

OCTOBER 2025

BLOODLINES

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



Do
you
love
me?
JOHN
21:15-25



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

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PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

FEED MY SHEEP: TRUSTING THE CALL OF CHRIST

In the Gospel of John where Jesus asks Peter, 'Do you love me?' is also a source of reflection on the relationship between Jesus and Peter and



offers a powerful lens through which to view our own faith journey. The repeated question, "Do you love me?" is more than just a test of Peter's loyalty; it's an invitation to deepen his commitment and trust in Jesus, despite his past failures. It is a reminder that Jesus does not discard us after our mistakes but calls us to rise above them and move forward in faith.

Following Jesus, as we have accepted, is about surrendering our own desires and plans. It's a daily act of trust—one that requires us to set aside our pride, our need for control, and our fear of failure. Just like Peter, we are invited to come after Jesus, not because we are perfect but because we are willing to place our trust in Him, believing that His plans for us are better than our own.

The idea that Jesus does not wait for us to love Him perfectly is so comforting. We do not have to wait until we are "good enough" to say yes to following Him. Instead, every day, we are given a fresh opportunity to respond with a humble "yes," knowing that even our imperfect steps will lead us closer to Him. And as we trust Him more, we begin to experience transformation—both in ourselves and in the world around us.

The community and sacramental life—prayer, Eucharist, fraternity—are where we encounter this love and renewal most profoundly. Here, we listen for His voice, receive His grace, and find the strength to feed His sheep and tend His lambs. These moments help us to continue

*"I am surrounded by hope!
How could I be anything other
than hopeful?"*



saying yes, even when it's hard, and to do so with zeal, knowing that each day is a new invitation to follow Him with all our hearts.

What is your personal experience with

responding to that invitation? Have there been moments when you have felt that renewed call to trust and follow? Did you see anything new? How has this made you a better missionary?

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2025-ROME

The three-week gathering was filled with prayer, discernment, discussion, listening, understanding, elections, and a renewed focus on our Core Values. The General Curia recognized that the Core Values, written during the 2019 General Assembly, needed to be made more tangible and practical. A final, approved document outlining these Core Values will be distributed to each member.

BLOOD OF CHRIST-HOPE FOR THE WORLD was the guiding spirit of the Assembly. The XXII General Assembly

brought together Provincials from each Province/Unit, delegates, USC members, and invited guests. The newly elected leadership team received a clear mandate: to encourage, promote, and guide the worldwide community in being a faithful, hope-filled pilgrim people—bearing witness wherever we live the apostolate.

Fr. Luigino Santi, CPPS

HOPE IN TRUST AND PROVIDENCE WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

REFLECTION: This month, we reflect on the nature of our pilgrimage as a journey of faith. The Precious Blood of Christ is a testament to the unseen yet powerful work of God in our lives. As Pilgrims of Hope, we walk in faith, trusting in the promises of God even when the path is unclear. The Blood of Christ is our constant reminder that God's grace is sufficient for every step of our journey.

FOCUS PRAYER: Pray for the strength to trust in God's plan, even when the way forward is uncertain.



As we resume the reflections of Hope during this Year of Jubilee of Hope this month, Christine Skinner Way shares a solemn thought.

I grew up on a farm with little sense of the world beyond the borders of my small rural community. High school changed that. I learned about poverty, war and social injustice. I was shocked but also compelled to act for change. At that time, that mostly meant occasionally writing letters to the government and attending prayer vigils for peace. Near the end of high school, I became involved with CPPS Mission projects and soon found myself in Tanzania building windmills, unloaded containers of donations and working in hospitals. I returned to my second year of university, determined to learn everything I could about international development. What I discovered was the complex history of colonization and its legacy of social, economic and political structures that result in riches for a few and poverty for many.

The more I learned, the more it seemed to me, the roots of war and poverty and all the "isms" of which I was learning, lie in questions of meaning. What does it mean to see every single person as a child of God? What does it mean to be ethical and not just in our personal relationships but in our social, economic and political relationships? And if all of creation is the handiwork of a loving God, then how ought we relate to the earth and all other living beings? I studied theology and then spent the better part of my life working in parish ministry thinking about these questions with children, teens and adults. The church, I believed, could really help people become more compassionate, peaceful and just. And it did, in so many ways—in the way we fed the poor and comforted the afflicted, the way we worked for justice and peace and the way we celebrated people's joys and helped them pass

on their faith to their children. But then I saw that the church itself needed to become more compassionate, peaceful and just. At the age of fifty-five, I found myself back in school trying to understand how a community that claims to follow Jesus could be capable of such horrific abuses of power—the sexual abuse of children, financial abuses, employment practices that caused the ruination of people's lives, judgmental and authoritarian leadership that led people away from the practice of faith.

My life path has placed me face to face with some of the most egregious examples of humanity's inhumanity. One might think this would lead to a despair... or at least to some level of pessimism. But the opposite is true. While I no longer consider myself naïve, I am deeply hopeful. For my ministry has also placed me in the path of heroic acts of resilience and courage. People like Amanda*, who was a victim of human trafficking and who is getting her life back together one hour at a time. Or Fernando who attends our community meal program and always tells me, "Thanks, but I have enough." even though he has no home to call his own. Then there is Rita who is nearly ninety and who works tirelessly to build a healthier, less clerical and more compassionate church. And Jonathan, a survivor of clergy sexual abuse who—despite his brokenness—is committed to the healing of other victims and survivors. I have been inspired every day of my life by lay people, religious women and men, priests, bishops, popes and secular folks who work daily with tireless commitment and also with great joy to alleviate human suffering while they work to change the structures that cause it. I am surrounded by hope! How could I be anything other than hopeful?

**The names are fictitious, the stories are true.*

Christine Skinner Way

Message from Pope Leo XIV

I am very pleased to meet you on the occasion of your Chapters and Assemblies.

I greet the Superiors General present, and all of you who are engaged in efforts of listening and discernment in these days. Some of your Congregations are carrying out elections, and this too is a great gift for the Church and a great responsibility, which we entrust to the Lord together.

Your Institutes are a splendid and varied testimony, reflecting the multiplicity of gifts bestowed by God on founders and foundresses who, in openness to the working of the Holy Spirit, successfully interpreted the signs of the times and responded wisely to new needs" (JOHN PAUL II, *Vita Consecrata*, 9).

Indeed, Brigida di Gesù Morello, in the seventeenth century, when society did not always fully recognize the value of formation for young women, began an initiative for the promotion of the dignity of women that would bear much fruit in the future. Similarly, two centuries later in Rome, Saint Gaspare del Bufalo dedicated himself, through popular missions and spreading devotion to the Blood of Christ, to opposing the rampant spirit of "impiety and irreligion" that afflicted his time. A similar undertaking commenced in France with Father Jean-Claude Colin, who was inspired in his apostolate by the spirit of humility and discretion of Mary of Nazareth. Finally, in the 1990s, following in the footsteps of Saint Francis and Saint Maximilian Kolbe, the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate were born.

This is the multifaceted legacy that brings you here today. Now, let us highlight some of its unifying characteristics.

The first is the importance of community life in the religious vocation you share, as a place of sanctification and a source of inspiration, witness and strength in your apostolate. In it,

"the power of the Holy Spirit at work in one individual passes at the same time to all... Not only does each enjoy his own gift, but it makes it abound by sharing it with others; and each one enjoys the fruits of the other's gift as if they were his own" (ibid., 42). It is no coincidence that the Holy Spirit inspired those who preceded you to join the sisters and brothers whom Providence placed on their path, so that goodness would multiply and grow through the communion of good people. This was the case at the beginning of your foundations and throughout the centuries, and the same continues to take place today.

The second aspect I would like to focus on is the vital importance of obedience as an act of love in religious consecration. Jesus gave us an example of this in his relationship with the Father: "I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me" (Jn 5:30). In this regard, Saint Augustine puts great emphasis on the close relationship that exists between obedience and love in Christian life. "You all love charity," he said in a sermon; "Now obedience is the daughter of charity..., the root is hidden, the fruit is out in the open. I do not trust what is stuck in the soil, unless I can see what's hanging from the branches. You have charity, do you? Show me its fruit. Let me have the child to hug, so that I can recognize the mother" (Sermon 359 B, 12). Talking about obedience is not very fashionable today because it is considered a renunciation of freedom. But that is not the case. Obedience, in its deepest meaning of active and generous listening to others, is a great act of love by which we accept dying to ourselves so that our brothers and sisters may grow and live. When it is professed and lived with faith, obedience reveals a luminous path of self-giving that can help the world rediscover the

value of sacrifice, the capacity for lasting relationships, and the maturity in community that goes beyond the "feelings" of the moment by establishing itself in fidelity. Obedience is a school of freedom in love.

"Follow in the footsteps of past generations in order to grasp the high ideals, and the vision and values which inspired them..."

Finally, the third aspect I would like to focus on is being attentive to the signs of the times. Without this open and perceptive gaze towards the real demands of our brothers and sisters, none of your Congregations would have been founded. Your founders were capable of observing, evaluating, loving and then setting out, even at the risk of great suffering and failure, to serve the real needs of their brothers and sisters, recognizing the voice of God in the poverty of their neighbors. That is why it is important for you to move forward in the living memory of those courageous beginnings, not in the sense of doing "an exercise in archaeology or the cultivation of mere nostalgia, but of following in the footsteps of past generations in order to grasp the high ideals, and the vision and values which inspired them, beginning with the founders and foundresses and the first communities" (FRANCIS, *To All Consecrated People on the Occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life*, 1), identifying their potential, perhaps still unexplored, in order to put them to good use in the service of the "here and now."

Dear friends, I know how much good you do every day in so many parts of the world—good that is often unseen by human eyes, but not by God's! I thank you and bless you from my heart, encouraging you to continue your mission with faith and generosity.

DATES TO REMEMBER **OCTOBER 19: HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Brendan Doherty

OCTOBER 29

Italo-American Delegation Est 1928

Rev. Nicola Santoro, First Superior

OCTOBER 7: REQUIESCAT IN PACE

John Zywolewski

UPCOMING GATHERINGS

OCTOBER 13

Canadian Thanksgiving Dinner

Hosted by Frs. Jerome, William, and Germán.

COMMUNITY TIME: 11:30am; DINNER: 1pm

OCTOBER 21

Feast of St. Gaspar

Fr. Alarey and Br. Anthony invite you to an early bird social, beginning at 3pm.

DINNER: 5:30pm; MASS: 7:30pm

NOVEMBER 25

Day of Recollection

Merlini House, 1:30pm

Social/Dinner: 4:30pm

Fr. Peter Poole will lead us in prayer and reflection—a meaningful opportunity to prepare our hearts for the Advent Season and to mark the closing of the Jubilee Year of Hope. Yet our pilgrimage journey continues, carried forward with renewed spirit and faith.

DECEMBER 13

The Knights of Columbus of St. Alphonsus Church will host the **Missio Dinner 2025**—a formal banquet to be held at **St. Paul's Basilica.**

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 LEO XIV

27

CANCER PATIENTS AND
THEIR CAREGIVERS

28

THE LONELY

29

THE FORGOTTEN

30

LASTING PEACE

31

YOUR PERSONAL INTENTION

Prayer for Precious Blood Vocations

*Heavenly Father,
You bestowed upon Saint Gaspar
and Blessed Giovanni Merlini
a profound humility
and an undivided heart,
enabling them to love and serve with fidelity.*

*Grant us the grace
to follow their example,
that through their intercession,
you may inspire generous vocations
and open our hearts to your call—
to serve the Church and the community,
and to proclaim the Good News with joy.
Amen.*

VOICE OF THE FOUNDERS

*Faith is propagated through preaching
and that preaching must be kept alive.*

— GASPAR DEL BUFALO Letter 3819

*Tell me, who does not make mistakes?
Even the great saints make mistakes, And why does God permit it?
So that we do not lose humility,
which is the foundation of holiness.*
— BLESSED GIOVANNI MERLINI Letter #235