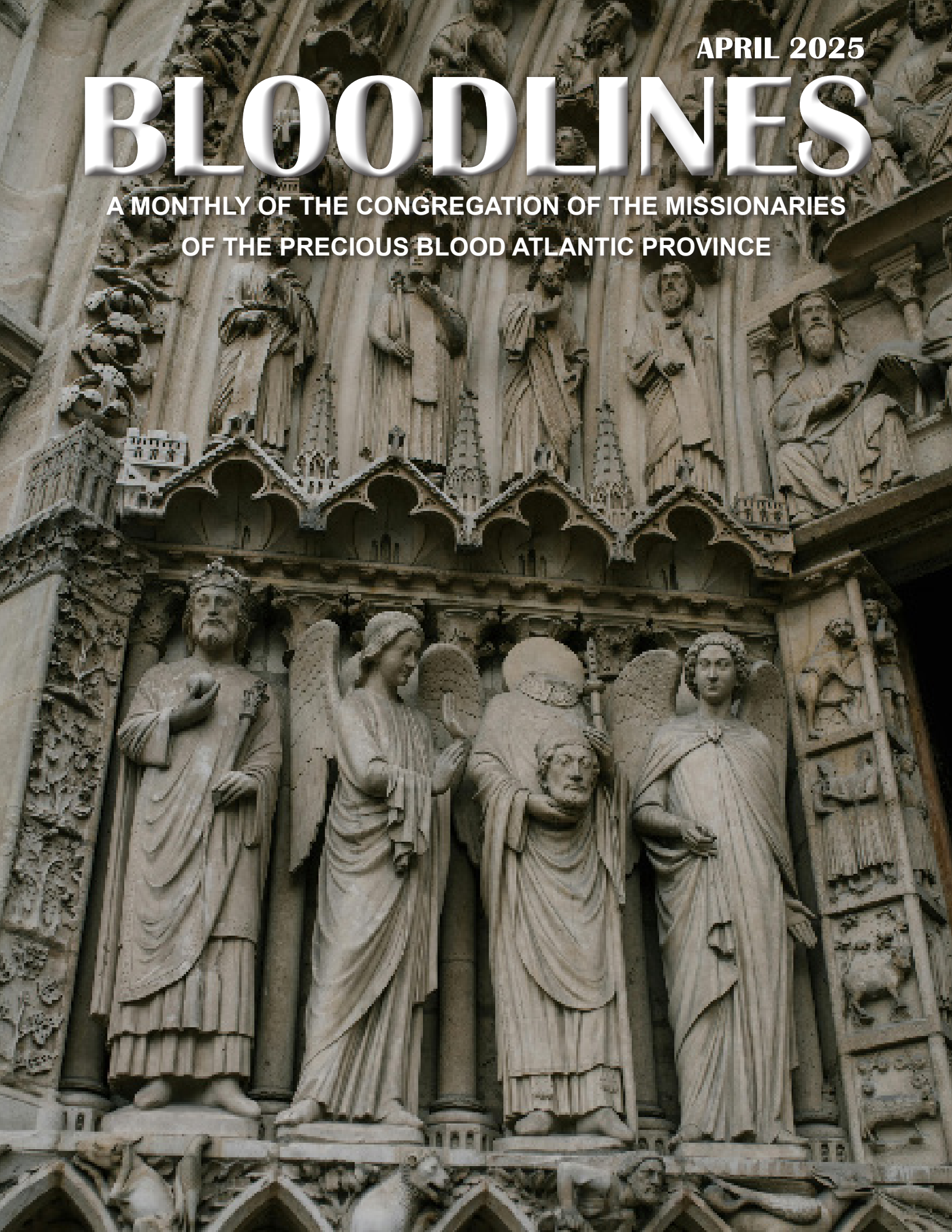


APRIL 2025

BLOODLINES

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





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

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PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

READING THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS reveals how they faithfully dedicated themselves to God. Their stories teach us the path to holiness and inspire us to strive for sainthood. Pope Francis often encourages us to pursue this divine calling. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, we are invited to become pilgrims of hope, walking the journey toward holiness and sanctity.

As members of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, we can look to Blessed John Merlini as a shining model of holiness and perseverance. His life serves as a testament to living faithfully and opening oneself to becoming a saint. Perseverance was a defining virtue that shaped his ministry. By remaining steadfast in his daily tasks, he allowed his heart and spirit to be an open vessel for God's grace, letting God's presence guide his plans and actions.

One of the most profound virtues Blessed John Merlini displayed was patience. Patience enabled him to listen attentively to God's will, discern with care, and act upon His guidance. This virtue was evident in the way he led his confreres, mentored St. Maria de Mattias, and governed his community. Patience can be likened to a graceful dance, where we take a step back and let situations unfold under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This act of letting go requires humility—a surrender to God's will that echoes the prayer: “Your will be done, not mine.”

Merlini's humility was deeply intertwined with the courage he needed to face life's challenges. He placed unwavering trust in God's plan for him and for the community. It is likely that he devoted countless hours to prayer, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire him—to live faithfully, love patiently, and serve wholeheartedly as a brother to his confreres.

Loving everyone is not always easy. Yet, we are called to accompany and understand one another with hearts open to the Spirit's prompting. At the center of any family or community is the Holy Spirit, who sustains and teaches us to love one another. Though we are imperfect, as only God is perfect, we grow in holiness through the wisdom and grace that come with time and faith. The Holy Spirit lavishes us with many gifts to aid us on this journey.

Among you, who best exemplifies understanding? Who stands out in patience? Who demonstrates endurance in the face of trials? Let our aspirations this year be to embrace hope, grow in holiness, and lift our hearts in gratitude to the Lord for the gift of His boundless love. St. Gaspar embodied this calling; Blessed Giovanni Merlini illuminated it—may we bear witness to it with joy and thanksgiving.

Consider these virtues—perseverance, God's grace, patience, humility, and courage—as stepping stones to grow in holiness and answer the call to sainthood.

Fr. Luigino Santi, CPPS

Answering the Call: A Journey of Mission and Ministry

Your years of formation are a time of discernment and preparation for ministry. We leave behind families and former workplaces, answering the call to become missionaries guided by a deep desire to serve God. Through prayer, study, and reflection, we open our hearts to listen to His call.

As missionaries, we are sent to proclaim, share, and bear witness to God's love for His people. We become windows through which others may glimpse God's presence—not because we have mastered His will or attained sainthood, but because, through you, others can experience His love. When the initial fervor begins to fade, weariness, doubts, and questions often arise. Yet, the Spirit that ignited our desire to serve remains within us, even when it seems diminished. Our mission is to guard and nurture this gift, allowing the Spirit's ineffable love to sustain us.

Jesus' words must always resonate in our hearts: “Abide in my love” and “Be not afraid.” The key to our vocation and ministry lies in three essential practices: the silence of meditation and daily prayer, a day of rest, and shared time that fosters fraternity. In the Eucharist, we encounter the Lord through the celebration of the Word and the reception of His Body and Blood. This becomes our daily spiritual nourishment.

What helps you to abide more fully in Christ's love? Who do you turn to for encouragement, understanding, and support?

Mary, our Mother, watches over us with a loving gaze, and we can always turn to her with confidence. She guides us to her Son, opening our hearts and minds to His presence and helping us make Him an integral part of our lives. Let her intercession accompany us as we approach Christ in the Eucharist, in prayer, and in community.

May we remain docile, gentle, and respectful with one another, listening as brothers in Christ. As we learn from Him, may we be equipped to serve with humility and love.

Vocation of the Apostles (1481) by Domenico Ghirlandaio



The Sacramental Journey of Hope

Dcn. Robert Sansone

AS an ordained permanent Deacon of the Catholic Church, I have had the unique privilege of receiving all seven sacraments. The sacraments have been a sacred gateway, offering an abundance of hope as they serve as tangible signs of God's invisible grace. They lay the foundation of my journey.

My personal sacramental journey of Hope began as an infant when I received the sacrament of Baptism. Cleansed of original sin, Baptism marked the start of my journey toward salvation and eternal life. It bestowed upon me the gift of a new life in Christ and serves as a profound reminder that I am a pilgrim on a journey of Hope, knowing that I belong to the Christian family.

As a young boy, I next received the sacrament of Reconciliation. For me, this sacrament embodies the hope of forgiveness and healing. It compels me to acknowledge my human frailty, invoking humility and restitution simultaneously. Amid the guilt, despair, and failures woven into the fabric of my human nature, Confession provides a path of hope to healing and renewal—both in spirit and in body. I have found that receiving this sacrament routinely is both fruitful and transformative. For sinful people to grow in holiness, one must first recognize transgressions, confront emotional wounds, rebuild trust, and restore a connection with God. Reconciliation, therefore, remains a sacrament of hope, assuring me that I can always return to God and begin anew.



My sacramental journey continued at my first Holy Communion. This sacrament provides me with the ultimate hope of communion with Christ. At the heart of my Catholic worship, it nourishes, strengthens, and fortifies me to endure life's challenges. The Eucharist reminds me of God's presence in my life, filling me with hope.

At the age of thirteen, I received the sacrament of Confirmation. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Confirmation deepened and strengthened the graces I received at Baptism. This sacrament, therefore, is my hope for strength and empowerment.

When I was twenty-five, God gifted me with my wife, and I received the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Marriage is the sacred union between a man, a woman, and Jesus. It affirms the value of commitment, sacrifice, and mutual love, particularly in times of hardship. This sacrament provides hope by empowering couples to live out their vows with faith, hope, and love.

It is truly hope upon hope.

The next sacrament on my journey, Holy Orders, was the pinnacle sign of hope in my life. As a permanent Deacon, I am honored to be perceived as a representative of the Catholic Church, regarded as a light of hope. The sacrament that gives me hope by serving others also provides hope to those I serve, as I guide and care for them during their times of need. It is truly hope upon hope.

Last October I experienced the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick after being hospitalized due to a fractured hip from a bad fall. A priest friend comforted me with this, bringing me hope both physically and spiritually, while reminding me of God's ongoing care.

Ultimately, my sacramental life is a constant reminder God's grace is always available to me, no matter the challenges I face. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, the sacraments have consistently sustained me and will continue to sustain us as we navigate our journey as Pilgrims of Hope.

Stream of Mercy

Fr. Brendan Doherty, CPPS—or simply Fr. B—is *On Mission*. Having served in parish ministry across Tanzania, the USA, and Canada, he is now continuing his mission at Merlini Mission House. He keeps everyone guessing, with his frequent coffee and cookie breaks throughout the day. If you listen closely to his diverse stories and experiences, you'll find that these moments become teachable and faith-filled opportunities. It's inspiring to see how he passes on the faith and instills strong values in both the young and the old, especially in a world that has grown cold to wisdom and integrity. Thank you, Fr. B!

The Resurrection and New Life

Theme: Healing Wonders, Building Bridges
Scripture: Ephesians 2:13 "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the Blood of Christ."

Reflection: April brings the joy of Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection. The Precious Blood is not only a symbol of sacrifice but also the source of new life. As Pilgrims of Hope, we rejoice in the victory of life over death, of hope over despair. The Resurrection calls us to live as people of hope, confident in the promise of eternal life. This month, we reflect on how the Resurrection shapes our pilgrimage, inspiring us to continue our journey with renewed vigor and joy. Through the Blood of Christ, we have been reconciled to God and to one another. As Pilgrims of Hope, we are called to be witnesses to reconciliation, healing the wounds of division, and building bridges of peace. Let us take time this month to reflect on our role in fostering unity within our communities.

Prayer: Pray for the grace to be peacemakers, striving for harmony in your relationships and community.

District Meetings

Discussions The open and honest discussions during the recent District meetings were greatly appreciated. Valuable thoughts were exchanged, sparking further reflection that will be explored in greater depth at the Provincial Assembly this June. Please remember to submit your personal reflections and thoughts to me as soon as possible, so they can be incorporated into the preparation for these discussions.

Be Transformed

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, let us renew our desire to follow Christ more closely. Few truly embraced His message of love and forgiveness. He loved everyone He encountered, yet He was mocked, insulted, and crucified by many. Despite this, Jesus offered mercy, forgiveness, and His Precious Blood. Even His apostles and disciples sometimes questioned His motives. In the months ahead, let us seize the opportunity to turn to our Lord. While Jesus may challenge us to live more fully for Him, let us pray for the courage to change our hearts and avoid becoming stagnant in our faith.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- ▶ **Pray** a little more.
- ▶ **Forgive** one person each week.
- ▶ Be a **sign of hope**: reach out to someone, offer a helping hand, lend a listening ear, share words of encouragement, or simply thank someone.

By doing so, we celebrate hope and transform not only ourselves but also those around us.

A Missionary of Hope

This month's reflection on the meaning of hope, in this Jubilee Year of Hope, comes from Brother Anthony Canterucci, CPPS, who shares his heartfelt thoughts:

God has blessed us with the incredible gifts of faith, love, and hope. Hope inspires us to continue striving for more. As God kept His promises, we are moved to live with hope and keep it alive. Hope empowers us to face any situation, knowing that no matter how things may seem, God is with us and in our work. This is the essence of hope.

Like everyone else, I have encountered many challenges in life, moving from despair to hope. When asked, "What is hope?" my answer is simple: it is only in and with God that we succeed and find happiness. Trusting in God lifts us to great heights, and whatever comes our way, we are called to accept it—to live with it. This gives us the courage to keep moving forward, serving day by day. By accepting and embracing the tasks of each day, we discover purpose and meaning. Believing in and trusting the will of God infuses hope into each new day. My love for God strengthens my faith, enabling me to inspire others to believe. Hope is the unifying thread that weaves faith and love together.

WORDS OF THE FOUNDER

Oh, how we are comforted in our souls by the mysteries of the Resurrection!

Yes, please pray that I too may truly be risen with Jesus, that is, to new life and to an eager pursuit of holiness."

~ GASPAR DEL BUFALO
LETTER 2026

THOUGHTS FROM BLESSED DON GIOVANNI MERLINI

Let us unite ourselves more and more to God with the most ardent desire to be holy and wholly his.

~ LETTER 25



MANTEL OF RELICS When visiting the Giano Mission House, you will find the Precious Blood Family relics beautifully displayed adjacent to the chapel. Fr. John Colacino, CPPS, the house director, has lovingly acquired relics of St. Francis Xavier, our patron saint, St. Maria de Mattias, St. Gaspar del Bufalo, and Blessed Giovanni Merlini. The mantel and the chapel radiate a profound sense of holiness and prayer, creating an atmosphere that deeply touches the soul. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, we are encouraged to embark on a personal pilgrimage to a shrine or holy site. Consider dedicating a day in prayer at the Mantel of Relics in Giano Mission House, Rochester, NY.

DATE TO REMEMBER

Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians

This year, as the feast day falls on a Sunday, it was agreed to celebrate it on Monday, May 26, at the Merlini Mission House.

3:00PM SOCIAL GATHERING

5:15PM BBQ DINNER

If you have any special dietary requests, please let us know ASAP. We look forward to seeing you.

WE CELEBRATE

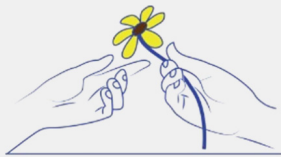
APRIL 23 GARY LUIZ
(Ordination Anniversary)

WE REMEMBER

Requiescant in pace.

APRIL 9 JAMES REPOSKEY
APRIL 15 CARLO DELLA VECCHIA
APRIL 18 CARL LONGENBACK
APRIL 23 FOUNDING OF THE ATLANTIC PROVINCE, 1987
REV. NICHOLAS ARIOLI, CPPS,
FIRST PROVINCIAL

St. Joseph's Centre of Hope for Women



St. Joseph's Centre
of Hope for Women

ON the Solemnity of St. Joseph, March 19th, Fr. Lui Santi, CPPS, Provincial Director, presided at the celebration alongside Bishop Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Toronto, who concelebrated at the Holy Mass.

Following the Eucharist, the Centre was blessed and rededicated by the Bishop in the presence of office staff, numerous volunteers, and the Sisters of Life. True to tradition, St. Joseph's *zeppole* were enjoyed in abundance.

The Centre remains steadfast in its mission to support single or low-income mothers facing difficult situations. It provides a safe space where women can explore all their options and receive practical, medical, financial, and emotional assistance for both mother and child.



ABOVE: Fr. Lui, Alex Schadenberg (Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition), and Frank D'Angelo (Director of St. Joseph's Centre).

BELOW: Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR (Bishop of the Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church) and Fr. Lui shared the official blessing.



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

PHILLIP SMITH

19

RON WIECEK

20

USC MEMBERS

21

DECEASED CPPS MEMBERS

22

OUR BENEFACTORS

23

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

24

THE SICK

25

OUR BISHOPS

26

POPE FRANCIS

27

CANCER PATIENTS AND
THEIR CAREGIVERS

28

THE LONELY

29

THE FORGOTTEN

30

YOUR PERSONAL INTENTION

Vocation Prayer

*GOD OUR FATHER,
in Baptism, you called each of us by name
to be your children,
and we give you thanks and praise
for this precious gift.*

*May the Good News of Jesus Christ,
which inspired the first apostles and
disciples to “come and see,”
continue to resonate
with our young people today.*

*Bless our Congregation
and the Atlantic Province
with men who will answer your call
to serve faithfully,
embracing the courage to proclaim
your Word as missionary priests
and brothers.*

*We make this prayer through your Son,
Jesus Christ, and through the intercession
of St. Gaspar del Bufalo
and Blessed Don Giovanni Merlini,
forever and ever.
Amen.*