



# Bloodlines

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

DECEMBER 2023

## PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

### THE BOOK OF GENESIS

teaches us that we are created in the image and likeness of God. It also tells us that God is a Trinity. Three in One. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How beautiful that each being is not focused on self, rather on each other. This unity and communion is lived by mutual giving of self. As a community of priests and brothers, hopefully we treat one another as *brothers*, we strive to live this experience of mutual self-giving. As a community we can be a living sign and a true image of the communion of the Trinity. Have you ever thought that we can be an image of the Trinity?

St. Gaspar founded the congregation in love and for our love of God and especially in thanksgiving for Jesus' great sacrifice of love by shedding his Precious Blood. In our ministry, we help people discover and deepen the life and love which is given to us from conception.

There is one special place that helps us flourish the image of the Trinity: it is by living the Bond of Charity. Spirituality is the thread that binds and holds the community together. When we make a priority each day to pray together. When we celebrate the Eucharist, where we anchor our hopes and fears in our Lord. When we share a discussion on church issues, it opens our minds and spirits so that we can respond to the signs of the times. These moments help us make our faith come alive. It is being *brother* to each other and helping one another to see the honesty visible. It is living our spirituality well.

Another way is relationships. Community life. Strengthening our community life takes time and sincere effort. Perhaps it is finding a day or an evening in a month to enjoy one another and share what is in your heart, or what you have in common. This dedicated time together helps to create community and understanding. It is a place where we listen to each other. It



is a place where we can celebrate respect and unity.

Finally, mission (ministry) is also a place of unity. Working or ministering together requires being faithful in our service. As we minister together and reach out to others, we give witness and people see that unity — communion and mission (ministry) is possible. We begin to live the spirit of Trinity, which is Love. We create an environment of communion with one another and the People of God. Can we support one another in our shared ministry? Let us not shy away from complimenting each other when we see our brothers doing well in their service to the People of God. This creates a spirit of trust and fraternity.

The three pillars of mission, community, and spirituality are inseparable. One cannot exit with the other two, if we wish to live by the Bond of Charity.

As Missionaries of the Precious Blood, we share in the image of unity and communion. Let us take bold and joyous means to remain faithful to the sacrifice of Jesus who shed his blood for us.

~ FR. LUGINO SANTI CPPS



## SPIRITUALITY

The notion of "immaculate" might conjure up thoughts of hygiene or flawlessness. A well-kept home, a spotless record of service, not a blemish or mark on a face; all considerations of seeming *purity*. In a world where perfection and flawlessness are celebrated in touched-up magazine photos and edited cinematography, we

realize that "immaculate" may not be easy to achieve in everyday living. We are only human and frail.

All things considered, the only one true "immaculate" is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a real *purity* absent in much of the world today. Mary's Immaculate Conception denotes her sinlessness and inseparable union with God from the beginning of her existence free

of deception, self-serving motivations and God's gift to all humanity as His perfect created image. The creation story from Genesis illustrates how our own separation from God and sin laid the foundation for human strain and toil, which we can identify with. For many, life journeys are a journey of hard work made up often of many shifting and puzzling prescribed rules and definitions handed to us by "experts," by those in positions of authority or self-imposed ideologies.



On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and perhaps in the quiet of our minds, we are reminded that sin has brought about, and continues to foster, impurity of heart and mind. The peace, serenity, provision, and oneness with God that has escaped us, arrests us in continual murkiness. The impurities of life have also skewed the essence of God's commandments and His goodness. We make idols of those in entertainment and sports, we covet by prioritizing material and monetary wealth, we gossip and bear false witness, and we kill by slander, just to name a few. I am no different from you.

Despite our human frailty, we have great hope in Mary's Immaculate Conception. The Immaculate Conception informs us

that Mary's *purity* is the force, as co-redemptrix with Christ, for salvation history; life comes through Mary, the new Eve. As Catholics, it's too simple to preach that we read scripture, stay away from evil influences or practice confession regularly to build our bond with holiness. For others, these are not options.

I celebrate the Immaculate Conception by attempting to model Mary's purity by utilizing St. Ignatius' *Examen*, an informal and easy prayer, which invites me to encounter God, express gratitude for my daily gifts and commits me to make up for any mistakes made in my day. I also believe this prayer is a tool for believers and non-believers.

❶ *Place yourself in God's presence (praise and worship or soft music, a scripture reading, favorite prayers and time alone). Give thanks for God's great love for you.*

❷ *Pray for the grace to understand how God is acting in your life.*

❸ *Review your day — recall specific moments and your feelings (good or bad) at the time.*

❹ *Reflect on what you did, said, or thought in those instances. Were you drawing closer to God, or further away?*

❺ *Look toward tomorrow — think of how you might collaborate more effectively with God's plan and His Will for your life. Be specific, and conclude with the **Our Father**.*

I employ the *Examen* because my heart is stained and strained with my own imperfections, sins, and weaknesses. I'm hopeful this prayer will eventually lead me away from worldly reason, more towards Divine reason and a more holy life with aspirations to identify my deeper wounds and hurts that require repair. I want to know and understand Mary's Immaculate Conception more, her role in my own salvation journey and reflect a purity unlike the world can ever offer. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Blessed Mother's call to me to choose a change of mind, a change of heart and ultimately, a life change that will culminate in my entry into the heavenly homeland.

And so, I look to the *purity* of Mary's Immaculate Conception to think anew, see anew, love anew, and live anew. I wish the same for you.

~ **DEA. SERGIO SPADAFORA**



<sup>1</sup> [www.jesuits.org/spirituality/the-ignatian-examen/](http://www.jesuits.org/spirituality/the-ignatian-examen/)

**Seek perfection in  
community life,  
interior life,  
and a burning love  
for Jesus,  
and evermore,  
ground yourself firmly  
in humility and prayer.**

*St Gaspar del Bufalo  
Letter 1819*

### SHARE YOUR MISSIONARY STORY:

#### **The Desire to Start Again**

Last year, I was contacted by the local juvenile detention centre here in Sudbury. One of the youth was interested in learning more about the Word of God and also how to pray the rosary.

I was open to inviting any other youths at the center to join as well. After going through all the protocols for entering the center and obtaining break-away rosaries that would be allowed to it, we scheduled a time to meet. Five young men met with me in one of the rooms that was used for Indigenous prayer, and we sat in a sacred circle on logs. After the usual introductions, one of the youths asked what the Bible said about prayer. So, I began by reading to them the passage where Jesus gives us the *Our Father*, and then, we explored the psalms, many of which resonated with the **experience of having to start again and to be renewed in our commitment to God**. We then explored how the rosary is a scriptural meditation on the life of Jesus and Mary. As the



men on the way to Emmaus, **all our hearts were burning as we met our Lord in his Word.**

~ **FR. SAMUEL D'ANGELO CPPS**

### MY STEPS TOWARDS EMMAUS

In the parish of the Divine Providence in the Diocese of Iztapalapa in Mexico City, I try to live and carry out my job and mission under the charism of the Precious Blood.

I live by answering the call of Pope Francis every time I get in touch with my parishioners and when I meet them, according to the teaching of the Gospel. Moreover, I try to give the best witness

of myself as missionary and priest of the Precious Blood.

**Moved by the example of Saint Gaspar's popular missions, in some special occasions I like going outside along the streets in processions with the lay people, bringing the Most Holy Sacrament or some sacred images of Saint Mary or the statues of some saints that enhance the faith of the people here.**

I think that nowadays people believe more and more in a very relaxed Christianity and in a relativism of the faith that aims at conforming itself to a progressive attitude. Somebody also abandons faith in God by considering Him a liar or unreal. Due to it, **the Cry of the Blood of Jesus Christ should intervene to add color, flavor, and light to life in order to find out the eternal love of God and to solve those problems.**



This is where we, as missionaries of the Precious Blood, need to put our passion for the mission and underline the value of the redemption **to ignite the hearts**

**of the modern Catholics and help them move their steps towards Emmaus.**

~ **FR. GERMÁN SANTIAGO ESTÉVEZ CPPS**



### A Pondering Thought... (from *dayspring.com*)

#### **FORGIVENESS**

*Do you know the joy of being forgiven?*

*Through forgiveness  
the arms of Jesus lift you,  
His Blood cleans you,  
and His love changes you.*

*It is His free gift to you.*

*Turn your heart toward Jesus.  
Pray to receive Him and  
His forgiveness by faith today...  
He will come into your heart  
and make all things new.*

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,  
he is a new creation;  
the old has gone, the new has come.*

~ **2 CORINTHIANS 5:17**

*The new creation*

# We celebrate!

## YOUR BIRTHDAY

ALAREY ABELLA  
December 22

## THE ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR ORDINATION

JEROME HOLOGA  
December 3

GERARDO LAGUARTILLA  
December 3

JOHN COLACINO  
December 13

## THE ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR INCORPORATION

December 3

BRENDAN DOHERTY

JOHN COLACINO

MARIO CAFARELLI

LUIGINO SANTI

WILLIAM MNYAGATWA

SAMUEL D'ANGELO

ALAREY ABELLA

MICHAEL MATEYK

PATRICK GILMURRAY

GERARDO LAGUARTILLA



# Bloodlines

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## PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR December 2023

### FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



### PRAYER FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Lord Our God, you make every person in your divine image.

You know our needs and you fulfill our desires. You protect us when we are fragile and give us courage for each new day.

Help us to understand the power and wisdom of human vulnerability. Open our hearts to accept our weakness in your strength.

Give us the courage to break down the barriers that separate us from one another.

Enable us to reach out lovingly to all your children, so that, together, we may all participate fully in parish life and worship.

Make us grateful for the talents and abilities that all people can share with the Church.

Guide our actions to create truly welcoming communities that are open to the gifts of each individual, celebrating our interdependence with respect for all life.

Help us to appreciate all those living with disabilities, who contribute their time and talents, even in the face of obstacles or misunderstanding.

We look to the future with optimism and with faith in you, as we pursue our call to provide justice and fullness of life for all people with disabilities.

We pray that every man, woman, and child may develop their potential.

We offer you these prayers as one flock, following the same shepherd, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

~ DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO

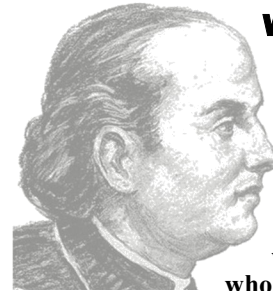
# We remember and pray for...

RICHARD MASCIANGELO  
December 19

GASPARE DEL BUFALO  
December 28

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

**REQUIESCANT IN PACE.**



### WHO IS SAINT GASPAR?

He was a great preacher, a proclaimer of God's Word, a brave witness to Jesus

who reconciled the world, he was a good hero imprisoned for God's Word, he was a brave soul and a great model. SAINT GASPAR was a messenger of God's mercy, he was a herald of God's great love, a worker of compassion, an apostle of the Precious Blood, a witness of God's great kindness, a bearer of hope, a bearer of peace and justice, he prayed to heal the wounded world.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

The Archconfraternity of Union of the Blood of Christ – USC – was founded on December 8, 1808.

Today the USC continues to be a strong presence in the Church, several Provinces in Europe and Canada, and across the United States of America. Glory to the Blood of Christ.

St. Gaspar del Bufalo died on December 28, 1837 in Rome. In a small bare room atop the reins of the Teatro Marcello, he voiced his last words, 'we shall rest in Paradise.' He was 52 years old. Throughout his life Gaspar said YES.

YES to the wishes to live the will of God,  
YES to accept the hard years of exile,  
YES to accept his missionary work and give up his family,  
YES to face the difficulties of the brigands,

YES to the spiritual slanders and threats and against his ministry,  
YES to live his priesthood with good works, and  
YES to share the joyful commitment with his confreres in community.

# Coming Together to Celebrate American Thanksgiving

## THE SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING

*In and being truly grateful for what our Lord has bestowed upon us, we gathered to share time together and our friendship. It was wonderful to see members arriving early, able to relax, laugh, share stories, and delight in the variety of munchies served by our brothers at the Parkway. Several members took advantage of this celebration to reconnect and strolled along the Parkway.*

*Invited guests Msgr. Leo Clutterbuck and Msgr. Hugh Gibson graced our table. Our dinner included creamy curry soup, prime rib, root vegetables, mashed potatoes, salad, local Niagara red and white wine, and pies to delight every sweet tooth in the house.*

*We thank our CPPS brothers in Niagara for opening their home and providing the Thanksgiving meal and time together.*



# Coming Together For Some 'Stuffing'

## SEVERAL OF OUR EVER-FAITHFUL

USC members gather four times a year at Merlini House to prepare the mailings. In mid-November they rolled up their sleeves and formed a human assembly line to stuff the newsletter, Advent magazine, and 2024 calendar.

The leader of the pack, Clara Collo, in her perky, high-spirited character, encouraged the team to stuff, stuff, and stuff. Two high school students spent the day learning the routine and expressed an interest in returning... new blood.

Fr. Peter's special lunch (the usual — Domino's Pizza) and soft drinks reenergized their bodies and spirits to continue for the afternoon session. The day was filled with singing, laughter, prayer, quiet moments, and camaraderie.

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood are most grateful for the ongoing commitment of this special group of volunteers who perform the mundane task of envelope stuffing, yet it is so vital in continuing our missionary activities in Tanzania and in spreading the spirituality of the Precious Blood to the people of God in Canada, and across the United States of America. Bless you all!



# Vocation Calendar • December 2023



## VOCATION PRAYER

**LORD JESUS,**  
once You called  
the first disciples  
in order to make them  
fishers of men.

Continue to let resound today  
Your sweet invitation:  
“Come and follow Me.”  
Grant to young men  
and women the grace of  
responding promptly  
to Your voice.

Sustain our bishops, priests  
and consecrated souls  
in their apostolic work.  
Give perseverance to  
our seminarians  
and to all those  
who are fulfilling the ideal  
of a life of total consecration  
to Your service.

Enkindle in our communities  
a missionary zeal.  
Send, Lord, workers  
into Your fields  
and do not let mankind  
be lost  
because of a lack of pastors,  
missionaries, and people  
dedicated to  
the cause of the Gospel.

Mary, Mother of the Church,  
model of vocations,  
help us say “Yes!” to the Lord  
who calls us to collaborate  
in the divine design  
of salvation. Amen.

~ POPE JOHN PAUL II

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

*Let us remain united in prayer*