



JANUARY 2026

# BLOODLINES

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

*Each of us bears the presence of Christ.  
Each of us brings the love and grace of God  
to others—to you.*

*How, then, can you thank and acknowledge them today?*



**BLOODLINES** is a monthly publication  
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## PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

### THANKFUL. APPRECIATIVE. GRATEFUL. HONOURABLE.

Each of us is a special, valuable, and treasured member of this community. Each of us is a gift from God—created in love and for love. You entered this community with your own unique gifts, so that you might serve the Congregation and the Church.

Living together, we may sometimes forget to see the good in one another. We may forget to encourage, to appreciate, or to treat each other as the special persons God created us to be. Yet each of us contributes something beautiful and meaningful to our community.

Think of the many ways we serve:

- the long hours devoted to caring for a large city parish,
- the patience shown in guiding lay associates,
- the diligence in tending to our elderly members,
- the dedication in composing and assembling spiritual and prayerful materials,
- the hospitality extended to sojourners,
- the careful attention given to budgeting, and
- the courage to speak for unity.

The list goes on.

Together, we form our Province—the Body of Christ—as we strive to share God's love with those among whom we live and serve. Just as God loves each of us individually and unconditionally, so too are we called to extend that same love to one another.

Take a moment to reflect on our members. Can you recognize one way their presence and gifts have helped shape who we are as a Province, or how they have been a source of hope for the Church? Can you find one thing about each member for which you are grateful?

Each of us bears the presence of Christ. Each of us brings the love and grace of God to others—to you. How, then, can you thank and acknowledge them today?

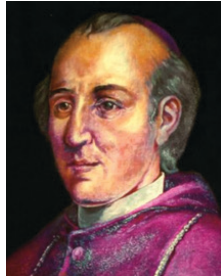
Let us open our hearts and eyes to see the special work of God in our brothers.

**FR. LUIGINO SANTI, CPPS**





## CHAPLET OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST



This beautiful devotion, the Chaplet of the Precious Blood, was composed by Monsignor Francesco Albertini in 1810 while he and St. Gaspar del Bufalo were in exile. It was later approved by Pope Pius

VII. In recent years, various members of the Atlantic Province have taken the initiative to reflect on each mystery as a means of deepening our love for the Precious Blood.

### First Mystery: The Circumcision of Jesus

On the eighth day after His birth, the Child born of Mary was circumcised in obedience to the Law and was given the name Jesus. This moment marks the sign of the covenant God made with Abraham—that he would be the father of many nations, and that through him all peoples would be blessed.

In the Old Testament, circumcision was a sacred sign of belonging to God's chosen people. It symbolized the promise of salvation for the nations and served as a visible call to remove sin, undergo a change of heart, and dedicate oneself anew to God. Living the covenant meant embracing repentance, renewal, and a commitment to God's will.

In the New Testament, the emphasis shifts to the circumcision of the heart—living in the Spirit rather than merely in the letter of the Law. This becomes the true mark of a follower of Christ: one who accepts God's will and lives faithfully through the grace of baptism.

Spiritual circumcision occurs when we repent, place our complete trust in Christ, and allow His grace to transform us. Though fully divine and fully human, Jesus was circumcised in obedience to the Jewish Law, entering into the covenantal life of Israel. Mary and Joseph presenting Him at the temple on the eighth day fulfilled the Old Testament covenant and foreshadowed the Blood of Christ shed for our redemption. This moment marks the beginning of the transition from the old covenant to the new—ultimately fulfilled in baptism.

### How Do We Live the Circumcision of Jesus Today?

To live this mystery means to “cut away” sinful actions, let go of ego, change selfish habits, and walk in faith, love, and obedience to God. This inner transformation is ongoing and guided by the Holy Spirit.

St. Paul, writing to the community in Philippi (Philippians 4:8), encourages believers to focus on whatever is true, honourable, just, and pure. He also reminds us of the need to forgive—to release grudges, bitterness, and resentment. Extending kindness and compassion, even to those with whom we struggle, fosters deep inner peace.

### A Monthly Challenge

This month, let us dedicate ourselves to:

- More prayer—because it renews the heart.
- More acts of kindness—because they strengthen our connections with others.
- More gratitude—because it increases our joy and happiness.

**A reflection by Fr. Lui Santi, C.PP.S.**

# BLESSED GIOVANNI MERLINI: A YEAR OF PRAYER AND CELEBRATION

A year dedicated to Blessed Giovanni Merlini concluded with a joyful Christmas musical concert at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Toronto, on December 2. Heartfelt thanks go to Frs. Mario and Gerardo for their kindness and hospitality in opening their doors to celebrate this memorable occasion.

The Columbus Concert Band filled the church with the sounds of Christmas hymns and beloved seasonal favourites. The concert also featured Gigetta and Luigi Rizzo, whose three vocal pieces moved the entire congregation to a standing ovation. Books and medals of Blessed Merlini were available for purchase, with many expressing the hope that he will soon be canonized.

This special year began at St. Charles Borromeo Church with Bishop Robert Kasun and Moderator General Emmanuele Lupi present, as the relic of Blessed Giovanni Merlini arrived in



**TOGETHER IN SPIRIT AND SONG:** Fr. Gerardo, Conductor Annamaria Mazzaferro, and Fr. Mario share a joyful moment at the Columbus Concert Band Christmas Concert—an evening of music, fellowship, and festive spirit at St. Charles Borromeo Church.

the Province shortly after the celebration held in Rome in January 2025. Over the course of the year, each of our parishes hosted a week-long visitation of the relic, accompanied by prayer, reflection, and music.

The relic will now rest in the chapel at Merlini Mission House, where all are welcome to spend time in quiet reflection and prayer.

### FROM ADVENT TO INDIA: PARISH SALE FUNDS SCHOOL BUS CAMPAIGN

On the First Sunday of Advent, Frs. Jerome and Germán of St. Roch's Church, Toronto, hosted a Nativity Set Sale. After each Mass, parishioners gathered in the parish hall to browse and purchase Nativity sets of various sizes, reflecting diverse cultures, along with hand-crafted items and angel figurines.

Through your generosity, a total of \$900 was raised. This amount will be donated to this year's Mission Office campaign in support of purchasing a school bus for children in India.

We sincerely thank you for your kindness and openness in supporting this Advent initiative.

### ENCOURAGEMENT FOR VOCATIONS: GALA RAISES FUNDS FOR MISSION

On December 14, the St. Gaspar del Bufalo Council #18384 hosted a gala dinner. Two hundred guests first gathered at St. Paul's Basilica for the celebration of the Eucharist, followed by a formal dinner at the parish centre.

The Grand Knight shared words of encouragement and hope, reflecting on the vital importance of religious vocations. In his simple yet powerful style, he inspired all present.

Thanks to the generosity of those attending, the funds collected from the evening were donated to the Atlantic Province to support candidates in formation and to assist with a new initiative in India.



CELEBRATING THREE DECADES OF SERVICE AT GIANO MISSION HOUSE



On Sunday, December 14, Giano Mission House joyfully celebrated the 30th anniversary of its foundation. Fr. John Colacino presided at the Eucharist and hosted a festive luncheon. The wonderful ministry of healing and hospitality continues to bear witness to the spirituality of the Precious Blood. Surely St. Gaspar and Blessed Giovanni Merlini rejoice in



A table of friendship and gratitude—nourished in body and spirit at Giano Mission House.

APPLE PIE AND APOSTOLIC ZEAL: FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Members gathered at Merlini House to celebrate the feast of St. Francis Xavier, patron of the Missionaries of the Precious

Blood. Many of our members are Definitely Incorporated on this day, making the celebration especially meaningful. This evening, we honoured Frs. Brendan, Mario, Alarey, and Lui. Convinced that St. Francis must have enjoyed apple pie, Fr. Peter enthusiastically requested the cook to prepare this beloved dessert—served, of course, with vanilla ice cream. The evening was filled with laughter and the sharing of cherished memories. As we recall how St. Francis journeyed to distant lands, may we too bear effective witness to the Gospel.

SEEING GOD IN EVERY CULTURE: THE MISSIONARY CALL TO INCULTURATION

During Pope Leo XIV’s recent visit to Turkey, he addressed the bishops, priests, and missionaries with these words: “...you as missionaries come from other lands. This calls for a special commitment to inculturation so that the language, customs, and culture of this country become more and more your own; moreover, the communication of the Gospel always passes through such inculturation.”

WORDS OF OUR FOUNDERS

*Everything is brought to maturity with prayer.*

— ST. GASPAR DEL BUFALO *Letter 2981*

*The works of God are the fruit of prayer and patience. God is the father of peace and not of confusion. Let us enter into the spirit of Jesus and rest there.*

— BLESSED GIOVANNI MERLINI *Letter 139*

These words speak powerfully to all who profess to be missionaries. They invite us to learn from the people we serve and to recognize the beauty of the local Church’s expressions of faith. When we welcome their customs with prayerful openness and patient reverence, we begin to perceive more clearly the vastness of God. In doing so, we become truly Catholic—universal.

The Holy Father himself, American by birth, learned the language and culture of Peru and now embraces yet another new way of life. The treasure in all of this is the realization that God’s presence is already among us; our task is to witness to and embody the presence of Christ. As missionaries, we do not—and cannot—forget our past, yet we receive new insights that deepen our understanding of God dwelling in our midst.

A HOPE-FILLED WITNESS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

It is deeply encouraging to witness our Missionaries living the charism and spirit of the Precious Blood through their diverse ministries. Their faithful pastoral presence offers a powerful and hope-filled witness, bringing compassion, accompaniment, and healing to the communities they serve. Christ’s shedding of his Blood is the sign of God’s greatest love for all; in that spirit, we strive to inspire hope.

It is truly edifying to see:

- **Fr. Gerardo**, who patiently guides the USC through his monthly Precious Blood presentations and spiritual services;
- **Fr. Jerome**, who faithfully walks alongside the youth and young adults of the parish;
- **Fr. Mario**, who ministers with a tender heart to the Italian-speaking community at St. Charles;
- **Fr. Alarey**, who warmly welcomes members of the Filipino community into the life of the parish;
- **Fr. Peter**, who generously commits himself to the stewardship of the Province’s finances;
- **Fr. Samuel**, who brings passion and dedication to ecumenical dialogue within the diocese;
- **Fr. John**, who opens his heart and home each week at Giano House to welcome both Catholics and non-Catholics;
- **Fr. Ron**, who compassionately provides pastoral care to migrant seasonal workers.

Together, their ministries reveal the living presence of Christ’s Precious Blood in our world today.

DATES TO REMEMBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- JANUARY 4** Ron Mahon  
**JANUARY 6** St. Gaspar del Bufalo  
**JANUARY 9** Domenic Jung

ORDINATION

- JANUARY 15**  
Lui Santi

REQUIESCENT IN PACE

- JANUARY 4** Luciano Baiocchi  
**JANUARY 11** Nicola Santoro  
(Founder of Delegation)

BEATIFICATION

- JANUARY 12** Blessed Giovanni  
Merlini

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

- MAY 24**  
Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians  
Merlini Mission House

JULY 1

- Feast of the Precious Blood  
and Canada Day  
St. Charles Borromeo Church

AUGUST 14

- Solemnity of the Assumption of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
and Foundation Day  
Gaspar House (Niagara Falls)

OCTOBER 12

- Thanksgiving  
St. Roch's Church

OCTOBER 21

- Feast of St. Gaspar del Bufalo  
St. Alphonsus Church

DECEMBER 3

- Feast of St. Francis Xavier  
Merlini Mission House

# 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**

RON WIECEK

**19**

WORLD PEACE

**20**

USC MEMBERS

**21**

DECEASED CPPS MEMBERS

**22**

OUR BENEFACTORS

**23**

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

**24**

SICK MEMBERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

**25**

OUR BISHOPS

**26**

AN INCREASE IN RELIGIOUS AND  
MISSION VOCATIONS

**27**

CANCER PATIENTS AND  
THEIR CAREGIVERS

**28**

RESPONSIBLE CIVIC AND FEDERAL  
LEADERS

**29**

THE FORGOTTEN

**30**

POPE LEO XIV

**31**

YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAITH  
JOURNEY

# Prayer for Vocations

O LOVING GOD,  
you have chosen me  
to serve the Church and the Congregation.

We ask you to send men who will serve the Congregation  
with zeal and love.

Through the intercession of St. Gaspar and Blessed Giovanni Merlini,  
help us always to believe and trust,  
as they did,  
in your great love.

May we,  
Missionaries of the Precious Blood,  
imitate our founders with courage and hope.

Amen.

