



Blood Lines
Newsletter of the Atlantic Province
Autumn 2020

From the Provincial and Council

The provincial council met on Monday, August 31 via Zoom with all members present. Reports from various provincial officers had been sent out in advance for review by the council. The meeting opened with a prayer by Fr. John.

Approval of the Agenda/Minutes of the Last Council Meeting

The agenda and minutes were approved unanimously.

Update on the House of Formation and Finances

Fr. Peter joined the meeting to report on the progress of the renovations to the house of formation. As expected, there are delays and cost overruns. The latter have resulted in a deficit of \$160,000 CAD not including furnishings yet to be purchased. There is hope for occupancy by mid-October.

The sale of the Bathurst property is still being pursued.

The finances of the province are in the process of being centralized which should help with the flow of funds.

Formation Report

Fr. Lui then joined the meeting for an update on the formation program. The report focused on proposed timelines for the incorporation and ordination of our two candidates and on potential candidates with whom the Director of Vocations has been in contact.

Vocation Report

Fr. Alarey presented six persons who have been in touch with him about the community. Of these, one intends to enter the formation program in the near future; three were considered unsuitable by the council; a potential brother candidate from Canada and a priesthood candidate in Mexico seem promising.

Development and Mission Projects

Jerome then joined the meeting and presented an extensive report on his activities in development and the missions. A recent newsletter on the latter generated some donations but from a relatively small pool of donors. Efforts are underway to revamp the magazine and to restore trust among disaffected subscribers as well as donors to the mission projects. Jerome was praised by the council for his work and commitment.

Personnel

A number of personnel matters were then brought to the council's attention by the provincial.

Other Business

A timeline for the upcoming incorporation and ordinations of Gerardo and Jerome was approved in the hope that the former will soon be able to return to Canada from Peru.

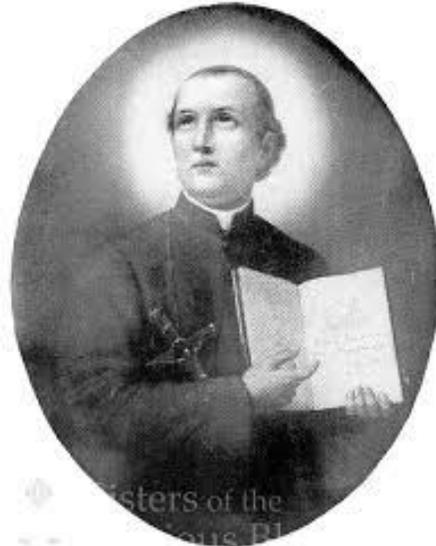
Next Council Meeting

The next council meeting will be held on Monday, November 30, at 10:00am most likely by Zoon.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 12:30 p.m. with a prayer by Fr. John.

Voice of the Founder



Behold, the mystical plant of eternal life under which we should refresh ourselves, our souls eating spiritually of its fruits! Oh, happy are we if we establish our dwelling place near the Cross of Jesus with Mary the Sorrowful and the beloved disciple St. John. Oh, how we will taste the sweetness of the mystical fruits. While miserable affairs here below embitter us, they always rouse us to a new spiritual hunger for justice and holiness: *Blessed are they who hunger for justice (Mt 5:6)*



*Business Assembly June 7-11, 2021
Provincial Retreat June 13-17, 2022*

*Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre
Niagara Falls, Ontario*



*Antoinette Colacino (+July 20),
Mother of Fr. John*

*Joseph Luiz (+August 14)
Brother of Fr. Gary*

Provincial Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | ATLANTIC VICARIATE EST. (1966) | 9 (B) | Sam D'Angelo (1967) |
| 1 (O) | Patrick Gilmurray (2012) | 12 (B) | Rene Cerecedo (1951) |
| 2 (D) | Nicholas Arioli (1992) | 29 (I) | German Santiago Esteves (2012) |
| 6 (B) | Michael Mateyk (1973) | 29 (I) | Gregorio Hernandez Cortez (2012) |
| 7 (I) | Rene Cerecedo (1984) | | |

OCTOBER

- | | | | |
|--------|---------------------------|--------|--|
| 1 (I) | Peter Nobili (1964) | 21 (I) | Josephat Msuya (2001) |
| 7 (D) | John Zywolewski (1993) | 22 (I) | James Reposkey (1972) |
| 19 (B) | Brendan Doherty (1940) | 26 (O) | Gregorio Hernandez Cortes (2015) |
| 20 (O) | Jeffrey Finley (1990) | 29 | ITALO-AMERICAN DELEGATION
EST. (1928) |
| 20 (I) | Augusto Menichelli (2004) | | |
| 21 | SOLEMNITY OF ST. GASPAR | | |

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)

DECEMBER

- 3 FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER (PATRON OF THE CONGREGATION)
- 3 (I) Brendan Doherty (1979)
- 3 (I) John Colacino (1979)
- 3 (I) Mario Cafarelli (1983)
- 3 (I) Luigino Santi (1983)
- 3 (I) William Mnyagatwa (1992)
- 3 (I) Sam D'Angelo (1998)
- 3 (I) Alarey Abella (2006)
- 3 (I) Michael Mateyk (2010)
- 3 (I) Patrick Gilmurray (2011)
- 5 (O) Augusto Menichelli (2005)
- 19 (D) Richard Masciangelo (1994)
- 22 (B) Alarey Abella (1969)
- 28 (D) St. Gaspar Del Bufalo (1837)

From Around the Province

Feast of the Precious Blood; St. Charles Borromeo





Rochester Mission House (Sunday Masses resumed on June 14)



Pollack *History of the Atlantic Province* (cont'd)

On October 29, 1928, by a decree of the recently elected Moderator General, Antonio Velardi, the Italo-American Delegation was officially constituted and was given a set of statutes. Fr. Santoro was named the Superior of the Delegation with Fr. Martiniano as Procurator and Fr. Della Vecchia as Secretary. The membership of the Delegation was increased by the arrival on December 15, 1928 of Fr. Anthony Pece and Fr. Valentine Nardoni. These two missionaries were listed as assistants of Fr. Della Vecchia but they took turns going out preaching missions on Italian-speaking congregations. On one such expedition, Fr. Nardoni got wind of a new parish being contemplated in Rochester, NY. He spoke to the bishop about entrusting it to the Society and wrote to the Moderator General about it. The General in turn wrote to the Bishop of Rochester, O'Hern, and to Cardinal Laurenti asking the latter to put in a good word for the

Society. The result was that on September 22, 1929, Fr. Santoro and Fr. Della Vecchia were called by Bishop O'Hern to discuss the matter.

Two more missionaries arrived in January, 1930, namely, Frs. Sebastian Contegiacomo and Joseph Saraceno, and they made their home at Niles. On March 2, 1930, the new parish church of the Precious Blood in Rochester, NY was dedicated and officially entrusted to our Fathers. Fr. Anthony was appointed pastor and Fr. Joseph Saraceno was assigned as his assistant. However, on May 11, 1930, Fr. Sebastian Contegiacomo came to be assistant at Precious Blood in Rochester and Fr. Saraceno returned to Mt. Carmel in Niles as assistant. Fr. Nardoni continued as assistant to Fr. Della Vecchia at Mt. Carmel in Chicago. Fr. Martiniano continued his stay and work at and from Our Lady of Solace in Brooklyn, NY.

On June 9, 1930, the Italo-American Delegation held a very harmonious and fruitful meeting in which the work of the Delegation was reviewed and policies agreed upon. The following year, on the same date, a similar meeting was held; one of the items considered was the request of the pastor of Ellwood City, PA to have a C.P.P.S. missionary as assistant; the request had to be refused for lack of personnel.

Already in 1929, Fr. Nardoni wrote to Rome that Fr. Martiniano's health was failing. Arteriosclerosis was taking its toll, and finally on September 23, 1933 Fr. Martiniano landed in Naples, hoping to get relief and perhaps some degree of cure. He died suddenly on February 4, 1934 at his home at Procida, an island off Naples. This valiant missionary deserves a special treatise, beyond the florid necrology written by the Moderator General in the *Sangue Prezioso* of August, 1934. He was an outstanding missionary of the Italian immigrants in the U.S.A.

The year 1934 saw another missionary arrive from Italy, to wit, Fr. Guido Nardoni, a nephew of Fr. Valentine. Fr. Guido began as assistant at Mt. Carmel in Niles on November 2, 1934. Fr. Raoul Sabbatini arrived in 1936 and became assistant to the diocesan pastor of St. Anthony parish in Elmira, NY. in the diocese of Rochester. Two new parishes entrusted to the Delegation in 1937 necessitated changes. St. Anthony's parish in Elmira NY was offered to the Delegation and Fr. Anthony Pece became pastor there in May, 1937; his up-to-now assistant at Precious Blood parish in Rochester, Fr. Sebastian Contegiacomo, became pastor there but without a companion.



St. Anthony's Church, Elmira, NY (1939)



Most Precious Blood Church, Rochester, NY (1939)



Although the parish closed in 2008, its parishioners have never forgotten their long-time pastor

Fr. Sabbatini took up residence on October 18, 1937 at Mt. Carmel in Niles with Frs. Santoro and Saraceno. In August, 1937 Fr. Valentine Nardoni was transferred to take charge of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Cincinnati. His nephew, Fr. Guido, was assigned on September 14, 1937 to take his place as assistant to Fr. Della Vecchia at Mt. Carmel in Chicago.

(N.B. Unfortunately, an entire page is missing at this point in the typewritten manuscript).

In the meantime, Fr. Cerbara was assigned to replace Fr. Guido at Mt. Carmel in Chicago. Fr. Sabbatini took care of Mt. Carmel in Cincinnati for a while, but in March 1943 the parish was given over to the care of the American Province and Fr. Sabbatini returned to Niles.

In January 1943 a medical doctor, Armando Rotondi, joined the Delegations and began his theological studies at the seminary at Cleveland, Ohio. He was ordained on May 26, 1945 and was assigned to Niles. He was needed there because that year Fr. Saraceno left the Society to join the Columbus diocese (later Steubenville). Fr. Cerbara was assigned in February of 1945 to be pastor of Mt. Carmel in Niles and Fr. Della Vecchia in Chicago received Fr. Guido Nardoni and Fr. Sabbatini as assistants. During 1946 therefore there was this arrangement: at Mt. Carmel in Chicago – Fr. Angelo Della Vecchia, Fr. Guido Nardoni and Fr. Raoul Sabbatini; at Mt. Carmel in Niles – Fr. Cerbara, Fr. Valentine Nardoni and Fr. Armando Rotondi; at Rochester at the Precious Blood parish - Fr. S. Contegiacomo and Fr. Pece.

In 1947, the above picture changed somewhat. First of all, when the Moderator General, Lorenzo Contegiacomo, arrived in December 1945 for a visitation of the Society in the U.S.A., he brought along Fr. John Zywolewski to be a member of the Delegation and he was assigned to Mt. Carmel in Chicago where he remained until the parish closed in 1976.

On April 17, 1947 Fr. Sabbatini left the Society. When Fr. General returned to Italy on May 14, 1947, Fr. Valentine Nardoni went with him to retire in Italy. On October 24, 1947, Fr. Matteo Quaranta and Fr. Joseph Gentili left Italy for the U.S.A. They headed for the house at Niles to which they were assigned because Fr. Rotondi had been assigned to Mt. Carmel in Chicago. The following year, 1948, Fr. Pece returned to Italy to retire for he had never fully recovered from his illness of 1939.

Addendum: History of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Niles OH

Given the importance of the Niles parish and mission house in the history of the Atlantic Province the following information is reproduced from the websites of the parish and the Niles Historical Society. Cf. <https://mountcarmelniles.com/index.php/about-us/our-history> and <https://nileshistoricalsociety.org/mtcarmel.htm>.

Niles' Churches and Immigrants.

The first Niles' immigrants were English and Welsh Protestants of many denominations; none large enough to organize a congregation or have a permanent House of Worship. Small groups met in private homes, but there was not a single organized church in Weathersfield Township until 1839. Roman Catholics, mostly Irish immigrants, also first worshipped in private homes. During the period from 1838 to 1879, eight different congregations were established: Methodist, Catholic (St. Stephen), Baptist, Episcopal, Welsh Presbyterian and Primitive Methodist.

The Catholics in Niles were attended to by priests from St. Columba Church in Youngstown until 1854 when St. Stephen's Church was designated as a mission. In 1865 the parish was established for all Catholics of Niles and Mineral Ridge.

For both the pioneers and immigrants, their churches became a means of keeping their traditions. Just after the turn of the century, three ethnic churches were founded. with services held in their

native tongues: the Lutheran in German, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Italian, and the Presbyterian in Hungarian.

History of the buildings of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

1906

- *Reverend Scullen*, Pastor of St. Stephen's Church, invites an Italian priest, *Reverend Santagata*, from the Cleveland Diocese to accommodate the Italian community by saying mass in Italian. After a time the Bishop requests he return to Italy.
- *Reverend Vito Franco* is appointed by *Bishop Hortsman* to organize a parish for Italians in Niles. For a time, mass is said in St. Stephen's Church.
- Reverend Franco is then advised to seek a temporary location until a church could be built.
- *Vincenzo Mango* offers two upstairs rooms in the Mango Building at East Park Avenue and Furnace (East State Street).
- *Pasquale Scarnecchia's* house at 449 Mason Street serves as a chapel.

1908

- The old Robbins home at the corner of Erie Street and Robbins Avenue is purchased and renovated.
- The first mass is celebrated on Easter Sunday.
- The name "Our Lady of Mount Carmel" is chosen by the Italian immigrants for their church because of their devotion to the Blessed Mother under this title.

1911

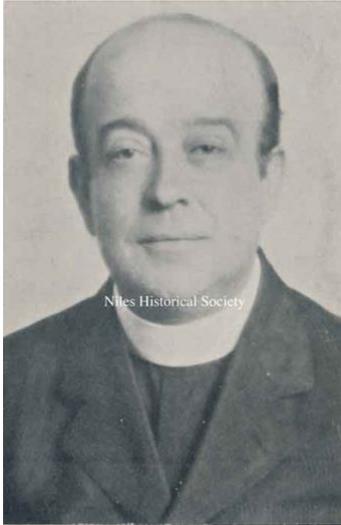
- Reverend Franco is transferred and *Reverend John Farinacci* becomes the pastor.

1913

- 1500 Italians belong to the parish.
- Father requests permission to sell property to cover the debt, but permission is denied. The Church remains in debt.

1914

- Reverend Farinacci departs suddenly and *Reverend Ottavio Zavatta* becomes pastor. He becomes discouraged by the seeming indifference of the parishioners and leaves.
- *Reverend Nicola Santoro* of the Precious Blood Society becomes the new pastor.
- Reverend Santoro is besieged by creditors and a date is set to auction the church property. The case is settled out of court and Father Santoro is advised to retain the Robbins Avenue property.



Fr. Nicola Santoro C.P.P.S.

1919

- The Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society is organized. After several fundraisers, the Society makes a substantial down payment towards the altar, communion railing and marble steps for the new church. They later contribute to the organ and two statues in the church and furnish a room in the Mission House.

1923

- A committee is formed to erect a new structure for worship having outgrown its old Robbins Home structure. Money is raised and the Bishop sanctions the excavation of the basement on the Robbins Avenue site.

As the number of parishioners attending church services multiplied, the expanded chapel in the Robbins Home became inadequate.

A committee was formed in 1923 to erect a new structure. Money was raised and covered the basement. The Cleveland Diocese gave permission for a \$30,000 loan to roof the church.

The First Communion was administered on June 24, 1924 and in October the blessing of the bell donated by Vincenzo Mango occurred.

On Christmas Eve 1924, Father Santoro celebrated his Silver jubilee as a priest in this new house of worship.

1924

- Roofing of the church begins with a \$30,000 loan.

- Church bell is donated by Vincenzo Mango.
- On Christmas Eve, Father Santoro celebrates his Silver Jubilee in the new house of worship.
- The church has a seating capacity of 800, with a large center nave bordered with pillars and two side aisles.

1929

- Special committee is formed to raise funds to plaster the interior walls of the church.
- Stained glass windows are imported from Munich, Germany.
- Father Santoro celebrates Christmas Mass in the completed church.

1932

- Father Santoro requests permission to build a "Mission House" for the Precious Blood Fathers.
- The rectory would be built with funds from the order. The building was completed in 1935.

On January 26, 1932 Father Santoro wrote to the Bishop concerning the Precious Blood Fathers and the parish in Niles.

He stated that, "Precious Blood Fathers working for the Italian immigrants in America, wished to establish a Mission House. It would not only be a home for the priests serving Mount Carmel, but would also be a base of operations for all those preaching Missions anywhere in the area".

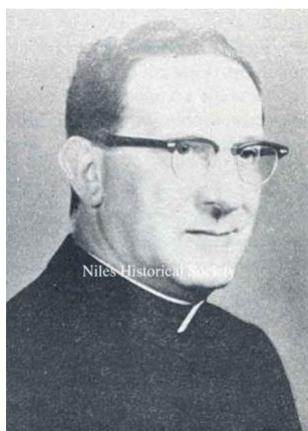
The order would assume the parish debt and build a rectory at their own expense. In return, the property would receive the parish "In Perpetuum" while all the property would remain in the name of the diocese. The structure was completed in October 1935.

1933

- The annual summer festival begins around the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Booths are erected behind Washington Jr. High School.
- Other early festival sites were held in Mason Woods and Peffer Athletic Field.

1938

- Reverend *Oreste Cerbara*, newly ordained, comes from Rome.



Fr. Oreste Cerbara C.P.P.S.

1939

- Wicks pipe organ is purchased.

1941

- Upon the death of Father Santoro, *Reverend Joseph Saraceno* becomes pastor and continues the traditions and customs of Mount Carmel.

1947

- Summer festival is extended to a full week. A living rosary precedes Our Lady's statue during the procession.
- Friday night bingo begins in the church hall.

1948

- Reverend *Nicholas Arioli* becomes the new assistant pastor and focuses on the young adults.
- With money from bingo and other fund-raisers. Father Oreste begins plans for a new school and ground is broken in February.
- Six sisters from the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ open the completed school on September 29 with 229 students. *Sister Donata* is the first principal of the school which serves kindergarten through fourth grades.

1951

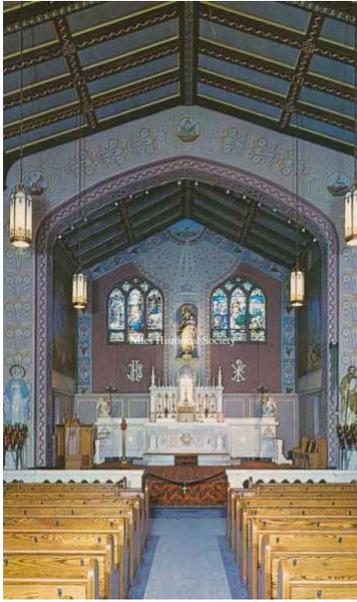
- A convent is built on Erie Street to house twelve Sisters.

1957

- Father Oreste purchases 11 acre parcel in the under-developed North Rhodes area.
- The Rhodes Avenue School is built with much volunteer labor.



Fr. Nick Arioli C.P.P.S. (with a much-younger Fr. Mario)



Original Interior of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church; Niles, OH.



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel today