis consistently encourages priests and religious to embody joy. Living in joy isn't merely an emotional high; it's understanding divine love and experiencing God's love in our hearts and actions. This spiritual joy compels us to influence those around us to deepen their relationship with God, to know His Son Jesus, and to desire a connection with Him. When we cultivate this relationship with Jesus Christ, others will witness it and yearn to have Christ in their lives. It's an honour for us to gather and celebrate the Eucharist each day. During this ritual, we renew our joy in Christ as our victory and Saviour. **In the Eucharist, we unite our lives with God and with His people as we celebrate the joy of the life we share together. As missionaries, it's a time for renewing our covenant with one another and our commitment to building God's Kingdom. (B. Fischer, C.P.P.S.)**

**How do you celebrate joy in your lives?** During the Easter season, Jesus appears to his apostles and says, **Peace be with you.** Peace is what Jesus imparts throughout his life to his apostles and the people when he healed, forgave, fed, welcomed, and listened. As Jesus greets his friends with "peace be with you," he reassures his presence, signifying that he is alive and walks with them. For us, Jesus is our peace. As we embrace His peace in our hearts, God will uplift us and inspire us to share it with each other. In our ministry, we are to embody His presence to those who seek guidance. Gaspar writes, **Interior peace comes from God, have no doubt about it. God indeed wishes us to have it... all in all, its basis lies in the divine grace in our hearts. Thus, we keep advancing in it**

*"The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus."*

- POPE FRANCIS



**with gentleness and trust. God is a God of peace. (Letter 1777)**

**How do you impart the peace of Christ to others?** The Resurrection of Jesus Christ did more than abolish sin and death; it restored hope. Hope in the person of Jesus as truly the way, truth, and life. That Jesus is indeed the Messiah, and he awaits us in heaven. This is hope. As missionaries, whether on the streets or in our homes, we are called to renew our spirits with joy, peace, and hope. To preach with joy, guide those in our care or brothers in community with peace, and live with hope. It's a privilege for us as missionaries to share and bear witness to these qualities of the Christian faith. Once again, Gaspar speaks of hope, **In prayer, make room for hope. Yes, let us place our hope in the merits of the Precious Blood, a most efficacious devotion, in order to wipe out every hardened sinner. (Letter 2102)**



**How do you sustain hope in others?**

~ FR. LUIGINO SANTI CPPS

### LET US BEAR IN MIND AND PRAY

Let us pray for all nations and people of the earth, and for those in authority, especially for Pope Francis and our local Bishops, in our Congregation for Moderator General **Emanuele Lupi**, C.P.P.S., and the General Council members, for Provincial and their Provincial Council members who serve with him, for active and retired

members of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, for members of USC, Friends of the Precious Blood, Lay Associates and Companions who serve and live the Precious Blood spirituality that, by God's help and grace, they may seek justice and truth and live in peace and concord.

## Reflection

In the *Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation II*, there is a beautiful invocation where we pray that the People of God, the Church, becomes **a sign of unity and an instrument of your peace.** This prayer finds a profound resonance, particularly on Fridays and Fridays of the Lenten season. These days prompt deeper reflection on how each of us can contribute to fostering a world of peace, understanding, and harmony within our community houses.

How can one personally become a source or liaison of unity? This question beckons us to consider the profound impact of even the simplest acts of kindness, motivated purely by love. Whether it involves exercising patience with someone who challenges us, lending a compassionate ear to another's worries, or earnestly striving to understand those who may be difficult, each instance becomes a tangible demonstration of God's presence alive within us. It's an acknowledgment that these individuals, however challenging they may seem, are fundamentally no different from ourselves. In this, we heed our Lord's call to bridge divides and foster unity among all.

Undoubtedly, this endeavour is easier said than done. Yet, let us not forget that through our Baptism, God has united us as brothers in Christ. Our Lord continuously nourishes and challenges our spirits towards unity. It's a journey we embark upon each time we gather for the Eucharist, where we fervently pray for this very intention. In this sacred act of communion, we receive not only the sustenance of the bread of life and the cup of salvation but also the grace and clarity to become instruments of His peace.



May our encounters at the Eucharistic table and our daily communion with God through personal prayer

empower us to see one another through the eyes of God. Let us strive to live as one, transcending barriers and divisions, and embodying the unity and peace that our Lord envisions for His people. Let us pray earnestly for the strength and resolve to labor for unity and peace, rejecting the temptation to sow seeds of division.

**THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, SOURCE OF MISSIONARY ZEAL**

Just as the blood courses through veins, breathing life into every corner of the body, so does the missionary spirit flow from the eternal wellsprings of Jesus, carrying the message of salvation to cultures and corners. The Precious Blood becomes both a compass and a driving force, propelling missionaries to bring the healing power of divine love to humanity.

We were founded to spread the love of Christ wherever we go. St. Gaspar instilled a fervent missionary spirit in his followers. He also emphasized the importance of sharing the Good News and spreading devotion to the Precious Blood. May each of us be worthy Missionaries.

**LIFE AT MERLINI MISSION HOUSE**

Life at Merlini Mission House brings with it a mix of emotions. Returning to this familiar setting triggers some apprehension, despite my cherished memories of residing here for 11 years in the past. This time around, I find myself among retired members. Yet, any preconceived notions about older individuals being rigid, close-minded, or irritable have swiftly been dispelled.

One of the residents exudes laughter and warmth. He regales us with captivating stories from his assignments and travels, astonishing us with his sharp recollection of people and places despite his age. Sitting with **Fr. B (Fr. Brendan)** is an invitation to savour a cup of coffee and immerse oneself in his tales, leaving us both entertained and spiritually enriched.

Another member serves as our community's historian. With a deep passion for preserving our communal legacy, he meticulously recounts the history of our order, both on a global scale and within our Province.

His tenure as a missionary has endowed him with an encyclopedic knowledge of past events and figures, occasionally prompting me to wonder if he once walked alongside St. Gaspar. Over breakfast and during afternoon coffee breaks, **Fr. Peter** generously imparts lessons in Latin, adding an enriching dimension to our daily routines.

At Merlini Mission House, the ethos of hospitality reigns supreme. The open-door policy welcomes unexpected members or visitors who seek solace, camaraderie, moments to vent or simply a friendly chat. I am continually impressed by how our residents embrace these moments, offering their presence and attention to those who cross our threshold, whether the conversation is lighthearted or profound.

*In brief...*

**APRIL 29 AND 30: Fr. Lui** attended the 103<sup>rd</sup> Toronto Diocesan CWL Convention in Ajax, Ontario. A gathering of five hundred dedicated faith-filled women who are truly remarkable and life-giving witnesses of Catholic faith. They were given a booth/table to promote and bring awareness of Venerable John Merlini Girls High School, in Dodoma, Tanzania. As the women stopped by, they filled out ballots to win prizes. The first prize was a Picnic Knapsack; second prize, a Travel Handbag; and the third prize, a Danier Leather Organizer. The prizes were donated by a generous friend of the Missionaries and a USC member. The two-day event ended with the Eucharist and a formal dinner with **Archbishop Francis Leo** as honoured guest and speaker.

**OREMUS**

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus repeatedly emphasizes the importance of prayer to his disciples. He exemplifies this by frequently withdrawing to secluded places — whether quiet corners, desert spaces, or mountain heights — to commune with his heavenly Father away from the clamour of crowds. In these moments, he listens attentively for the voice of God, finding strength and guidance.

Jesus's practice of seeking solitude to hear his Father's voice illustrates the peace and resilience that prayer brings, especially amid life's trials. Stepping away from the hustle of daily routines allows us to seek divine direction. By quieting our hearts and minds, we open ourselves to discerning God's plan for us. Regular periods of stillness enable us to attune to God's voice more clearly, deepening our understanding of His spirit and we come to know ourselves.

Prayer entails being present with God, listening to His voice, and experiencing His love, which in turn influences our decisions and actions. It instills courage, confidence, and a profound sense of companionship throughout life's journey. As Jesus reassures, **Be not afraid... I will be with you.**

Through prayer, we gain divine and realistic perspective on daily challenges. While it doesn't eliminate our problems, faithful prayer empowers us to confront them boldly, allowing God's goodness to radiate through us as faithful followers of Christ.

In the words of our founder, St. Gaspar, **Everything is brought to maturity through prayer... let us give thanks to God in the meantime and let us continue to pray, for prayer will bring forth the perfect cure.** (Letter 2987). In our prayers, do we listen attentively, or merely ask? Do we earnestly seek truth, even if it means embracing the challenges of understanding?

**SHARING PRECIOUS BLOOD SPIRITUALITY AT STAR OF THE SEA**

**Fr. Phil Smith, C.P.P.S.**, has returned to part-time ministry, where he is assisting at Star of the Sea Church in St. Catharines. The pastor is on medical leave and Fr. Phil accepted to celebrate Sunday liturgies and be on call for any other pastoral services. Fr. Phil wasted no time informing and sharing with the parish community that he is a member of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. He went a step further, where he printed in the weekly parish bulletins the history of the community, the life and times of St. Gaspar and St. Maria de Mattias, and he plans to share and explain our spirituality. In the past,

**Fr. Brendan Doherty, C.P.P.S.**, assisted the parish where the pastor also needed medical attention. Thank you, **Fr. Phil**, for bringing awareness, sharing our spirituality and devotion of the Precious Blood to the parish.

**VOICE OF OUR FOUNDER: As for me, I am cheerful, tranquil, and content, only because I am doing the will of God. I proclaim that I want to live and die with total abandonment to him.**

*St Gaspar del Bufalo Letter 22*



We celebrate!

YOUR BIRTHDAY

MAY 24

JEROME HOLOGA

MAY 27

BR. ANTHONY CANTERUCCI

MAY 28

GERMÁN SANTIAGO

YOUR ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

MAY 2

BRENDAN DOHERTY

MAY 4

JAMES REPOSKEY  
MARIO CAFARELLI

MAY 10

PETER NOBILI

MAY 21

PHIL SMITH

MAY 25

RENÉ CERECEDO

**A PASSING THOUGHT:** Recently a diocesan priest stopped in at Merlini House for a social visit, during which he asked if we were available to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. We accepted this opportunity to share God's mercy and forgiveness. After this graced

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY 24 2024

FEAST OF OUR LADY

HELP OF CHRISTIANS

MERLINI MISSION HOUSE

3PM WELCOME

4PM PRAYER

4:30PM HAPPY HOUR AND APERITIVO

5:15PM DINNER

MAY 27

DISTRICT MEETING

MERLINI MISSION HOUSE

1:30PM MEETING

4PM SOCIAL TIME

5PM DINNER

JUNE 10 TO 14

PROVINCIAL RETREAT

MT. CARMEL CENTRE, NIAGARA FALLS

JULY 1

• FEAST OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

• CANADA DAY

MERLINI MISSION HOUSE

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

AUGUST 15

• SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

NIAGARA HOUSE

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

moment, we continued our visit. As he was leaving, he commented that this house is a 'spiritual clinic'.

Can your home be a place of reconciliation and hope? Or a spiritual clinic?

We remember and pray for...

MAY 9

FR. CARLO DELLA VECCHIA (2020)

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.



PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR

May 2024

FOR THE FORMATION OF MEN AND WOMEN RELIGIOUS, AND SEMINARIANS

Let us pray that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.



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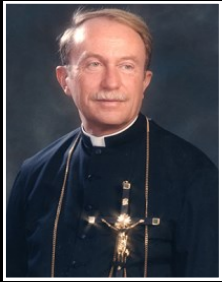
LET US HEAR FROM YOU! You are invited to share your prayers, reflections, photos, words of wisdom, happenings from your place of ministry.





# Requiescat in pace

## Reverend James Martin Reposkey CPPS



Reverend James Martin Reposkey, C.P.P.S., who devoted an astounding 50 years to his service as Missionary of the Most Precious Blood, Atlantic Province, passed away peacefully, on April 9, 2024, in Celina, Ohio, USA.

Fr. Jim was born on July 16, 1946, in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, as the youngest of two sons to Louis Reposkey and Julia Reposkey (née Calabrese).

He attended St. Francis Minor Seminary in Greensburg for his philosophical studies and later pursued theological studies at St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, New York.

Following his ordination on May 4, 1974, Fr. Jim served as Associate Pastor at St. Roch's Church, Toronto, and later became its Pastor. In 1992, he was assigned to St. Alphonsus Church, Toronto, where he served as Pastor. His final assignment as Pastor, in 2016, was at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Toronto.

Fr. Jim was known for his compassionate heart and inability to refuse anyone in need. He served as a spiritual advisor for the Catholic Women's League in the Central Toronto Region for many years, held memberships in the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, Council 1388. He took immense pride in wearing the religious habit and missionary cross.

Fr. Jim's Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Charles Borromeo Church and he was laid to rest at Westminster Cemetery, in Toronto.



*L*ORD JESUS,  
you called  
St. Gaspar del Bufalo  
to renew the Church  
through the ministry  
of the Word  
and the proclamation  
of our salvation  
in Christ's  
Precious Blood.

Continue to call men  
to share in that mission  
as priests and brothers  
who respond to  
the cry of the blood  
in our world today.

Give them the grace  
and strength  
they need  
to answer your call  
and have as your  
ever faithful servants.

We ask this  
in the name of Jesus  
who shed  
his Blood for us.  
Amen.



# Vocation Calendar • May 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.

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>1</b><br>Alarey Abella        | <b>17</b><br>Peter Nobili                            |
| <b>2</b><br>Mario Cafarelli      | <b>18</b><br>Lui Santi                               |
| <b>3</b><br>Brother Anthony      | <b>19</b><br>Germán Santiago                         |
| <b>4</b><br>René Cerecedo        | <b>20</b><br>Phillip Smith                           |
| <b>5</b><br>John Colacino        | <b>21</b><br>Ron Wiecek                              |
| <b>6</b><br>Samuel D'Angelo      | <b>22</b><br>USC Members                             |
| <b>7</b><br>Brendan Doherty      | <b>23</b><br>Deceased CPPS Members                   |
| <b>8</b><br>Joseph Grasso        | <b>24</b><br>Our benefactors                         |
| <b>9</b><br>Gregorio Hernandez   | <b>25</b><br>Our family and friends                  |
| <b>10</b><br>Jerome Hologa       | <b>26</b><br>The sick                                |
| <b>11</b><br>Dominic Jung        | <b>27</b><br>Our Bishops                             |
| <b>12</b><br>Gerardo Laguartilla | <b>28</b><br>Pope Francis                            |
| <b>13</b><br>Gary Luiz           | <b>29</b><br>Cancer patients and<br>their caregivers |
| <b>14</b><br>Ron Mahon           | <b>30</b><br>The lonely                              |
| <b>15</b><br>Michael Mateyk      | <b>31</b><br>Our civil leaders                       |
| <b>16</b><br>William Mnyagatwa   |  |

*Let us remain united in prayer*