



Bloodlines

Newsletter of the Atlantic Province

Summer 2015

From the Provincial and Council

The provincial council met on Monday, August 17, at 10:00am at St. Charles in Toronto. All council members were present except for Fr. Mateyk who was delayed due to a funeral. The provincial treasurer was present for part of the meeting; the mission director was in transit from Tanzania and thus unable to attend. The provincial began by commending all involved in the bicentennial celebration the previous Saturday. The provincial treasurer gave an update on relevant matters. He reported that half of the funds set aside for the Mission Project from the estate of Fr. Mario Bufalini has been used with total expenditures amounting to \$320,000.00 (CND). Fr. Peter noted that he is working on finishing the financial relationship with the Capuchin Friars for the rental of the Pelmo property. He informed the council of a need to reconstitute the boards of directors of two of the province's corporations; members of the province and others affected will be notified. He also reported on his satisfaction with the bicentennial celebration and informed the council of costs incurred; a discussion and suggestions followed about the future of the August 15 observance.

An addition to the Provincial Customary was approved stipulating that the delegated director of the Union of the Blood of Christ draw his budget from all related activities including the Mass Association, the Precious Blood Family Magazine, animation of USC groups and the annual celebration of August 15. Regarding the Mass association, the provincial will apportion all 1,000 Masses for which the province is responsible to members who are not based in parishes and will also remind members of the obligation to offer the suffragia stipulated by the Provincial Statues.

An extended discussion concerning personnel scenarios affecting the province, including Mexico, occupied the remainder of the morning session and continued after the break for dinner.

Under new business, Fr. Michael asked about taking some courses in preparation for his work with students and was encouraged to do so. The council will meet next at the Niagara house on November 27 in conjunction with the annual celebration of the American Thanksgiving. Fr. John asked Fr. Ron to present a vision for the Niagara mission house at that time, given the impending changes in personnel there.

Voice of the Founder



"The works of God are like the mustard seed which, when thrown into the ground, continues to grow in such a way that it very soon becomes a robust plant which spreads its branches out in a marvelous way and sets its roots deeply into the bowels of the earth. O my beloved confreres in Jesus Christ, that also is what our holy Institute is." (*Letters*, #2103)

Calendar

September 1 Patrick Gilmurray – Anniversary of Ordination (2012)
September 7 Rene Cerecedo -- Anniversary of Incorporation (1984)
September 8 Jeffrey Finley – Anniversary of Incorporation (1987)
September 15 – Memorial of Mary, Woman of the New Covenant
September 29 Gregorio Cortés Hernández – Anniversary of Incorporation (2012)
September 29 – Germán Estéves Santiago – Anniversary of Incorporation (2012)
October 1 Peter Nobili -- Anniversary of Incorporation (1964)
October 20 Jeffrey Finley – Anniversary of Ordination (1990)
October 21 – Solemnity of St. Gaspar, Founder of the Congregation
October 21 – Augusto Menichelli – Anniversary of Incorporation (2004)
October 21 – Presbyteral Ordination of Gregorio Cortés Hernández
October 22 – James Resposkey – Anniversary of Incorporation (1972)
October 25 Germán Estéves Santiago – Anniversary of Ordination (2013)
November 4 Ronald Mahon – Anniversary of Incorporation (1975)

International C.P.P.S. Prayer Schedule:

September	Kansas City Province & Vietnamese Mission
October	Polish Province & Croatian Mission
November	Iberian Province



Please remember in your prayers:

Maria Josefina Santiago Estevez

Sister of Fr. Germán Estéves Santiago

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!**

Provincial Retreat

June 6-10, 2016

MOUNT CARMEL SPIRITUAL CENTRE
7020 STANLEY AVE.
NIAGARA FALLS, ON

RETREAT DIRECTOR:

VERY REV. WILLIAM NORDBROCK C.P.P.S.

From Around the Province

The following article by Jean Ko Din appeared in the August 1 issue of the *Catholic Register*:

At 20, Radio Maria undergoes a facelift

Fr. Augusto Menichelli was saying Mass at Toronto's St. Charles Church last year when he noticed two new faces in the pews. Later, the two men introduced themselves and set Menichelli's life on a new course. The visitors were Vittorio Viccardi, the general secretary of the Italian-based World Family of Radio Maria, and John Romanelli, president of Radio Maria Canada. A search for a priest to manage their Toronto operation had led them that day to Mass at St. Charles and to introductions with an unsuspecting Menichelli. "They came to my Mass and after the Mass they proposed me to become director," said Menichelli.

Radio Maria is a Catholic radio network that broadcasts in 40 languages on more than 60 stations across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and North and South America. Its Toronto operation turned 20 earlier this year. The time seemed right to take the station in a new direction. Menichelli was officially installed as the full-time director last month (after being appointed last November) and given a mandate to transform Radio Maria from being primarily a small, Italian-language radio service into a national radio and Internet network that will appeal nationwide to Canada's English-speaking majority.

It is a tall order for a priest with no radio background who barely spoke English when he was assigned from Rome to Canada four years ago. But what Menichelli does bring, besides ideas and enthusiasm, is a Master's degree in theology and communication from the Pontifical Universities of Rome. His thesis was on the modern priest and the Internet.

"We're trying to change the mentality," said Menichelli. "We're trying to go into the Canadian mentality because, even if we are an Italian radio station, Radio Maria Canada is in Canada. It is to grow in English. We're going to combine together English and Italian."

Menichelli succeeds Luigi Pautasso, who was inspired 20 years ago to create a Canadian radio service based on Radio Maria Italia in Rome. Its first broadcast, as an Italian-language service, was on April 5, 1995 under CHIN radio's subfrequency 100.7 FM in Toronto. "(Pautasso) did a lot with Radio Maria in 20 years, but when he died (in 2013), nobody really knew what to do," Menichelli said. "That's why Radio Maria World Family called me to come here."

Ordained in 2005 as a priest of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, Menichelli has been overseeing the construction of a new studio, planning a new fall schedule and revamping Radio Maria's web operations. He intends to expand Radio Maria's audience beyond the GTA and into the rest of Canada by combining Italian and English programming into one service.

"Because we receive programming from Italy, we are so comfortable with that," said Menichelli. "I would like to do a live program where the people can call in. Just making people listen to the program is kind of boring. I want the people to participate in the life of the radio."

Radio Maria will launch a new lineup in September that will include bilingual programming. Menichelli wants to create a radio show about immigration that allows people to call in with their stories of moving to Canada. "It would be interesting to know about these people and how they started their life here... about the spirituality that they brought here to Canada," he said.

Menichelli also wants to revamp Radio Maria's Youth Forum. In collaboration with parishes across Toronto, he will encourage youth groups to host their own show from their parish. He would also like to see parishes host daily Mass broadcasts.

For now, though, many of these program changes remain as plans. "Of course, you need a good channel to broadcast before you can do a good program. That's the first step," he said. "We're trying to improve the channel, trying to improve the sound of our subfrequency, and even online... We have to find many ways to make our listeners comfortable with Radio Maria."

The 20th anniversary of Radio Maria Canada was celebrated on April 19 with a thanksgiving Mass and a dinner reception at St. Charles Church. The event was broadcast from a makeshift studio in a trailer in the parking lot because the offices and studios were being renovated.

"It was not easy, not easy at all," said Menichelli. "I'm glad we're back. We're still trying to organize things... we will have a new desk, new mixer. We'll have soundproofing sponge on the walls. It's going to look like a real radio studio."



Member Profile

Fr. Michael Mateyk C.P.P.S.



Michael was born on September 6, 1973 at Etobicoke General Hospital to Mike and Maria Mateyk. Growing up, Michael loved sports, music and staying up late. Some of his fondest memories are of laying on the living room and listening to LPs with his Dad. He also loved playing hockey. From the age of four he was skating and playing hockey. Growing up for ten years in Alberta offered long winters and so the outdoor rink was Michael's second home. Church was a big part of his life growing up. The family went every Sunday to 11:00 a.m. Mass.

In 1985 the family moved to Waterloo, Ontario when Michael's Dad got a new job. Even though the extended family was all in Niagara Falls, the move was very hard. Having to make all new friends and learn a new city was difficult and trying at times. But Michael's parents were strong for him and they, his younger sister and he adapted.

After graduating high school in 1992, Michael enrolled at the University of Waterloo to study history in the hopes of one day becoming a high school history teacher. After two years, Michael realized that teacher's college was not going to be a reality given his marks so he took a break from school and went to work at his father's office in the print room.

Realizing that he couldn't do that forever, in 1996 Michael went to London, Ontario to Fanshawe College to study Recording Engineering. After graduating in 1998, he went to work for Norwegian Cruise Lines as an audio engineer doing sound and light in the small show lounge. Seeing some nice Caribbean islands, but again realizing that this was not going to work as a career, Michael applied to teacher's college at Niagara University in 2001. This is where God truly started working in Michael's life.

He left his home, his friends and his family in Waterloo, and moved to Toronto to teach. Being all alone and in a new city, Michael started attending Mass at St. Clare's Parish in Toronto. He was teaching in a Catholic school and getting involved in different ministries at the parish -- but that was still not it. At the other end of St. Clair Avenue was St. Alphonsus Church. It was during this time of teaching and parish involvement that Michael began considering the priesthood. As fate would have it, Fr. Lui Santi was the weekend assistant at St. Alphonsus and also the vocation director for the Atlantic Province.

Michael began talking to Fr. Lui about the community, what it did, its history and where it was going in the future. But what really drew him was the charism. Preaching parish missions and doing retreat work seemed like an exciting and fruitful ministry -- still using his teaching skills but just not in a classroom setting. It was a short time of discernment until Michael informed the province he would like to join. He commenced studies in 2006 and graduated in 2010. He was ordained June 25, 2011 and is presently assigned to St. Charles Church in Toronto.

Looking back, Michael can truly see the trail of breadcrumbs God laid out to the C.P.P.S. and is truly grateful to be a Precious Blood priest.

Reflection

Gary Luiz C.P.P.S.

When one looks at the history of our planet the notion of something lasting for a mere 200 years seems to pale in comparison to so many other institutions, ideas and great movements of this world. One need only consider the pyramids, the Great Wall, or the monument of Stonehenge to realize how puny 200 years really is. Even when the great ideas of history are considered such as freedom, intellectual curiosity and the great notions of discovery fall so short.

Consider the great movements of history such as the Roman Empire, the Chinese dynasties, the Holy Roman Empire, the British Commonwealth, even the United States of America is older by nearly 40 years.

So what does the notion of the 200 years of the Precious Blood Congregation bring to our soul? Is it an institution, is it an idea, is it a great movement?

Well, I would suggest to you that it is all of those things. Surely it is an institution. We know that through its approbation by the Catholic Church. Even though St. Gaspar began the Missionaries with a small band in 1815 in St. Felix Monastery in Giano, Italy (just about 22 kilometers from Assisi) it was in 1841 that the little group received the official "recognitio" of its rule. Since then the Missionaries find themselves in more than 20 countries with official

provinces, vicariates and missions in all of them. The Adorers of the Precious Blood and the Dayton and O'Fallon sisters have spread beyond that of the men's groups. The Missionaries serve in colleges, military chaplaincies, parishes, mission work, chancery offices, pontifical offices, retreat centers, hospitals, among lepers, orphans, prisoners, the underprivileged, and others who are "far off." It is indeed an institution.

It is an idea. The idea did not begin with Gaspar. The moment of the Precious Blood began with the first blood-shedding, but its singular moment was the cross. The notion that one man would die for others was not wholly unique but that the man would also be God who would die for all those of faith was. St. Gaspar was the man destined to take up that idea and with animation and encouragement bring it into focus for a world that had a great thirst. His tireless and eloquent endeavors in this regard, which took the form of "missions" in which he literally besieged a town or locale to bring the power of the Blood to the people. He was not called a "spiritual earthquake" and "the hammer of the sectarians" for nothing! And the idea took hold. Within five years of this death the Missionaries found themselves in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and the United States. From a number of mustard seeds the love of the

Precious Blood grew to encompass the world. It is still growing. It is indeed an idea.

It is a movement. Since 1815 the fire and zeal of missionaries have enveloped the world. The notion of the Blood of Christ, which brings all to a greater understanding of faith and hope and love has been a springboard for so much enthusiasm. Henry Ford once said, "There is nothing so unstoppable and exciting as enthusiasm." Missionaries were fired with the love of the Blood to take its banner everywhere in the known world. By 1915, the centennial of the Congregation, there were enormous celebrations in both the United States and Italy involving hundreds of priests, brothers, sisters, and laity converted by the Blood of the Lamb. It is indeed a movement.

In the year 2015 the world is an entirely different place in many ways than that summer day in August of 1815 when St. Gaspar del Bufalo inaugurated the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in a rural monastery in Umbria. Jet aircraft speed missionaries back and forth to former mission lands that Gaspar could only dream of. The instantaneous era of cell phones, texting and fax communications make the exchange of ideas and news lightning fast. The Internet has literally opened the world to those who are "far off." In so many ways we live in an age that is miraculous.

But there are other realities.

There is the ever-present dichotomy between the rich and the poor. There is the horror of local and regional disputes and wars. There is continuing Satanic babble of misunderstanding and violent rhetoric. There is the grinding poverty of those exploited by the unblooded. In short, there is still evil in our world and it seems pervasive. Is there a need for the institution, idea and movement of the Missionaries? What do you think?

In 2015 the family of the PRevious Blood celebrates 200 years of this charism of the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. We hope that many others join us in celebrating more than just an institution, an idea, or a movement. We hope that many others will celebrate it a way of thinking, praying, living and loving.



Bicentennial Prayer

God of hope, you placed a dream in the heart of St. Gaspar that continues to unfold in the hearts of his Missionaries and Companions. This dream was inspired by your covenant of love, sealed in the Precious Blood of your Son for the life of the world. Make us witnesses after your own heart for the renewal of the Church and the transformation of the world. Bless our hearts and our homes as sacred spaces of hospitality that reverence the dignity of all life. Send us forth to be ambassadors for Christ in the ministry of reconciliation drawing all people near in your Blood. To you we offer praise and jubilee with our hearts set on your dream for unity where all will be one with you forever.

VISION STATEMENT of the XXth General Assembly of the C.P.P.S.

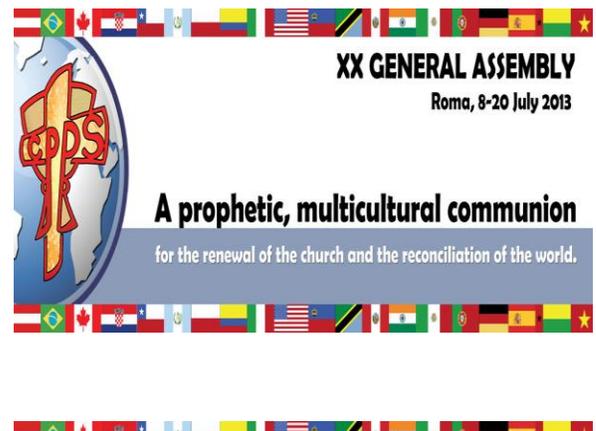
The Blood of Christ, poured out for all and drawing all near, is the source and summit of our life and mission. This Blood impels us to affirm the dignity of life as we embrace a wounded humanity and creation.

Rooted in the Spirituality of the Precious Blood and the Ministry of the Word, our mission is to be a prophetic witness for the renewal of the Church and the transformation of world. As a courageous community of missionary disciples, the

-- Cry of the Blood calls us to the edges of society to be ambassadors of Christ for reconciliation and hope as we minister with the People of God.

-- Living the Bond of Charity, our life reflects a multicultural communion of incorporated members and lay associates. Faithful to the missionary charism of Saint Gaspar, our mission houses are sacred spaces of hospitality and renewal for mission.

Every missionary embraces the responsibility of shared leadership for the well-being of the community. Our chosen leaders are servants who animate us to share our gifts for the realization of our vision and the fulfillment of the Reign of God.



Bicentennial Pilgrimage

Peter Nobili, C.PP.S.

“Before and After”

From June 19-July 5 a group of 31 pilgrims from the United States and Canada left for Italy to celebrate the bicentennial of the Congregation. The places of pilgrimage organized for the group had some “before” and “after” moments of note, that is, what we did before joining the rest of the pilgrims in Rome and what was done after meeting them to share the various bicentennial celebrations.

The “before” pilgrimage included: A visit to the parish of Santa Maria in Vado in Ferrara where Fr. Leonida welcomed us for the celebration of Mass and explained the Eucharistic miracle of 1171 as well as the historical value of the building;

a meal in Florence shared with Missionaries of the Italian Province at their Precious Blood parish there;

a visit to our church in Rimini, Madonna della Misericordia, where we celebrated the Eucharist after which Fr. Mario Dariozzi and his family and friends showed us C.PP.S. hospitality at its best;

then a stop at the Marian shrine of Loreto, continuing on to Lanciano, the place of the famous miracle of the Host where we celebrated the Eucharist;

and finally, to St. Padre Pio’s town of San Giovanni Rotondo where we celebrated the Eucharist the next day followed by a couple of days on the Amalfi Coast and a stop at the Abbey of Monte Cassino.

After a picnic at the vineyard of my relatives, we arrived in Rome on the evening of June 29, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul.



Santa Maria in Vado; Ferrara



Tabernacle in the Church of the Most Precious Blood; Florence



Our of Lady Mercy; Rimini

Once in Rome, we began the “*after*” part of the pilgrimage as we joined many others celebrating the bicentennial. This second part of the pilgrimage was organized by *Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi*. It included a walking tour of the main sites of the Rome of St Gaspar on the morning of the 30th and a powerful penitential rite at the parish of St Gaspar in Rome in the evening.

On July 1, Solemnity of the Precious Blood, the main event took place at the Basilica of St. John Lateran. At 5:00pm a procession of more than one 100 concelebrants began from the sacristy of the basilica. Unbeknown to many, rather than proceeding to the altar we were directed to the portico of the basilica to welcome the body of St Gaspar which had been transferred from Santa Maria in Trivio for the occasion.

A prolonged applause erupted with shouts of “*Viva San Gaspare*” from the crowd as the body made its way into the church. Many of those present spoke about having “goose pumps” at the appearance of St. Gaspar’s relics. Those already in the church were also taken by surprise at the site of the body and shouts of joy, songs of praise, and the distinctive Tanzanian tongue trill erupted as the body was escorted to the foot of the altar. Among the concelebrants, Fr. Carlo Della Vecchia and I represented the Atlantic Province.



Fr. Carlo Della Vecchia in procession

The Mass was presided over by Bishop Joseph Charron C.PP.S. and the homily was given by Bishop Erwin Kräutler C.PPS. of the *Xingu*, who gave an historical presentation of the apostolate and mission of the community while urging us to look toward a challenging future. Present in the congregation were people from practically every country where Missionaries of the Precious Blood are found.

In the sacristy after the Mass, the bishops and concelebrants continued the celebration with 100 voices from every tongue, people and nation singing in Italian the hymn to St Gaspar: “*Torna tra noi, O Gaspare, con la parola ardente: del sangue onnipotente grida i prodigi ancor!*”



The sarcophagus of St. Gaspar exposed in the Lateran Basilica during the Bicentennial Mass

On July 2nd we visited St. Gaspar's museum in Albano, viewed the DVD on the community and enjoyed an improvised group entertainment after a picnic lunch. On the 3rd we went to San Felice for the Eucharist and on the 4th to Acuto and Sonnino. The 5th was departure day for the group from Canada. While many in the group had problems fitting all they had purchased in their brimming suitcase, all went home with minds and spirits equally overflowing.

Some Testimonials

Nancy Mazzei from Niagara Falls: "I know so much more about St. Gaspar and the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. It was impressive to see so many different nationalities and places. The most moving time was the carrying of the body of St. Gaspar into the Basilica of St. John in Lateran and second to that the reconciliation service at St. Gaspar's parish -- a good place to start to unite people from everywhere in a world so divided by personal and national interests."

Mary Muriello from Niagara Falls: "It has been a very spiritual experience visiting and celebrating the Eucharist in different churches, some close to the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. The event that gave me goose-pumps was the multitude of priests and the bishops in procession with the body of St. Gaspar and the faith-filled reaction of the people in church."

Annette DeCarolis from Rochester: "Celebrating with the C.P.P.S. family all over the world was the culmination of over 60 years of being associated with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood."

Rev. Terry Holub from the Niagara Region:

"On June 19 2015 my wife Tina and I had the privilege of participating in the bicentennial pilgrimage of the Congregation of the Precious Blood. It was an experience we will never forget.

For those of you who have had the pleasure of participating in a pilgrimage you know too well the magnitude and spiritual significance of what you experienced never really comes into focus until you arrive home and have an opportunity to reflect back and digest the grace and awe of God's presence among us.

Shortly after our arrival home the phone calls began to pour in from friends and relatives asking the predictable questions like: Did you see the Pope? Or how was the Vatican? And the most frequently asked question what were the highlights of your trip?

When I left for Italy, never having been to the Vatican or St. John Lateran I thought that I would be overcome while standing in St. Peter's square, or attending Mass with disciples from all over the world and, while I was, it was surprisingly the little things like sitting in silent prayer in front of the Eucharistic miracles in Luciano and Ferrara or listening to the prayerful chants of a priest as I sat alone in the Abbey at Montecassino that really resonated with me most for it was in these quiet moments that I felt the grace of God all around me.

These moments, coupled with the extraordinary visits to the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie containing Padre Pio's tomb and his cell, the Vatican, the ability to participate in Eucharistic worship with pilgrims from all over the world and the wonderful fellowship and friendship of those who were with us made this trip indescribably, spiritually uplifting and grace filled. If the purpose of a pilgrimage is to reaffirm and grow one's faith then this one was a resounding success and my words do not do it justice."

(Fr. Holub is an Anglican priest of the Diocese of Niagara)

Fr. Raymond Gonzi:

“First I would like to thank Fr. Peter Nobili, C.PP.S. for organizing and guiding us through the pilgrimage to Italy for the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. The highlight of the trip was the solemn Mass at San Giovanni Laterano with over a 100 priests, several bishops, and seminarians; the basilica was full. It was very moving when the body of St. Gaspar was processed into the basilica before Mass. It was also a very emotional moment after Mass, in the sacristy -- one could feel the spirit of St. Gaspar in his sons as seminarians and priests sang proudly and fervently the hymn to their founder.”

Joanne and Tim McGlynn:

“This pilgrimage was inspirational! We experienced real beauty in magnificent churches as well as in small and humbler churches where we found greater closeness to God. Thank you Fr. Peter for the great experience.”



Videos of the Bicentennial Mass, including the procession, can be found on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQ2ZPurl-50&list=PLqM5J0tIGWfPydcTnpq09qeJo4U5T8OtY>

Bishop Krautler’s homily can be found at:

http://www.cppsmissionaries.org/?wpfb_dl=425

Scenes from the Bicentennial



Over 400 participants gathered at the International Plaza Hotel in Toronto, Toronto/Toronto



Frs. Jim and Alarey



Fr. Brendan enjoying a light-hearted moment



Fr. Michael listening attentively to the speaker



Fr. Clarence Williams C.P.P.S. giving the keynote address



Participants gathered for lunch



Fr. Phil and Mrs. Gilmurray



Fr. Augusto and friends from Radio Maria



Fr. Peter and friends



Fr. Carlo with Bishop Bergie of St. Catharines

Book Review

John Colacino C.P.P.S.

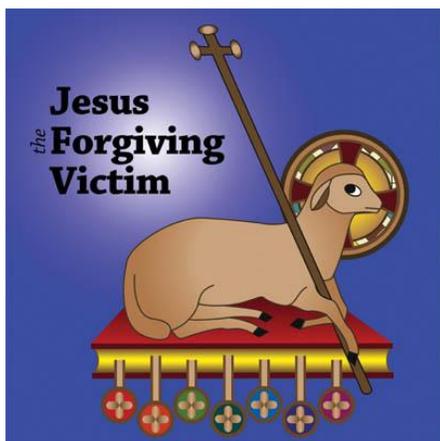
On the first Sunday of the month throughout 2015 at the Rochester mission house I have been leading an adult study group of about a dozen people based on theologian James Alison's series of 12 essays entitled *Jesus the Forgiving Victim: Listening for the Unheard Voice*. While the essays are designed around a video course, I have adapted the program by providing my own discussion questions along with suggestions for further reading. The essays are published in a 4-volume set and are readily available on Amazon.com. Participants attend the weekly Sunday Mass held at the house, followed by breakfast and then a discussion session that lasts 1½ ours. As you can tell from the title of the series, Alison's work is eminently compatible with the spirituality of the Blood of Christ and is in turn inspired by René Girard's work on non-violence. I am reproducing below Alison's own description of the program found on his website <http://forgivingvictim.com/home/the-course/introduction/>. If anyone is interested I would be glad to forward the material I have developed to supplement the essays and guide the discussions. I highly recommend Alison's work as a fresh approach to our charism and spirituality as well as adult religious education more generally.

From the website:

Jesus the Forgiving Victim offers something quite fresh in the field of introductions to faith while embracing a straightforward Christian orthodoxy. Most Christian formation courses follow the format of education courses in general, which is to invite learners to be taught by an expert. Novices are taught what they need to know in order to belong to that local church or denomination. Once they "pass" the course, they are welcomed into the community and expected to behave as good Christians.

This approach to Christian life and learning has led many people away from the faith rather than closer to God. Why? Because it is actually quite a boring way to live and not at all what Christ had in mind when he invited his followers into a fullness of life they could barely imagine (John 10:10). What James Alison had in mind when he began putting together *Jesus the Forgiving Victim* course over 12 years ago, was to restore to the Christian life the wonder and transformative power of discovering not some new Biblical fact or church doctrine, but that you are loved far more than you know. Where a course of *instruction* tells you about something, gives you information, a course of *induction*, which is what *Jesus the Forgiving Victim* is, works cumulatively and allows you to find yourself summoned into being on the inside of something new.

By embarking on this course, you join others on a journey of discovery that will open your hearts and minds to discovering new things about yourself and your faith. It is a journey from fake goodness, from a false and insecure self, to relaxing into a goodness and security not your own, but in which you discover yourself held. And it is a journey from a unity that needs to create victims toward a unity received from the risen and forgiving victim in our midst. We hope that *Jesus the Forgiving Victim* will be a meaningful part of your journey toward a deeper faith and fuller life in Christ.



When a friend told me,
"This is Christianity as I've never heard it before",
I felt challenged to make the material
more widely available.
I hope you will find that this course offers a
fresh take on how we read the Scriptures,
how we are reached by Jesus' self-giving
up to death, and how this enables us
to reimagine our lives as Church.
Gradually and gently, the course allows the
good news of a God in whom there is no violence at
all to reveal itself afresh.

James Alison

New Face in the Mission Office

Hannah-Maria Ma: Mission Advancement Coordinator

Growing up, I was blessed to have had instilled in me both a strong sense of service and prevailing need for compassion, particularly when it came to others in need both at home and around the world. The eldest child of an immigrant father from Hong Kong and an Irish Canadian mother from rural Newfoundland, the tapestry of my life has been woven with vivid and varied threads; stitches of all kinds. The most dominant of these though, was that of a strong Catholic faith. It guided me through my Catholic education and my studies at Western University as a Philosophy-Ethics major. It formed the foundation for a majority of my work life, mainly focused in fund development, communications and outreach for non-profits. It has steadily guided me through my life's journey thus far.

I grew up in St. Michael's Parish and while many priests have contributed so much over the years, a welcomed jolt came when Father Jeff and Father Patrick of the Precious Blood arrived. I knew only a little of the Order as Father Ron had been graciously assisting our Parish just prior to their arrival.

The message resonated strongly and I finally heard things being said in a homily that I had long hoped to hear. Unabashed in discussing our humanity with all its faults and foibles; unyielding when it came to articulating the love of God and what a gift that truly is, and ardent in our need to not only know but show what life as a Catholic is all about.

Admittedly, some of that may have been shaped by the passions of Father Jeff, but having been blessed with not one but four Precious Blood priests with the arrival of Father William at St. Michael's, there was consistency in the message which compelled me to do whatever I could to support their efforts both within the parish and the Mission.

What has been accomplished thus far with the Mission Projects is something to be proud of. Where it can go from here is what invigorates my work. With twenty years of experience, I have built up a skill set that can hopefully be put to good use as the Mission Projects propels forward toward a place of increased strength and sustainability. All the time learning how to communicate effectively, support those we serve tirelessly, manage projects efficiently, collaborate respectfully to maximize the impact of the gifts we've all been given and steward stakeholders whole-heartedly by being engaged, transparent and forthright was in preparation for the work I am now engaged in. My long held passion for water security, education and international service align fully with the work of the Mission which is a rare and wonderful gift. I aim to serve the Mission faithfully and am humbled by all that the Atlantic Province has contributed to my life thus far.

