



Bloodlines

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

JANUARY 2024

PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

Our 'solemnities'

THE CARA INSTITUTE CONDUCTED A SURVEY

with young people asking, what aspect of religious life attracts you to a religious community? Many of the responses indicated the element of community life – spirit. If you reflect on your own decision as to why you chose the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, most likely, you would respond, *because of the sense of community and our apostolate*. Each member brings to the community his service, dedication, commitment, and availability.

Our life is sustained by the rhythm of the liturgical year, from season to season, and celebrating community feast days. Our gatherings, being together, are vital as they strengthen our fraternal spirit. These days that are set aside are a time to pause, rest, and be thankful for being able to spend time together; to learn from each other and to deepen our care for one another. These community days, which are set in advance, are to be honored and celebrated as solemnities (with a small 's'). They help to authenticate our spirit of community and give meaning to our ministry. Availability and or lack of being present says much about one's commitment and love for the community. As St. Paul reminds us, *...if one member of the body is hurting, the whole body suffers*. And so, it is true with community life.

A parish priest once commented, "When I notice my parishioners are not attending parish functions or Sunday Mass, for me it is a *red flag*". The same can be said about our availability. Our presence, our desire to meet, and to share our lives are not to be avoided, but it is a blessing. By sharing time together, we learn from each other, we learn about ourselves, we learn to see each other as brothers who are trying to be faithful in our journey of life and vocation as missionaries.



Additionally, we need time to recreate together; we need time to eat together; we need time to hear one another's challenges and victories; we need time to celebrate what we have in common and that which strengthens our union in Christ. And we also need to be aware of the boulders that often stand in the way of full, visible unity and try to

chip away at them, bit by bit.

One of the best ways to do this is by celebrating the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*, from January 18 to 25, 2024. The service can be accessed at www.oikoumene.org. In Sudbury, the ministerial association of which I am a part, rotates the church every year and all churches have a role to play in the service. Afterward, we have people eat and drink together at different tables from the food and drink that has been brought by participating member churches, so that we all can get to know one another better and lose any fears or prejudices that may have developed over the years from misunderstandings or even bad preaching about other faith traditions.

I believe that the ecumenical movement is indeed a powerful expression of the charism of the Precious Blood that highlights the work of reconciliation to which we have been called to give our lives. In *Ephesians 2:13* we hear,

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

This scripture highlights that the work of reconciling that which has been torn apart is God's doing. We can participate in that healing work by relying on the powerful presence and inspiration of the Holy Spirit to lead us closer to one another in Christ, who Himself unites us in the One Church of Christ by our Baptism.

Indeed, **Pope Francis**, at an International Commission for Dialogue

Community life avails one to grow and be renewed. We impart trust and faithfulness. We gain wisdom and seek holiness, in that, we reflect the love of God in the world and in our ministry. As missionaries, we are on the front lines and as well inherit a leadership role which can be physically, emotionally, and spiritually exhausting. Taking a step back in the comfort of our brothers, we can *resoul* our fraternal and ministerial spirit.

Let us be thankful for one another and let us not forget — knowing that someone cares and is thinking of you means that you are valued.

So, mark your calendars. Make it a priority to attend our community feast days, our *mini solemnities*, which enkindle the flame of our community spirit.
~ **FR. LUIGINO SANTI CPPS**



Reflection

THAT THEY MAY BE ONE.
– JOHN 17:11b

Having been involved in the ecumenical movement for over 20 years, one of the things I've learned is that, for any kind of progress to be made, we have to start by building friendships with those of other Christian traditions. In every place where I've been assigned, I've made an effort to reach out to the other churches in the area and introduce myself to the pastors and to see what we perhaps can do together to build up the Body of Christ. I've made some wonderful friends in this way! I would encourage everyone to do so!

between the Catholic Church and the Disciples of Christ in June of 2023, said, the Holy Spirit is the *memory and guide who opens new and unforeseen trails where we thought that the way was closed or cut off.*

He went on to recall the Second Vatican Council's vision of the Spirit as a guide that "keeps the Christian community young."

In Him (the Spirit), the Pope says, we have the joy of proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Savior, and we find the strength to persevere in praise of his name, glorifying and magnifying that name, while the Spirit "preserves our spirit from temptations", such as sadness, self-referentiality and worldliness. (June 28, 2023, Vaticannews.va)

Perseverance is key! Hope in God's grace is key! So long as we don't give up on Christian unity, the Holy Spirit will

continue to draw us closer to one another and help us to give witness to the world of the transformative power of the Love of God to conquer over all.
~ **FR. SAMUEL D'ANGELO CPPS**



In brief...

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF OUR PATRON

► On the feast of St. Francis Xavier, members gathered at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, where Frs. Mario and Gerardo hosted a community dinner. The afternoon began with Midday Prayer, followed by bountiful predinner

Let us always be evermore
united in spirit,
helping each other
through prayer,
so that one day
we will be reunited
in our dear homeland
in heaven.

*St. Gaspar del Bufalo
Letter 2803*

treats of European smoked meats, figs, mixed autumn nuts, a variety of cheeses, olives, focaccia, bread sticks, dry fruits. The main meal featured gnocchi, mild sausage, BBQ pork ribs, winter vegetables, pastries, and after-dinner amaro. St. Francis Xavier would have been honored that he was remembered in such splendor. The conversations and community spirit continued into the evening.

SAMUEL, 'THE MULTITASKER'

► He wears many hats. In addition to serving as Vocation Director for the Atlantic Province, **Fr. Samuel D'Angelo** offers his energy and excitement for ministry in so many ways. How? In the midst of relocating the chancery offices, the Diocese of Sault Sainte Marie, to the rectory of Holy Redeemer, and moving to a new 'rectory' in a simple and comfortable apartment, Fr. Samuel was asked by **Bishop Dowd** to represent the diocese at the Institute for Catholic Education. Then we were asked to attend an online meeting, hosted by the

CCCB, regarding a catechumenal way of preparing for the sacrament of marriage. In October, Father Samuel welcomed pilgrims from St. Alphonsus Church, Toronto, and guided them to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Sudbury. He is also the pastor of his parish and the Vice Provincial.

In his free time, he *resouls* his mind and spirit through watercolor painting. I invite you to take a drive to Sudbury to appreciate the beauty of his paintings. His personal gallery is open every day as he shares the colors of northern Ontario.

COATS FOR KIDS

► The Knights of Columbus Council at St. Roch's resumes the *Coats for Kids* outreach initiative. For the past five years, excluding the two years of Covid, the Knights have distributed over five hundred winter coats to the needy in the parish area. The Knights work closely with St. Roch and Venerable John Merlini Schools to seek out the families and children who need assistance. The caring and compassionate hearts of the Knights are remarkable, as they are truly an example of love. In the past, the Knights provided **Fr. Carlo Della Vecchia** with a wheelchair; have been strong supporters of *Life Chain*; and have financially supported our seminarians with their studies. Funds collected from their annual *Christmas Panettone Sale* support various local charities. We thank you, Knights of Columbus Council, for your ongoing witness of hope and love.

USC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ► On December 10, USC members at St. Charles Borromeo Parish celebrated their 11th anniversary. Following the noon Mass, the group gathered in the parish hall, where Frs. Alarey, Peter, and Gerardo delivered presentations, and participants shared the day in prayer, song, quiet time, and a meal.



We celebrate!

YOUR BIRTHDAY

RON MAHON
January 4

ST. GASPARE DEL BUFALO
January 6

DOMINIC JUNG
January 11

**THE ANNIVERSARY OF
YOUR ORDINATION**

LUGINO SANTI
January 15



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**THE BLOOD OF CHRIST
GIVES YOU A FRESH START.**

The Precious Blood of Jesus is a symbol of His sacrificial love for humanity.

St. Gaspar emphasized the importance of recognizing and appreciating the depth of Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

The month of January marks the beginning of the year, symbolizing new beginnings and redemption.

Reflect on the redemptive power of Jesus' Precious Blood and how you are redeemed from sin and granted a fresh start.

Let us also focus on prayer and discernment, seeking God's guidance and wisdom for the year ahead.



~ FR. JEROME HOLOGA CPPS

**PAPAL PRAYER
INTENTION FOR**

January 2024

**FOR THE GIFT
OF DIVERSITY
IN THE CHURCH**



Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

2024: YEAR OF PRAYER

After the year devoted to reflecting on the documents and studying the fruits of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Francis has proposed that 2024 should be marked as a year dedicated to prayer.

In preparation for the Jubilee, dioceses are invited to promote initiatives to remind people of the centrality of both individual prayer and community prayer. One idea might be for "pilgrimages of prayer" to be organized at a diocesan level – these would be effectively courses or 'schools of prayer' with monthly or weekly meetings, presided over by the local bishops, but open to the entire People of God.

In addition, to help mark this year more fruitfully, the Dicastery for Evangelization will publish a series of "Prayer Notebooks", with material taken from the many forms of prayer to be found in the rich Catholic tradition.

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va>

*We remember
and pray for...*

LUCIANO BAIOCCHI
January 4

NICOLA SANTORO
January 11

VENERABLE JOHN MERLINI
January 12

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

REQUIESCANT IN PACE.

A SHARED BLESSING

May God grant you his grace
and every blessing.
May he keep you safe
throughout the coming year.
May he order your days
in his peace,
and lead you to everlasting life
and joy.

May the light of Christ
shine in your heart,
may the love of Christ
find a home in you,
and may the peace of Christ
fill you with hope.



Bloodlines

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PHOTOS

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DESIGN

GINO MARCUZZI

USC Members Come Together For Seasonal Celebrations



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PHOTOS 1, 2: Moments from the *Simbang Gabi*¹ and *Las Posadas*²: a nine-day devotional of Masses, which was held from December 16 to 24, at St. Charles Borromeo Church.

PHOTOS 3, 4: USC Christmas celebration with the 'Jolly Man' himself and members, which was held on December 17 in the St. Charles Borromeo small hall.

¹ Filipino for 'Night Mass'

² *posada* = Spanish for 'the inn' (from the Nativity story)

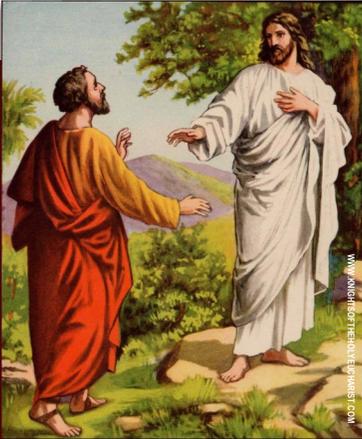


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Vocation Calendar • January 2024



VOCATION PRAYER

LOVING AND
 GENEROUS GOD,
 it is You
 who call us by name
 and ask us to follow You.

Help us to grow
 in the Love
 and Service
 of our Church
 as we experience it
 today.

Give us the energy
 and courage
 of Your Spirit
 to shape its future.

Grant us
 faith-filled priests
 and brothers
 who will embrace
 Christ's Mission
 of love and justice.

Bless the Missionaries
 of the Precious Blood
 and
 our Atlantic Province.

Amen.

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1
Alarey Abella | 17
William Mnyagatwa |
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Mario Cafarelli | 18
Peter Nobili |
| 3
Brother Anthony | 19
James Reposkey |
| 4
René Cerecedo | 20
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John Colacino | 21
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Deceased CPPS Members |
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Our benefactors |
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Gerardo Laguartilla | 29
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Michael Mateyk | |

Let us remain united in prayer