



Bloodlines

Newsletter of the Atlantic Province
Summer 2016

From the Provincial and Council

On Monday, June 6, 2016 the Provincial Council met in Niagara Falls, Ontario, at the Province Centre at 11:00 a.m. The meeting began with a welcome by Fr. Mario Cafarelli who led an opening prayer and called the meeting to order. All members of the Provincial Council were present. The minutes of the previous meeting, February 26, 2016, were reviewed and approved.

Formation Program

The Congregation is having a formation workshop in Salzburg, Austria, from July 23-30. Fr. Michael and Fr. Gregorio will be in attendance. A discussion followed about the importance of having a functioning formation committee to revise our program, to make recommendations about applicants and candidates and to be well-informed about the formation policies of the other provinces with a view to potential collaboration.

Mission Report

The Mission Committee still needs to be formed. Fr. Mario will contact Fr. Patrick about this urgent matter. Fr. Mario then gave an overview of the trip to Tanzania he took with Fr. Patrick at the beginning of April. In general, there is good collaboration and interaction between the four members of the Tanzanian Province who are currently working at the water project. Tanzania still has some hurdles to go through, but crisis management should be waning as both the schools and water project become stabilized. The critical issue, however, is the high school. It needs to have dorms if it to be a successful operation. Each dorm would cost approximately \$250,000 USD with the girls' dorm being the more critical need.

Visitation

Fr. Mario informed the Council he would begin doing a visitation of the Province. He will be setting up a schedule and informing the membership about the visitation.

Mass Association Assignments

Fr. Mario said that he would be sending out information to various members and ask them to say a certain quota of Masses for the Mass Association. If they would have problems doing so, they needed to inform him so that an adjustment could be made.

With no new business the meeting adjourned at 12:45pm.

Second Session

The Council was reconvened at the Carmelite Spirituality Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario, on Tuesday, June 7, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. All members of the Provincial Council were present along with Fr. Patrick. Fr. Mario informed the council that Fr. Patrick has resigned as Mission Director for personal reasons effective immediately. Fr. Mario thanked him for doing a difficult job and in spite of the difficulties, a very good job. He overcame great obstacles and put things on a track for success, though difficulties remain. Everyone on the council was grateful for what he was able to accomplish in his two years as Mission Director. After Fr. Patrick left, various council members made a variety of suggestions as how to proceed. The meeting adjourned at 8:30p.m.



Voice of the Founder

“Pray without pause, and always be courageous through the merits of the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ.”
(*Letters*, #223)

“May the price of our redemption always be blessed.” (*Letters* #3207)

“Oh wounds, oh Precious Blood of my Lord, that I might praise you in eternity!”
What a great thing it is that the Blood of Jesus is even our drink in the Eucharist and how, finally, through the merits of the Blood of Jesus Christ we shall arrive in paradise.” (*Writings* fol. 459)



Provincial Business Assembly*

May 29-June 2, 2017
St. Francis Centre; Caledon, ON

* Members who were polled on retreat generally felt we should honor the booking we made after the last assembly for St. Francis Centre. We will return to the Mt. Carmel Centre for our next retreat scheduled for June 11-15, 2018. -- jac

CALENDAR*

JULY

- 1 SOLEMNITY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD
- 1 O Alaray Abello (2007)
- 1 O Francisco Valle Del Milan (2009)
- 3 O Dominic Jung (1995)
- 3 O Sam D'Angelo (1999)
- 12 B Augusto Menichelli (1973)
- 12 B Joseph Grasso (1955)
- 16 B James Reposkey (1946)
- 31 O St. Gaspar Del Bufalo (1808)
- 31 O Joseph Grasso (1992)

AUGUST

- 3 I Anthony Canterucci (1949)
- 8 B Peter Nobili (1942)
- 14 O Carlo Della Vecchia (1948)
- 15 B Missionaries of the Precious Blood Est. (1815)
- 15 I Ronald Wiecek (1965)
- 18 D Sebastian Contegiacomo (1982)
- 19 B Carlo Della Vecchia (1924)
- 24 B Luciano Baiocchi (1930)
- 25 I Dominic Jung (1994)
- 28 B Venerable John Merlini (1795)
- 29 I Joseph Grasso (1991)

SEPTEMBER

- 1 B Atlantic Vicariate Est. (1966)
(Fr. Nick Arioli – First Vicar Provincial)
- 1 O Patrick Gilmurray (2012)
- 2 D Nicholas Arioli (1992)
- 7 I Rene Cerecedo (1984)
- 9 B San D'Angelo (1967)
- 15 Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows, Woman of the New Covenant
- 12 B Rene Cerecedo (1951)
- 21 D Antonio Pece (1954)
- 29 I German Santiago Esteves (2012)
- 29 I Gregorio Hernandez Cortez (2012)

- *O = Anniversary of Ordination
- I = Anniversary of Incorporation
- B = Birthday/Foundation
- D = Anniversary of Death

Many thanks to Fr. Gary, Provincial Archivist, for this new and improved version of our calendar!

From the Provincial: Visit to Tanzania

Early in April of this year, Patrick and I had left for a visitation to our Mission Projects in Tanzania. It was a cool start to the month and it was just as cool when we arrived in Amsterdam, Holland. After a three-hour layover, we were off to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. We arrived late in the evening and were graciously hosted at the Procura in Tegeta, a suburb of Dar es Salaam. The next day, early in the morning we took a flight to Dodoma and there were met by Fr. Reginald Mrosso. Fr. Reginald is the manager of the Water Project and is a member of the Tanzanian Province. The last time I had been to Tanzania was seven years ago and I could see that there was development in the city and the surrounding area. Upon my arrival at the compound I saw that not much had changed except for the addition of the high school. Saying that “nothing much had changed” at the compound is not intended as a negative comment but meant to express familiarity and a sense of “homecoming.”

My time in Dodoma was filled with meetings and discussions concerning the present and future status of the Mission Projects. I use the term “Mission Projects” as opposed to Water Project to emphasize the reality there. The drilling of wells is not the only activity we have there but is accompanied by the educational factor: the elementary school (St. Gaspar) and the high school (John Merlini). Fr. Francesco Bartoloni is our man in this field. With him are two other members of the Tanzanian Province, one of whom also helps Fr. Mrosso in the Water Project.

The four members of the Tanzanian Province are doing a great job and have done much to promote our projects in Tanzania. I spoke with them individually and as a group thanking them for their service and encouraging them for the future. I also had a chance to speak with Fr. Chesco Msaga, Provincial Director in Tanzania as well as the Regional Director of the ASC sisters. We had good conversations concerning collaboration among our units and specifically the Mission Projects. I was also very direct in indicating that one day, hopefully soon, we would hand over our enterprises to the Tanzanian Province. Fr. Chesco was happy to hear this and also expressed his appreciation for what has been done for Tanzania.

Much still needs to be done, however, before that can happen. There is still the need for dormitories for the high school, which would then make it self-sufficient. The elementary school is already self-sufficient and requires no further finances to be operational. The high school could also achieve this as we await one of our principal benefactors to fulfill his pledge. This would provide donors enough for us to build one of the dormitories and to start the other. Each dormitory has a price range of \$200,000 USD. This makes our work here in the Atlantic Province even more urgent in raising the funds to meet this goal. The drilling rig is also a concern since it is an old piece of machinery and could eventually break down completely. The cost of a new rig or used rig can range from \$600,000 to \$1,500,000 USD.

As you can see, there is much to be done. We will be holding a gala dinner in Toronto in October to fund raise for these Projects. It seems a daunting task, but together we can do it. Some might say we should just give it up, but I believe we have a moral duty here. We cannot just abandon these projects to the Tanzanian Province without the them being healthy and functional. I truly believe it is a worthwhile effort that merits our attention.



NAVFD Conference Highlights

By Sam D'Angelo C.PP.S

The National Association of Vocation & Formation Directors in Canada held its annual conference this year in Winnipeg, MB from April 25-28. The theme of the conference was entitled, “Live the Word Courageously, New Voices in Vocation Culture.” The conference’s keynote speaker was Rev. Scott Lewis, SJ. He is a biblical professor at Regis College in Toronto and happened to be my thesis director when I attended Regis from 1996-1998. It was great to reconnect with him after such a long time. I can email you his keynote address. Just let me know if you are interested. He spoke on how various biblical figures struggled in their own times with remaining faithful to their particular vocations amid the various obstacles and challenges they faced. He then made analogies to today’s vocation culture and contemporary society to suggest that there are three basic things we can do to foster a vocations culture today: first, to recognize that God always starts small, and so we shouldn’t be too concerned about numbers. Secondly, to realize that God graces certain individuals with the ability to found and refound institutions or groups in a culture and that those with those gifts should be encouraged and supported by the larger group. Thirdly, to recognize that we need to be visible in some way in a society which has lost major symbols of belonging. This public symbol need not necessarily be our attire, but it can be a visible ministry that resonates with a pressing need in our world, such as the environment or the plight of refugees. It can also be advocating for public prayers, such as the angelus or the rosary or adoration and benediction in a parish community.

Our second keynote speaker, Sr. Amy Hereford, CSJ presented on “Religious Life at the Crossroads.” She invited us to consider how we welcome newcomers and help them to feel a part of our group. Do we have intentional communities where they can live? Do we have support systems in place for them when they arrive? If not, is it unfair, unjust, or an illusion to invite someone in when we don’t know where we’re going? How do we do vocation ministry if the community is on the precipice of collapse? If we haven’t been able to attract and retain new members, why? What can we do differently?

She mentioned that all too often, we become stuck in our living arrangements and unwilling to move, and that causes greater problems when bringing new members into a community that is already used to the way things are. When a community house has members that have lived together for more than a decade, that community house has lost its social capacity to invite in new members.

Amy recommended that we begin to reimagine formation, as many of our candidates are older and come from more diverse backgrounds. They have more life experience and also need to protect their resume and job potential while in formation in case things don’t work out. The formation many of the older members had is simply not adequate for today. She proposed the idea of inter-community houses, interprovincial houses, and international houses as ways to move forward with fewer numbers and still remain faithful to community life.

Br. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, executive director of the NRVC in the USA came to update us on the developments there. He mentioned that there will be a conference on “The Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church” at the University of Notre Dame on March 25, 2017. I recommend that a member of the Provincial Vocation/Formation Committee attend that gathering.

A representative of Southdown Institute was also in attendance and gave out pamphlets and leaflets describing their many different programs and levels of outreach to religious communities. They are also willing to develop presentations that are tailor-made to a community’s particular needs or interests.

Sr. Lesley Sacouman, SNJM led a small group presentation on what the future of religious life would be like in 2021. She began by asserting that, when we are faithful to our charisms, religious priests, brothers and sisters should be a disturbing presence and a dangerous memory. And while many religious communities are dying, they are not yet dead. We need acute care. She invited us to consider Moses, Pope Francis and Mother Theresa as examples of older persons who were prophets well beyond their prime. She used the three years Jesus spent in public ministry as well to invite us to consider what we could do with the next three years of our lives. She urged us to identify the suffering in our world and to find ways to address it since loving outreach is very attractive. When interviewing a large group of young adults, she asked them to tell her what they thought were the three biggest needs in our world. They replied that the three biggest needs in our world were for more stillness, for greater global consciousness, and for a respect of diverse cultures. As religious, these three needs invite us to promote opportunities for quiet contemplation, for active involvement in planetary protection, and for a greater willingness to be involved in intercultural living and ministry. If we want to attract a younger generation to membership, perhaps we need to take a closer look at how we can incorporate these needs into our own ministerial foci.



Fr. Sam with Sister Jeaneth Villegas and Sister Carol Forhan of the Sisters of the Precious Blood and Sister Maria Luise Wagner of the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood

USC News (Fr. Peter)

USC members and friends gathered at the Mount Mary Immaculate Retreat Center in Ancaster, ON the weekend of May 27-29 for their 35th annual retreat. The focus this year was on the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Thirty-five people participated in the event, two of whom for the first time. Comments were positive and indicated return participation. There was a general feeling that those who could not commit to two overnights might come in time for morning prayers on Saturday.

For the first time USC members of the El Shaddai Precious Blood Prayer Community from St. Charles parish in Toronto lead the singing.

They added vibrant and heartfelt “Glory and Praise” music to the retreat program and their participation was very well received.



News from the Rochester House (Fr. John)

On May 14, the Vigil of Pentecost, the second in a series of retreat days on the Doctors of the Church was held – this time on St. Hildegard of Bingen and her music in honor of the Holy Spirit. The first in the series was on St. John of the Cross during Advent of 2014. The third is scheduled for March 25 of next year and will focus on the hymns of St. Ephrem of Syria as well as a day of prayer for the people of that country.

The first Sunday course is in its second year with the thought and writings of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin being the topic for study. The class follows the regular Sunday Mass and monthly breakfast.

News from Other Units

The National Catholic Reporter recently began a blog series about the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation in Chicago. Read all about it at <http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/introducing-ncrs-newest-blog-series-reconciliation-chicago>

Scenes from the 2016 Provincial Retreat



Member Profile
Fr. Alarey Abella C.PP.S.



It was through a former seminarian and friend that I came to know the Congregation of Missionaries of the Precious Blood. He introduced me to the Congregation in the year 2000. I started the process of entering the community the following year. It was a tough beginning! I clearly remember writing my autobiography and about my image of the priest when the phone rang. I picked up the phone and it was my youngest brother on the line calling from back home informing me of my father's passing. I was shocked, speechless and numbed for a moment and didn't know what to do. I asked God: "Why at this point in time when I have made my decision to serve you, did you take my father? And I thought that was it in my journey to answer his call. Surely not! Everything happens for a reason. God has his purpose for why this happened. And I know that one of the many reasons was to have my father pray for me as I walked that journey towards answering God's call for me.

Fifteen years have passed since I became a member of the Congregation. This July 1 will be the ninth anniversary of my priesthood ordination. I have nothing to say except that I am so thankful and honored that God chose me as one of his priests, and his priest forever. I love every single moment of my life as his servant. He has graced me with more opportunities than I could ever count. Right after ordination I was sent to St. Roch's, one of three churches of the Congregation in the Archdiocese of Toronto, as my first pastoral assignment. I considered it a treasure and an honor to meet, know and serve the needs of parishioners, especially sacramental ones. I could never have had these blessings and honor had I not been ordained a priest. It wasn't easy, but I managed because I never depended on my own strength. I always gave it to him.

After three years at St. Roch's, I was offered a hospital chaplaincy in the same diocese and began that ministry in 2010. Mt. Sinai Hospital, Toronto General and Toronto Rehab were all under my care. There were only two of us priests in this area and in his absence I covered additional hospitals like Toronto Western, Princess Margaret, Sick Kids and sometimes St. Michael's Hospital. I did this ministry for five years and my heart belongs to it. Although it was very challenging – physically, mentally and emotionally – I found my happiness doing it. I have learned a lot about different aspects of life, most especially about suffering and the last stages of life. There is so much to share about this, but space is limited. One thing I would like to mention is how when asked -- even by doctors and nurses -- how I managed to get through my day's work, I answered, "I don't depend on my own strength, I give it to God."

Then came the time to move again and I am now in my third assignment, this time in the Diocese of Peterborough, with my first anniversary there coming up in July. I presently reside at St. Alphonsus Liguori Church and divide my time between being a parochial vicar and hospital chaplain at the city's only hospital, the Peterborough Regional Health Center. It could be tiring at times balancing these two ministries, which it certainly would if I relied only on myself.

So once again it has been fifteen years since I embarked on my journey to the priesthood – fifteen years of happiness and honor serving God's people in many ways. I will always treasure this and will

continue to ask God for many more days of service through the intercession of St. Gaspar, St. Maria de Mattias and Venerable John Merlini. Lastly, to my Congregation of Missionaries of the Precious Blood, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for giving me the chance to become a member of the family.
