



Bloodlines

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

MARCH 2024

PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

Grant many more zealous members...

Jesus serves as our ultimate role model. In the Gospel of *Luke (10:2)*, Jesus extends an invitation to his apostles and disciples to pray for more workers in the vineyard of the master. Our *Manual of Prayers* includes a specific prayer for our Society, where we earnestly request, ***Grant many more zealous members who will serve the Society in humility and obedience... the harvest is great, but the labourers are few. Raise up among us many generous vocations for the missions and bless those who exercise this ministry.***

Consequently, each member bears the responsibility of being a vocation promoter. Undoubtedly, the most persuasive and effective promoters of vocations are joyful priests or missionaries. Despite the numerous challenges faced by young people in the modern world, they remain open to religious vocations. The distractions pulling them away from knowing God or considering a religious calling should not deter us from inviting them to serve in religious or missionary life. We should proudly display the joy witnessed during our day of Incorporation or ordination, showcasing harmony in our hearts, minds, and ministry as evidence of God's blessings.

Gaspar's deep aspiration was to share the Good News, emphasizing evangelization — the act of sharing the Gospel with others. This spirit of evangelization, ingrained in his DNA, places us on the front lines of this mission, aligning with the Church's life and our charism. Our mission is to evangelize and make Jesus Christ known among us, achieved through our preaching and communal life. Young people keenly observe us, gauging the authenticity of Christ's presence and joy in our individual lives. Working together, we can actualize this mission, guided by the proverb, "If you want to walk fast, walk alone; if you want to walk far, walk together." A balanced



spiritual life sustains our prayer, friendship with Jesus, and fraternity, helping us stay focused on our mission with enduring joy.

In this new year, challenge yourself to seek 'new blood' for the community. Fearlessly extend invitations to young individuals to contemplate a missionary vocation. Act on our recited prayer to send laborers into the vineyard, acknowledging that each of us is a vocation promoter, contributing to the Church's and our community's future.

In our role as seasoned missionaries, there is a reciprocal learning process with the younger generation, where we gain insights from their experiences, and they, in turn, benefit from our wisdom.



~ FR. LUIGINO SANTI CPPS

BLOOD OF CHRIST, HOPE OF THE PENITENT.

The Precious Blood of Jesus is a profound symbol of renewal. This sacred Blood, shed for humanity's redemption, has power to transform and renew our lives. Just as spring brings renewal to the earth, our spirituality offers us a spiritual rebirth through the cleansing power of Jesus' Blood. It calls us to repentance, self-denial, and a deeper connection with God. As Missionaries, take the time to help someone around you to deepen their faith, share your faith or a learning experience in ministry, a turning point in your life because of God's help, or what you are most grateful for.

Reflection

Depending on its social or circumstantial context, *righteousness* is often understood as decency, virtue, or honesty.

The online Merriam-Webster dictionary defines *righteous* as "acting in accord with divine or moral law **or** morally right or justifiable **or** arising from an outraged sense of justice or morality."¹ While the definitions provide a fair grasp of *righteous*, there remains a sense from these definitions that goodness **or** wrongdoing can be justified. For example, using intelligence, fun, charm, or gossip to manipulate or control another person.

Perhaps we need to understand true *righteousness* by looking to the month of March, which is dedicated to St. Joseph, best known in the scriptures as a "*righteous*" man. There is little written in the scriptures about him, yet we do know that St. Joseph was the spouse and protector of our Blessed Mother and Jesus commissioned to guard them from any ill intent and harm. In *Matthew 5:20*, Christ tells his followers that, "Unless your *righteousness* surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven." While our human nature will always need God's grace in the pursuit of *righteousness*, Jesus diverts our attention from the external perception of what others see in us to the interior *righteousness* that radiates from our hearts.

The lack of detail about St. Joseph in the scriptures can easily obscure what *righteousness* means in reference to this saint. It did for me. It wasn't until I read Fr. Calloway's book, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father* that I understood *righteous* in the person of St. Joseph from 2000 years ago, and how dynamic he is for all humanity today. This insightful book acquaints the reader's heart and mind with St. Joseph's significance in theological and human history. I also came to recognize that St. Joseph was a real yet indirect presence in many aspects of my life without

realizing it and a saint to whom I have great devotion today. The man who protected me from any ill intent or harm all his life was my own father, a man not much different from St. Joseph. I experienced my father's virtues of justice, prudence, patience, poverty, and guardianship all while he emitted the qualities of calm, peace, hope, and love — many of the characteristics of St. Joseph found in Fr. Calloway's book. My father's most prominent appeal was his "silence," a prominent and well-known attribute of St. Joseph as well. Perhaps his silence strikes me most because I too value the silence. I often migrate to a place or space of silence where God speaks to my heart and mind. It is also the place where the great qualities of justice, prudence, patience, poverty, and guardianship mature because they are *righteous* qualities given by God. In his 1889 encyclical *Quamquam Pluries*, Pope Leo XIII explains our sureness in St. Joseph: *"Thus in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, the witness of her maidenhood, the protector of her honor, but also... a participator in her sublime dignity... guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men... the Word of God was humbly subject to Joseph, that He obeyed him, and that He rendered to him all those offices that children are bound to render to their parents... the head of families, so that Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was... during the whole course of his life, he fulfilled those charges and those duties... he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ."* St. Joseph defines and exemplifies true *righteousness!*

God chose the quiet and reserved man of St. Joseph as the greatest male example of love, protection, and holiness from which we garner inspiration and the hope to emulate. The devil himself runs in great fear from this humble servant of God. Somewhere deep inside of me, I believe my father emulated St. Joseph. It is no wonder that the memorial of my own father hangs on the walls of St. Charles Parish in Toronto and reads, "Dad Forever"; always present, guarding, and *righteous*.

St. Joseph, dad forever, pray for us, pray for me.

¹ www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/righteous

~ DCN. SERGIO SPADAFORA



LAMB OF GOD

At every Mass after the sign of peace, we cry out, *Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.* We echo the same words of John the Baptist from the Gospel of John. Jesus is the true Lamb of God who takes away all sin and gives us peace. What does it really mean for Jesus to be the Lamb of God?

To most people the notion of a lamb is a cute, cuddly, fluffy animal. To those who heard the words of John the Baptist, this was farthest from the truth. To the Jews of the first century lamb of God was referred to a sacrifice. It was a lamb that was sacrificed and eaten for the Passover meal. John does not refer to Jesus as a lamb but as the Lamb of God. This title means that Jesus is the one, true sacrificial lamb of the Passover.

And Jesus will have mercy on us. He will be our paschal sacrifice and by following Him and participating in His sacrificial meal, the Mass, we shall pass over death and enjoy eternal life. This is the perfection of the Passover of the Exodus at the time of Moses, which was a foreshadowing of Jesus the Christ. Participating and sharing in the sacrifice of the Lamb of God at the Eucharist is the best way in which we may come to enjoy, taste, and experience true peace.

Do you really believe in the words, *Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.* Why did John refer to Jesus as the Lamb of God? Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, was a priest of the Temple. Every day one of the priests would ask God's pardon for his sins and the sins of the people by sacrificing a lamb on the main altar. John knew that Jesus would be sacrificed on the cross to take away our sins. During the Mass at the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest prays, *'we, Your servants and your holy people, offer to Your glorious majesty from the gifts*

that You have given us, this Pure Victim, this Holy Victim, this spotless Victim, the Holy Bread of eternal Life and the Chalice of everlasting salvation.'

When we sing the Gloria, we pray, *"Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us."* This tells us who Jesus is and how John acknowledges Jesus. Even though John was born before Jesus, John knew his cousin, Jesus, was the Son of God.

John's work was to prepare the people for the long-awaited Christ. As Jesus was baptized, John's mission was accomplished, as he said I must decrease, and He must increase. John says, *"I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain on Him."* The Holy Spirit had always been with the Son of God, but the Spirit came down on Jesus to show that he was the Messiah. In Psalm 40, *"Sacrifice or offering You wished not but ears open to the Father."* Jesus does not offer animal sacrifices as the priests of old found in the Old Testament; rather he offers himself as the spotless lamb and as real bread from heaven.

In the Old Testament, we read how the Hebrews smeared the lamb's blood on their doors to protect their first born. They were saved by the blood of the lamb. This event foreshadowed that Jesus was the Christ, our paschal lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. St. Paul further says, *'Christ our Pascal Lamb has been sacrificed.'* We were saved with the precious blood of Christ and not by silver or gold.

Again, John writes about his vision of Heaven. *"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise."*

VOICE OF OUR FOUNDER

Let us encourage each other evermore toward the pursuit of perfection and not cease studying the great book of the Crucifix. From that book, we learn profound humility, patience, gentleness, and charity so that we are able to attract souls to His love.

*St. Gaspar del Bufalo
Letter 1209*

We celebrate!

YOUR BIRTHDAY

March 3: JOHN COLACINO

THE ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR ORDINATION

March 25: RONALD MAHON

PART TWO: PRAYER

‘His will, will be for us the great balancing scale for every one of our undertakings.’

– GASPAR DEL BUFALO, *Letter 1879*

As we continue our contemplation on prayer, this month we direct our attention to one of the gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit — the gift of Counsel. *Counsel*, synonymous with *discernment*, unfolds when we are receptive to the will of God. Early in our spiritual journey, we embark on the art and process of discernment, guided by our spiritual directors, who lead us in learning how to attune ourselves to the voice of God. Through prayer, we strive to discern God’s voice and understand His will for us. To be effective missionaries, it is crucial to continually listen, hear, and discern how to align our lives with God’s will. Discernment is not a sporadic occurrence, arising only every four years during potential reassignments or when confronted with challenging situations. Instead, it is an ongoing, indispensable aspect of our spiritual lives and fidelity to our ministry.

The world around us often poses distractions that hinder us from perceiving God’s will. When we fail to listen attentively, we may react out of fear, selfishness, or complacency. Seeking counsel and engaging in discernment aid us in comprehending, elucidating, and bringing to light God’s favour for us. St. Gaspar, in his letter to **Msgr. Cristaldi**, expresses his reliance on identifying the will of God, praying for strength of spirit and body to serve until the very end. He emphasizes the significance of prayers and humility, urging that Jesus be our source of delight, joy, and consolation.

Recognizing that we are imperfect beings, created and cherished by God, we depend on Him to guide us in the right path. Despite stumbling, falling, making mistakes, and sinning, we can seek mercy and compassion, allowing for transformative change.

Discernment surpasses merely

seeking understanding of a particular situation; it is an exploration of *“Who is God asking me to become?”* This is not solely a personal question but also a communal understanding. It may involve relinquishing personal ego to clearly hear, comprehend, and embrace God’s will. This challenging journey necessitates dedicated time in prayer and a willingness to say, “Your will be done.” Seeking advice from trusted friends, spiritual directors, and remaining attentive to signs around us are integral aspects of discernment. As Thomas Green, SJ, wisely notes, ‘discernment is learned through action, not just through books.’

In the quest to discern God’s will, it is essential to ponder: How do I discern God’s will? What tools can aid me in this process? Do I actively seek counsel from the Holy Spirit to enhance my spiritual and missionary life?

Gaspar’s reminder echoes loudly: “By doing the will of God, we accomplish everything... we must adapt ourselves to the will of God.” (*Letter 2289*)

RECIPE OF THE MONTH: MARCH

A practical and simple recipe for a healthy community. Try it for month:

- ✓ a pinch of compassion
- ✓ an oz of kindness
- ✓ a cup of humility
- ✓ a dash of gentleness
- ✓ a long measure of patience
- ✓ a spoonful of bearing with one another
- ✓ a large kilogram of forgiveness

Blend all the ingredients seven times a day. Let it simmer for a week. When you notice love is in the making, then relationship, community and unity are ready. Love has been served. And the fruit, dessert, for the meal is peace.

A GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING. FINDING MEANING AND PURPOSE.

In CPPS Resources number 18, published by Messenger Press, you will find *The Sources of Gasparian Spirituality* authored by **Fr. John Colacino**, cpps. Fr. John delves into two pivotal influences on St. Gaspar’s spirituality: **Francesco Albertini** and **St. Francis de Sales**. Moreover, he elucidates the relevance of Gasparian spirituality for lay individuals and offers insights on how to integrate this potent spirituality into daily life. This Lenten season, we encourage you to immerse yourself in this enriching book. Fr. John has crafted a spiritual guide that promises to reignite your connection with Gaspar’s spirit and ignite your missionary fervor and zeal.

We remember and pray for...

March 17

JOSEPH GENTILI

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

REQUIESCANT IN PACE.

In brief...

FEBRUARY 5: Fr. Jim Reposkey, cpps, has moved to St. Charles Centre, Carthagena Ohio. Our CPPS confreres welcomed Fr. Jim with open arms and hearts. The staff are wonderful and true angels.

This change will certainly take time, yet knowing he is being provided with the proper care, love, and compassion. His cell number remains active for a few more months if you wish to reach out to him.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

► Ronald Mahon

8731 S. Keeler, Hometown, IL 60456 USA

► James Reposkey

St. Charles Centre
2860 Route 127, Celina, OH
45822-9533

TEL 419.925.4516

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR March 2024

FOR THE MARTYRS OF OUR DAY, WITNESSES TO CHRIST

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.



MAJESTIC FLIGHT

This is **Fr. Samuel's** latest artwork. The Bible often uses the symbol of an eagle



to portray strength, power, vision, and even destruction. The Biblical analogies using eagles should inspire us to righteous living

and strengthen our walk with God!

Let us pray as Isaiah prayed, '...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.'

CPPS PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING ATLANTIC PROVINCE

February 27, 2024 via Google Meet

Opening Prayer led by Fr. Sam.

Welcome of Fr. Mario Cafarelli by V. Rev. Fr. Luigino Santi to replace Fr. Patrick Gilmurray as 3rd Councillor.

New Secretary: With Patrick leaving, it was proposed that Fr. John Colacino take on the role of recording secretary for online council meetings and Fr. Sam D'Angelo act as recording secretary for in-person council meetings. All were in agreement.

Vocation: Fr. Sam announced the start of the creation of a mobile app for the Province. It will be titled, *Catholic Calling* to attract as wide an audience as possible. Once completed, it will be available on the Apple Store and on Google Play. An app designer is in the process of creating the app, which will have the following abilities: daily reflection quote sent via notifications to your cell phone, CPPS manual of Prayers and extended Rosary created by Fr. John Colacino, Prayer requests, discernment tool to determine a person's calling trajectory, virtual Mass card purchases, links to the vocation and province websites, and a *Contact us* feature.

The cost of the app is \$5,550.00, with a per-month fee of \$39.00 for ongoing services. Fr. Sam recommended that we also subscribe to ongoing services for one year to further refine and fix problems, if they arise.

The app development is expected to take 10 weeks to complete.

Formation: Fr. Luigino asked for various suggestions as to where we could send **Mr. David Gonzales** for studies. He is expected to begin theological studies in September 2024. Three suggestions were discussed:

1 Residence and theological formation at St. Augustine Seminary in Toronto, ON

2 Residence and theological formation at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, IL

3 Residence and theological formation in Rome

Foundation Day Celebration on August 15. Council agree to limit the gathering to just the CPPS priests and brothers as we had done last year. Another option that was discussed was moving the celebration to a parish that could host the event for all USC members.

Finances: Fr. Peter Nobili joined the meeting to give a brief report. He reported that Mr. Peter Plagionakos is currently preparing the yearly report of finances for the Province. Fr. Peter will present the report at the next Provincial Council Meeting on May 28, at 1pm.

Fr. Luigino informed the membership that, on the recommendation at the previous Assembly and the current Provincial Council, to seek a lay person to learn the financial aspect of the Province and Mr. John Vedez (hired) to work with Fr. Peter in the financial administration of the Province. He begins work on March 2, and will work four hours every Saturday.

Fr. Jerome also highlighted that we don't have a plan in place for our elderly members, especially if they need round-the-clock medical care.

Fr. Luigino replied that there is a plan in place. If we are attentive to the decisions taken at two Provincial Assemblies regarding Gaspar House and its plans are ongoing.

Fr. Mario also stressed that it was agreed upon at a previous assembly that the new wing of the Gaspar Mission House was specifically intended for retirees and for medical care of our members.

This issue will be brought up at a later provincial council meeting.

Development Office: Fr. Jerome reported that the CDN account is in a healthy financial status.

Jerome thus made several proposals for consideration:

1 That the Province reconsider its involvement with the mission projects in Tanzania and hand over control to a religious order of sisters that can continue to reflect the values of our mission.

2 That the Province redirect our mission efforts to the Iberian Province and their commitment to Guinea-Bissau and we terminate any involvement in the Tanzanian missions.

3 That the Province release all mission projects to the Tanzanian Province with

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY 27 2024

TORONTO DISTRICT MEETING

JUNE 10 TO 14

ANNUAL RETREAT

Mt. Carmel Monastery, Niagara Falls

JULY 1

FEAST OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

AUGUST 15

FOUNDATION DAY

Gaspar House, Niagara Falls

no future donations or fundraising from the Atlantic Province. It was suggested that Fr. Luigino write a letter on behalf of his council informing the Tanzanian Province of the reasons for our displeasure and what we propose to do about it. The generalate should be cc'd.

Generalate Paper and Communal

Reflection: Fr. Luigino informed the members of District meetings to be held to discuss the discernment questions for the General Assembly to be held in September 2025.

Sexual Misconduct Policy Revisions:

Fr. Mario was tasked by Fr. Luigino to finish and submit the revisions of our Province's sexual misconduct policies. Vice Moderator Fr. Angelo Anthony will present the completed work to the members on the first day of our retreat in Niagara Falls in June.

Next Meeting: In-person, at Merlini Study Centre on Tuesday, May 28, starting at 1pm.



Bloodlines

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. Email submissions to luicpps@yahoo.ca or mail to 100 Pelmo Crescent, Toronto, Ontario M9N 2Y1, by the **25TH OF THE MONTH.**

CONTRIBUTORS

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DESIGN

GINO MARCUZZI

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!
You are invited to share your prayers, reflections, photos, words of wisdom, happenings from your place of ministry.

Prayer Service on the 28th World Day for Consecrated Life



PILGRIMS OF HOPE: Fr. Gerardo and Fr. Lui hosted a vocational prayer service on the vigil of the World Day for Consecrated Life, at St. Charles Borromeo Church. The community prayed for vocations in song, psalms, petitions, and in thanksgiving for the religious vocation and for an increase of vocations to the Church. The Sisters of St. Paul and the Carmelite Sisters assisted with the evening of prayer. Pope Francis' message for this day reminded us that the religious are to be 'pilgrims of hope'.

Vocation Calendar • March 2024



VOCATION PRAYER

O God,

OUR FATHER,

we praise and thank you
for the gift of life
and our vocation
as missionaries.

Send more zealous missionaries
who will serve
in humility
and to live your will
in faith and trust
as your Son lived your love
in service to
the poor,
the sick,
and the young.

We pray with confidence that,
through the intercession of
St. Gaspar,
you will grant us
this humble favour
which we request.
You who lived
and reign forever and ever.

Amen.

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

Let us remain united in prayer