



Blood Lines
Newsletter of the Atlantic Province
Summer 2019

From the Provincial and Council

On Friday, August 16, 2019, the Provincial Council met at the Centre House in Niagara Falls, Ontario, at 9:15 a.m. All Council Members were present: Fr. Mario Cafarelli, Fr. John Colacino, Fr. Samuel D'Angelo and Fr. Ronald Wiecek. The meeting began with a prayer by Fr. Mario

Approval of the Minutes of the Last Council Meeting

The minutes of the previous council meeting were approved.

Approval of the ACTA of the Business Assembly

Fr. John presented a document containing the Acta passed at the recent assembly. Upon review by the Council they were approved for submission to the General Council which must give them final approval.

Approval of the Minutes of the Business/Electoral Assembly

The minutes from the last session of the assembly were approved and will be forwarded to the membership.

Finances

Fr. Peter gave an updated financial report noting in particular that the sale of the Bathurst property will be finalized on September 20 with proceeds being used for renovations to the new house of formation and for expenses related to the formation program.

He informed the Council of the heavy expenses currently being incurred for publication of the magazine. He expects the mailing list to be weeded out within a year. The possibility of having a digital copy available to subscribers was also discussed.

Fr. Peter then informed the Council that a cook/housekeeper and a maintenance/landscape person has been hired for the Niagara mission house.

The Council also determined that there would no longer be automatic increases in the personal allowance and car allowances.

Program and House of Formation

The time line for the incorporation and ordination of candidates was discussed: definitive incorporation would occur on the feast of St. Gaspar, October 21; diaconate on the feast of St. Francis Xavier, December 3 and priesthood on the feast of the Precious Blood, July 1.

Fr. Augusto Menichelli and architect Mr. Gabriel Faraone joined the meeting to give an update and overview on plans for the new house of formation along with preliminary drawings. The possibility of adding a third-floor extension was also presented. Mr. Faraone will be presenting the drawings to the city of Toronto in a few weeks and will take bids from four contractors. Assuming the granting of permits sometime in the late fall, he thinks construction would take approximately six months to complete. The Council will review the bids at its next meeting.

Five Year Plan

Fr. John then presented the revised guidelines for the mission office that were presented at the assembly with slight modifications recommended by members at the assembly. The document was then approved unanimously. Fr. John expressed concern that accurate and up-to-date documentation be uploaded to the provincial website in a timely fashion.

Fr. Mario stated that the five-year plan ending in 2022 continues to be well-implemented. His biggest concern is identifying and forming candidates for future leadership.

Personnel

A number of personnel issues were then discussed.

The meeting adjourned at the conclusion of the afternoon session that followed lunch. The next meeting is scheduled for October 7 at 10:00am at the Niagara mission house.

Provincial Calendar

AUGUST

- 3 I – Anthony Canterucci (1949)
- 8 B – Peter Nobili (1942)
- 14 O – Carlo Della Vecchia (1948)
- 15 Solemnity of the Assumption (Foundation of the Congregation, 1815)
- 15 I – Ronald Wiecek (1965)
- 18 D – Sebastian Contegiacomo (1982)
- 19 B – Carlo Della Vecchia (1924)
- 24 D – Francisco Dell Valle Milan (2016)
- 25 I – Dominic Jung (1994)
- 28 B – Venerable John Merlini (1795)
- 29 I -- Joseph Grasso (1991)

SEPTEMBER

- 1 B – Atlantic Vicariate Established (1966)
- 1 O – Patrick Gilmurray (2012)
- 2 D – Nicholas Arioli (1992)
- 6 B – Michael Mateyk (1973)
- 7 I -- Rene Cerecedo (1984)
- 9 B – San D' Angelo (1967)
- 12 B – Rene Cerecedo (1951)
- 15 Memorial of Mary, Woman of the New Covenant
- 29 I – German Santiago Esteves (2012)
- 29 I – Gregorio Hernandez Cortez (2012)

OCTOBER

- 1 I – Peter Nobili (1964)
- 7 D – John Zywolewski (1993)
- 19 B – Brendan Doherty (1940)
- 20 O – Jeffrey Finley (1990)
- 20 I – Augusto Menichelli (2004)
- 21 Solemnity of St. Gaspar del Bufalo, Founder of the Congregation
- 22 I – James Reposkey (1972)
- 26 O – Gregorio Hernandez Cortes (2015)
- 29 Italo-American Delegation Established (1928)

NOVEMBER

- 4 I – Ronald Mahon (1975)
- 9 D – Oreste Cerbara (1990)
- 10 D - Patrick Sena (2012)
- 18 B – Gary Luiz (1950)
- 20 B – William Mnyagatwa (1946)

Voice of the Founder



*God rewards us according to the purity of our intentions
and according to our labors.
If the results, at times, do not correspond to our desires
and the situation does not depend upon us,
we will speak through prayer and through good example.
Never should one lose equilibrium in God.
(Letter 2819)*



Prayer for the General Assembly

Come, Holy Spirit. Come! Embrace and enflame us in your heart of fire. Soften our hardness — transform us. Give us the courage to accept into our open hearts the grace of your vision for us. Bring life to our dryness — drench us. May our lives be chalices of compassion that satisfy those who thirst for justice. Send us to proclaim a time of blessing and welcome to those who are far off. You who are over and within us, who heal and sustain us, anoint us to discover together the passionate commitments and leaders who will create the Congregation of the future. Come, Holy Spirit. Come! Make us new wine for the Church and the world! AMEN!

From Around the Province

May 24, Mary Help of Christians; Installation in Ministry of Lector of Jerome Hologa and Ministry of Acolyte of Gerardo Laguartilla; St. Michael's Church, Fort Erie ON



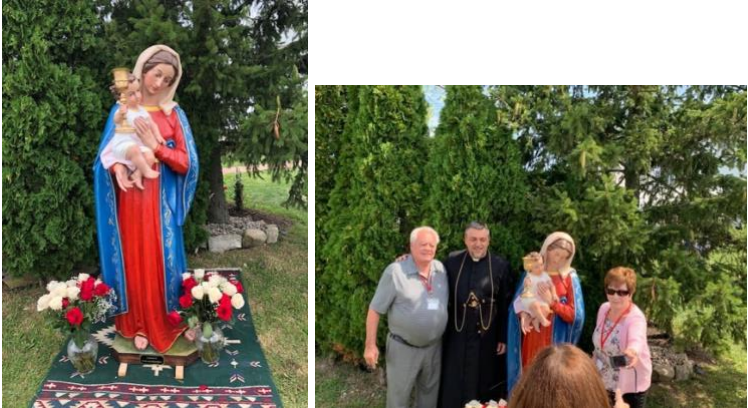
Provincial Assembly, June 10-14; Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls ON



Feast of the Precious Blood, July 1; St. Charles Borromeo Church, Toronto



Solemnity of the Assumption, August 15; Niagara Falls ON





History of the Atlantic Province; Fr. Andy Pollack C.P.P.S. (cont'd)

When Fr. Rohowski left the United States in 1899 to retire in Rome and Father Ebert had died in 1902, Father Frederick Schaeper was the only one left in Michigan who belonged to the Roman Province. Of course, there was Father Hennebery in California. He had been invited around 1895 by the Moderator General to get rid of all of his property in California and to come to Rome for a while and then go to Michigan to build up the Roman observance group there. However, he declined, begging to be left alone to prepare for death. He died on September 19, 1897 in Virginia City, Nevada while preaching a mission there. To remedy Father Frederick Schaeper's companionless situation, the General Curia, on August 22nd, 1902 discussed the idea of sending three young clerics (Pasquale Renzullo, Edoardo Ricciardelli and John Mullen) to join Father Fred Schaeper at Mendon and thus form a new Mission House and thus initiate a new Province. However in March 1903, the bishop transferred Fr. Fred Schaeper from Mendon to St. Joseph's Parish in Adrian, Michigan, where there was room only for one more person in the rectory. After consulting with a number of individuals in the USA including the Archbishop of New York, the Moderator General, Biascelli, was convinced of the too great difficulty involved in establishing a new House and thus a new Province. He then appealed to the American Provincial to help him find a place for the two young Italians, Edoardo Ricciardelli and Pasquale Renzullo, who had been excused from the military draft because of the promise made to the Italian Government that these two would go to foreign mission work. The United States was considered a mission territory until June 29, 1908.

After contacting Archbishop Quigley of Chicago, who was interested in doing something for the many Italian people in Chicago, the American provincial, Fr. Boniface Russ, wrote to Fr. Joseph Schaeper to tell Father General that the two young men are welcome and that we will take care of them as long as they remain here.

Fr. Ricciardelli and Fr. Renzullo arrived in New York on February 5, 1904 and shortly afterwards arrived in Chicago. There work on behalf of the Italian immigrants began as assistants in Holy Guardian Angels parish to the pastor, the Rev. Edmund M. Dunne, D.D., who later became bishop of Peoria, Illinois. Their address was 178 Fourquer St. The young neo-presbyters were swamped with work since the pastor was also the chancellor of the archdiocese and was not at the parish always. The American provincial, Fr. Boniface Russ, even went to the Archbishop objecting that the young priests could not remain there under such conditions, but the Archbishop promised to remedy the situation. During the last half of 1904, Fr. John Mullen returned to the USA after a 12-year absence.

Fr. Ricciardelli and Fr. Renzullo remained at Holy Guardian Angels parish until the end of the year 1904. Then, sometime in 1905, in compliance with Father General's repeated requests, Fr. Ricciardelli went to live in the Rectory-Mission House of Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne, Indiana where the missionaries, Fr. Schlachter and Fr. Virgilius Krull and others were stationed. While there, he is listed as part-time chaplain of St. Vincent's Orphanage of Fort Wayne. During 1905, Fr. John Mullen was made pastor of Holy Rosary, an Italian parish in Chicago. His address was 249 N. Western Avenue. Fr. Renzullo then went to live with him. This arrangement continued until 1909 when Fr. Renzullo went to live in the parish he had begun to build in 1908 in Chicago Heights, namely, that of St. Rocco. In the meantime, in 1906, later on in June, Fr. Ricciardelli became pastor of another Italian parish, that St. Mary of Mount Carmel.

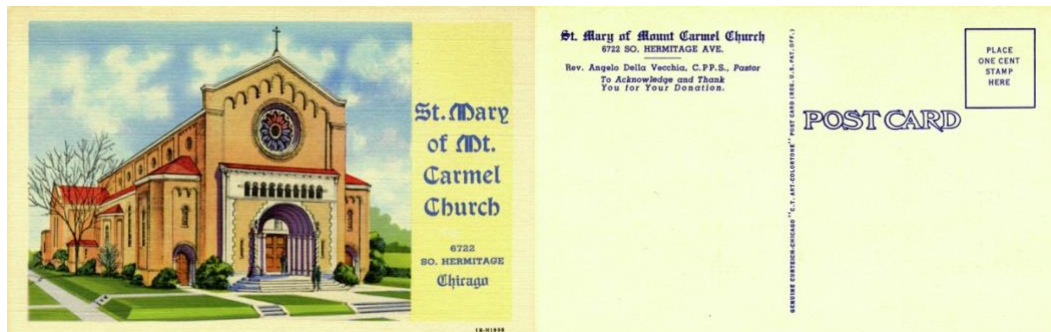
That same year, Fr. Mullen was declared a member of the American province while the other two continued to remain under the American Province's Superiors and rules without becoming part of it. About this time, 1906, Fr. Michael Martiniano of the Roman (Neapolitan?) Province, came to the USA. However, he made his headquarters in Brooklyn, New York in the parish of Our Lady of Solace where he helped out and clarity from where he helped out in other places and from where he made many missionary forays into Italian communities.

In 1910, Catholic Directory lists Fr. Mullen as pastor of Holy Rosary (Italian) parish, 612 N. Western Avenue, Chicago; Fr. Ed Ricciardelli as pastor of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel, 67th & Page Sts., Chicago; Fr. Pascal Renzullo as pastor of St. Rocco, 259 22nd St., Chicago Heights. This set-up continued until 1914, late in August sometime when Fr. Mullen gave up his parish. Since the American Province could not provide a pastor, the parish was returned to the Archbishop. Father Mullen, after spending some time at St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana, in the Messenger Office, became pastor in Greencastle, Indiana, where he died September 5, 1934

Fr Ricciardelli continued caring for St. Mary of Mt. Carmel and the Fr. Renzullo continued to care for St. Rocco, however, his address changed to 312 22nd St. in 1912. Then something happened which brought some

other C.P.P.S. missionaries to work among the Italian immigrants in the United States. To understand it we must backtrack a little.

Some Interesting Updates on these Former Parishes and Early Missionaries



The following comment was found online: "Father Angelo Del Vecchio (sic) was the head pastor and was a giant of a kind hearted man." (More on St. Mary of Mt Carmel in the next issue).

St. Rocco's Parish (compiled from several online sources)

San Rocco, was founded in 1906 by Fr. Pasquale Renzullo. Newspapers credited the land association with helping in the construction of the \$15,000 church. Joseph Cercone, then city alderman, is listed as the contractor. Dedication ceremonies included participation by Chicago archdiocesan officials, the Italian band, and several Italian societies all of which points to a considerable degree of development within the ethnic community.

He also took care of the Italian church in Blue Island, St. Donatus, from 1911 to 1912. A parish school opened in Dec., 1912, operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph from LaGrange, Illinois; it was named Mt. Carmel School. Archbishop Quigley paid the salaries of the sisters, \$20 per month, as well as the tuition of every student. A convent was completed in September, 1913. In the *New World*, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Chicago, the complex was described in glowing terms:

The church, dedicated to St. Roch, parish house and school, are brick structures, built substantially and along harmonious lines, that give artistic finish to the whole plan. The church is commodious, tastefully decorated and furnished; the school rooms are large and cheerful; the parish assembly hall, with spacious stage, accommodates seven hundred people, and the pastor's house is one of the best in the archdiocese. All this was done by this zealous priest to make his people proud of their religion.

Renzullo remained pastor until 1922 and had to battle apathy, anti-clerical outbursts by Italian socialists, and competition from the Presbyterian Italian mission, the Church of Our Savior. Despite setbacks, however, the pastor succeeded in establishing the Mt. Carmel School in 1912, staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph. Also high on the agenda was the Athletic Club in 1919, an institution that played an important role in the community for years to come. The school taught some Italian, and the athletic club taught leadership and discipline, also providing an entree for Italian youth into the very important amateur sports scene in Chicago Heights.

When tuition fees for parochial education made Mt. Carmel less attractive to parents, Fr. Renzullo threatened that he would refuse to administer first communion to children not attending Catholic school. Parents sometimes responded by pulling their children out of Mt. Carmel immediately after they had received their communion. Though the Mt. Carmel school staff compromised by offering Sunday morning catechism classes to prepare public school children for the sacraments, antagonism on this subject continued well into the 1950s.

The Italian community also looked to Renzullo for solace during World War I, when the Italian army suffered defeat at Caporetto. It was he who led the joyous parade when Austria surrendered to Italy in 1918. He also served as an

informal defense attorney for boys who got into trouble with the law. Despite his efforts, Fr. Renzullo was not able to erase the heavy parish debts, and when he was transferred in 1922 (sic), Cardinal Mundelein deeded the parish and its debts to the Conventual Franciscans.

In 1921 (sic), Father Renzullo resigned from the priesthood, to get married. As a result, a small group of people left St. Rocco to join the Italian Presbyterian Church of Our Saviour, in part because of the work of a minister, Pastor Carducci. Already, the First Presbyterian Church in 1910 had appointed a Pastor Eugenio DeLuca, to do his best to convert the immigrant Italians to the Reformed faith. He had started his new church in 1912, with the financial help of the wealthy Presbyterians. Now, in 1921, Pastor Carducci was able to reap a harvest of the disgruntled. According to a local historian, Dominic Candeloro, these dissidents were never more than 7% of the Italian community in Chicago Heights.

Changing demographics in recent years indicated that a special parish was no longer needed in Chicago Heights for Italian immigrants. An average of 661 parishioners participated at the five scheduled weekend Masses at St. Rocco Parish during the last two years of operation. Fewer than 100 of these attended the one scheduled bilingual Mass in Italian and English. In 1995, bulldozers arrived at 315 East 22nd Street and levelled all the buildings. The church had been vacant for a year; there was water damage and some vandalism. The school, which was relatively new, had also been vandalized. The responsible authorities reckoned that demolition would be less expensive than repair and renovation. All that remained standing was a grotto, to the north, with the stations of the cross.

Responding to the request of his vicar, Bishop Murry, Cardinal Bernardin had granted permission for the building of San Rocco Oratory, on the grounds of the now-closed San Rocco Church. Not long previously, in 1995, Cardinal Bernardin had sent bulldozers to level the church, school, and rectory. Except for the Mt. Carmel Club and the grotto, with the Stations of the Cross, the entire complex had been demolished. Now, in 1996, the Cardinal permitted a new church building to be constructed. The first Mass at the newly constructed San Rocco Oratory was Christmas Day, 1998, presided over by Bishop Perry.

Like a parish church, the oratory could have Mass on Sundays and weekdays, as well as baptisms, marriages, funerals, devotions, and other celebrations. However, the people themselves were responsible for the facility, its upkeep, and for finding a priest to help out. Financially, the people themselves were to assume the entire cost of construction. In 1997 and 1998, the community raised funds, did planning, and made arrangements for a new church building. In 1998, work began; the new church was built just to the north of the location of the old San Rocco church building. St. Rocco Oratory, housed in a new, smaller and less ornate building, held its first mass on Christmas Day in 1998.

From the old San Rocco, the new oratory had the original statue of St. Rocco, as well as the baptismal font. Later, in 2004, the ceiling lights from the old church would be installed in the new oratory. The parish celebrated its centennial in 2005. The congregation's transformation into an oratory has left it much smaller, with about 400 families compared with a standard Chicago parish of up to 5,000 families.



The original St. Rocco Church St. Rocco Oratory today

Holy Rosary Parish (from the New York Times; March 23, 2014)

By the spring of 1987, Mr. Obama — himself not Catholic— was already well known in Chicago’s black Catholic circles. He had arrived two years earlier to fill an organizing position paid for by a church grant, and had spent his first months here surrounded by Catholic pastors and congregations. In this often overlooked period of the president’s life, he had a desk in a South Side parish and became steeped in the social justice wing of the church, which played a powerful role in his political formation.



When Barack Obama arrived in Chicago in 1985 as a community organizer, he held meetings in what was then Holy Rosary Church and is now New Day Ministries.

Fr. John Mullen C.P.P.S.

The following appeared on the front page of the *Chicago Tribune*, February 5, 1915.

Rev. Father John L. Mullen, former pastor of Holy Rosary Church, was acquitted of the murder of Thomas W. Patterson by a jury in Judge Dever's Court at 11:15 o'clock last night. The jury decided Father Mullen was insane at the time of the murder, but has since recovered his reason.

Father Mullen, after a day's outing in roadhouses were visited, stabbed to death Patterson, aged postmaster and Illinois Central station agent at Hillsdale, Ill., a suburb. Father Mullen had just been thrown out of a saloon. After stabbing Patterson he sprang aboard a train and terrorized the passengers until he was subdued.

Assistant State's Attorney Marvin K. Barnhart made the closing argument to the jury. He referred to the accused man as "Mullen, the defendant." He said he did not want to bring disgrace on his former church by referring to him as "father." "Religion does not enter into this matter," said the prosecutor. "This is murder. It was done while Mullen was crazy drunk. This murder was the act of a vicious criminal. He thought Patterson was one of the men who had thrown him out of the saloon.

"I ask you to do your duty. Be fearless; you have a duty to perform."

Attorneys Barnard P. Barasa and Leroy Hackett made the final plea for the life of the defendant. They received the evidence given by the witnesses for the state.

"This man never displayed any vicious tendencies. He was respected by his parishioners and all who knew him. He suffered from transitory insanity, brought on by an operation. He had hallucinations at night. He was weak from a discorded mind."

(Fr. Mullen, who was born in Chelsea, Michigan on June 24, 1879 died on September 5, 1934).