



Bloodlines

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

JANUARY 2025

PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

Learning A New Path

A missionary once shared an important lesson he learned early in his journey. When assigned to a new country, he faced the challenge of adapting to a new language, a different rhythm of life, unfamiliar cultural practices, and even new foods placed on the dinner table. He pushed himself to embrace these changes with flexibility and openness. His mission became one of growth—learning to face and accept the challenges before him so that he could serve effectively. “This became one of my inner missions,” he said, recognizing that this was a time for him to grow and be sensitive to the local culture and people.

Living in a new environment often brings the temptation to seek out what feels familiar. However, he realized that clinging too tightly to the known can prevent true understanding, learning, and adaptation. It can also dampen the spirit of missionary work. Reflecting on this, he said, “I had to take off my sandals and walk on the sacred land where these people lived. I needed to learn from them and set aside my own preconceived notions of truth, shaped by my culture. For me, this became a true school of missionary life—a way to find God already present among them.”

This process did not mean denying or forgetting his own culture or upbringing. Instead, he learned to acknowledge the richness in every culture. As he recounted his experiences, he emphasized the importance of humbling oneself to see the goodness in those with whom he lived, prayed, shared meals, socialized, and worked. He explained that this was an essential way of showing respect. While overcoming challenges was often difficult, his daily efforts to understand others' perspectives made the mission more inviting. “Am I able to open my heart and mind to those with whom I live and minister?” Do I



give good and quality time to those I live with each day?

As he adapted to the newness around him, his relationships deepened, the food grew tastier, and his prayer life became richer. He discovered that understanding is rooted in love: to truly love others, we must first strive to know them. Sharing who we are is also an act of love. In doing so, we journey together and embrace new horizons.

For a true missionary, the role is one of passing through. The greatest desire is to learn, respect, and serve so that the Gospel may be shared. Adapting to newness is a profound sign of respect, affirming that the Holy Spirit is alive in every place.

At times, we all get “stuck” in the comfort of what we already know. The challenge, then, is this: can we step out into the unfamiliar, accept it, and allow ourselves to change? Can we let go of old habits and embrace the new? Are we respectful of those around us, or are we caught in constant comparison to our own ways?

As Pope Francis encourages, the work of evangelism calls us to go beyond ourselves. To open the doors of our minds, attitudes, and styles is to become learners, to be true missionaries. This openness is the mark of a pilgrim of hope.

This is a time for both personal and communal reflection, a moment to consider where I have missed the mark.



May I remain open to the grace of the Spirit, which enlightens my thoughts, decisions, and actions.

~ FR. LUIGINO SANTI CPPS

REFLECTION: PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY OF HOPE

As Catholics, we often describe ourselves as pilgrims on a journey of Hope. Sometimes it seems like we hold onto such titles just to feel good about ourselves. Yet other times, such titles are imposed on us by others to mock us. However, in this instance, I believe that this title is not only accurate in its description but also reflects everything we believe in and defines us at the core of our faith.

Let me begin with a personal story. Last summer my wife and I had the privilege of participating in a Marian pilgrimage. We began our journey in France, where we visited our Lady of Lourdes. We then traveled to a Benedictine monastery in Montserrat, Spain to visit the Black Madonna, and finally, our journey took us to Portugal, where we visited our Lady of Fátima.

Not surprisingly, this experience deepened and transformed my personal relationship with our Blessed Virgin Mother and fostered a stronger sense of connection, devotion, and trust in her maternal intercession. But what struck me even more deeply was the impression left on me by the millions of pilgrims who flock to these religious sites from all over the world, filled with unshakeable hope. At first, I thought to myself... Why do all these pilgrims demonstrate such hope in a world that's filled with so much despair? The answer was all around me: simply, pilgrims have hope because their journey is not aimless. It is directed toward a meaningful destination that promises fulfillment, peace, and joy. It is a journey rooted in the understanding that life is a spiritual journey toward God, with Heaven as the ultimate destination. A pilgrimage represents a microcosm of this greater journey—a journey of Hope to a holy place for the purpose of a spiritual experience, seeking meaning, truth, and purpose. This journey always carries the intention of returning home, where we can later reflect on what the experience has offered us.

Not everyone is blessed with the means or opportunity to travel to foreign lands in the hope of deepening their faith. However, rooted in scripture and



tradition, the Church is also a pilgrim on a spiritual journey of Hope through history, moving toward its ultimate destination. Catholics believe in the biblical figures who journeyed away from their own homes towards the promised land. Just like those historical figures, we too are called to navigate the challenges of life with trust in God's guidance and hope in His eternal plan.

Pope Francis has emphasized this theme of the Church's journey and reminds us to keep our eyes fixed on Christ, who is the head of the Church and the source of all hope. As members of the body of Christ, the Church reminds us that our ultimate Hope lies in the transient nature of life on earth and our focus on eternal life made possible by the body and blood of Christ. Furthermore, we draw hope from the grace provided through prayer, the sacraments, and the support of the faith community. Along the journey we are abundantly fed and nourished through the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith and hope.

So, embrace your Catholic faith and live as Pilgrims on a journey of hope. *Robert Sansone is a parishioner and serving Deacon at St. St Ignatius of Loyola in the Archdiocese of Toronto.*

YEAR OF HOPE

Hope in the new beginning and renewal. Embracing the Call. Consider: Isaiah 6:8

Reflection: January marks the beginning of the pilgrimage. As Pilgrims of Hope, we are called to listen to God's voice and respond with openness and courage. The spirituality of the Precious Blood invites us to embrace this journey as an opportunity for redemption and transformation. Like the Blood of Christ that flows for the salvation of all. We are called to be instruments of hope, accepting the invitation to journey with God.

Prayer: Ask for the grace to respond to God's call with a heart open to the journey ahead.

TRAVELING RELIC OF BLESSED DON GIOVANNI MERLINI

After many years of prayers and intercessions, we are thrilled to announce that Venerable Giovanni Merlini will be beatified in Rome on January 12, 2025.

The Province has planned several events throughout 2025 to celebrate this significant event in the life of the

Church and the Congregation, with the hope that one day he will be canonized by the Church. We hope you can share in as many events as possible and encourage your friends and parishioners to attend.

On February 15, 2025, at St. Charles Borromeo during the 4:30pm Mass, **Bishop Robert Kasun** will preside to commence a year of celebrations.

The Traveling Relic: Each parish has agreed to welcome a relic of Blessed Don Giovanni Merlini. During the stay at each parish, the relic will be venerated with a prayer service, culminating in a reflection at the Sunday weekend Masses.

April 24 to 27: St. Charles Borromeo Church, Toronto

June 19 to 22: St. Roch's Church, Toronto

August 15: Gaspar Mission House, Niagara Falls

September 11 to 14: St. Alphonsus Church, Toronto

***January 12:** Giano Mission House, Rochester, NY

An open house, Eucharist and fellowship.

This is the final reflection from Sr. Marie Paul Curley

TO HIM... WHO MADE US TO BE A KINGDOM (In Union with Jesus)

Our identity as children of God is not static but dynamic. Being a child of God is not just who we are but how we live. Ideally, our identity is expressed in all that we do. The Eucharist is the sacrament of love, not just because it is one of the highest expressions of Jesus' love for us, but also because it is how Jesus empowers us to live our identity as children of God in love.

Blood of Christ, inebriate me petitions Jesus for the grace to fully enter this life-giving communion with the Trinity at every Mass. We pray to drink so fully of the love of Jesus the Eucharist that we will be transformed, sharing in the totality of Christ's self-giving love—His complete and utter letting-go of self.

The Canticle of Ephesians is one of the most expressive prayers of gratitude in the New Testament. Its lavish word choices attempt to capture the inexpressible mystery of our redemption and the unimaginable wealth of being co-heirs with Christ. The Canticle's summative language seeks to express the immensity of the blessings we receive and celebrate at every Eucharist Banquet of Love. This is a prayer that can become a meditation, each line

INSPIRING WORDS OF BLESSED DON GIOVANNI MERLINI

Try to be as simple as possible. We are in good hands. If God makes use of us, it is because of His kindness and we shall thank Him for it.

Letter 148

offering an opportunity to gratefully marvel at the blessings we receive from the Most Holy Trinity.

Canticle of Ephesians: Ephesians 1:3-12

(Pray this Canticle slowly, phrase by phrase, rejoicing in the many gifts that Jesus gives us in the Eucharist: His presence, His love, His graces, His invitations, His word, His forgiveness, His union with the Father, and the beginning of the fulfillment of His promise of eternal life.)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

MAY YOU BE BLESSED,
Jesus Christ,
Priest and Sacrifice,
Perfect Lamb and
Worthy Mediator!

In You is salvation,
Resurrection, and life.

Your blood is the font of salvation:
may it rain on me and wash me!

A YEAR DEDICATED TO BLESSED DON GIOVANNI MERLINI

In his studies of Don Giovanni Merlini, **Rev. Mario Proietti**, CPPS, highlights some of the essential paths to holiness laid out by Don Giovanni Merlini that are also practical and useful in our daily lives.

- ① If the soul does not find Jesus, it is enough that it is Jesus.
- ② When God holds us hidden, we will be happy in our hiddenness, and when God puts us in His sight, we will be doing God's will. What God gives us, we will put in practice.
- ③ If God blesses the means, He wants its end.
- ④ Prudence teaches us to work judiciously and then throw ourselves into the hands of God, who does the rest.



We celebrate!

YOUR BIRTHDAY

- JANUARY 4
RONALD MAHON
- JANUARY 11
DOMENIC JUNG
- JANUARY 12
BEATIFICATION OF
DON GIOVANNI MERLINI

YOUR ANNIVERSARY

- JANUARY 15
LUIGINO SANTI (ORDINATION)

- ⑤ We are channels and not sources. We must be content when we see Divine Glory in our activity.
- ⑥ Let us do what is possible without worrying. When we have completed 24 hours, for God it is a day. God does not want anything else from us on that day.
- ⑦ Do not strain over your strength. Let us use what God gives us, and for the rest, let us offer to God our good desires.
- ⑧ Holiness is not realized in print. That is to say, holiness is always original and clothes the person.
- ⑨ Every good thing is good, but not every good is God's will.
- ⑩ All measures are always mistakes.

STREAM OF MERCY: Fr. Mario Cafarelli, CPPS, is currently the pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Toronto. His missionary life took several turns. He began with parish ministry, later returned to further studies in Rome, and taught theology at St. Michael's and De La Salle Colleges in Toronto. He continues to offer exemplary service as a witness of hope and with the ardent zeal of a fine missionary. His cheerful, high-spirited character always makes one feel at ease in his presence. Thank you, Fr. Mario.

VOICE OF OUR FOUNDER

Let us give life to everything through prayer, the fountain of all good things.

*St. Gaspar del Bufalo
Letter 1088*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 8, 2025
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
MISSIO PROVINCIAL'S DINNER
ST. ROCH'S PARISH HALL

MARCH 25
TORONTO DISTRICT MEETING
Merlini Mission House 1:30pm

MARCH 28
NIAGARA DISTRICT MEETING
Gaspar Mission House 1:30pm

JUNE 9 TO 13
RETREAT
Mt. Carmel Retreat House
Niagara Falls, Ontario

We remember and pray for...

JANUARY 4
LUCIANO BAIOCCHI

JANUARY 11
NICOLA SANTORO

Our deceased CPPS members, family, friends, and benefactors.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE.



JOYOUS CELEBRATION: The Community gathered to celebrate the feast of St. Francis Xavier at Merlini Mission House. After Evening Prayer, lavish portions of appetizers, drinks, and laughter were shared, followed by a homemade meal with Fr. Peter's roasted chestnuts, pies, and ice cream. Fr. Samuel revealed his funny side and, with great humour, delighted us all. (Missing: Germán Santiago, who arrived late due to a snowstorm.)



CELEBRATING THE NATIVITY: A Christmas scene from Holy Redeemer Church in Sudbury, Ontario. The simplicity and humility of Jesus' birth is reflected in the manger at Fr. Samuel D'Angelo's parish. We thank him for his missionary zeal to the People of God in the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie.



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BLOODLINES is a monthly published by the Atlantic Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. It is sent to the Incorporated members of the Province and Provincial Directors of the various Provinces. Your input and contributions are welcome. Please email your submission to luicpps@yahoo.ca or mail it to 100 Pelmo Crescent, Toronto, Ontario M9N 2Y1, by the 25TH OF THE MONTH.

- CONTRIBUTORS**
FR. LUIGINO SANTI
DCN. ROBERT SANSONE
DESIGN
GINO MARCUZZI



Vocation Calendar • January 2025



VOCATION PRAYER

O God

OF ALL CREATION,
in Baptism
You called each one by name
to be Your children.
We give You thanks
and praise for this gift.

May the Good News
of Jesus Christ,
which inspired
the first apostles to see
continue to speak
to our young people.

Bless our community,
Missionaries of the Precious
Blood and our Province,
with men who will answer
Your call
to speak Your Word
as priests and brothers.

We make this prayer
through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1
Alarey Abella | 17
Lui Santi |
| 2
Mario Cafarelli | 18
Germán Santiago |
| 3
Brother Anthony
Canterucci | 19
Phillip Smith |
| 4
René Cerecedo | 20
Ron Wiecek |
| 5
John Colacino | 21
USC Members |
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Samuel D'Angelo | 22
Deceased CPPS Members |
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Brendan Doherty | 23
Our benefactors |
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Joseph Grasso | 24
Our family and friends |
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Jerome Hologa | 25
The sick |
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Dominic Jung | 26
Our Bishops |
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Gerardo Laguartilla | 27
Pope Francis |
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Gary Luiz | 28
Cancer patients and
their caregivers |
| 13
Ron Mahon | 29
The lonely |
| 14
Michael Mateyk | 30
The forgotten |
| 15
William Mnyagatwa | 31
Vocations to the priesthood
and religious life |
| 16
Peter Nobili | |

Let us remain united in prayer