

## St. Gaspar Del Bufalo

Feastday: October 21<sup>st</sup>

### Haiku Biography:

Fearless preacher  
Proclaiming our salvation  
Changing lives  
Missionary



Leader: Born in Rome, January 6, 1789, Gaspar Dell Bufalo grew up to be a great missionary in the Church. He nearly died from small pox as an infant, but miraculously recovered when his mother prayed to St. Francis Xavier,

All: Recite together the *haiku* (printed above)

Leader: In his youth Gaspar possessed a deep concern for the poor and the sick. He spent summer vacations visiting the sick in hospitals and carrying food to the hungry. At eighteen, Gaspar organized his friends who then, as a group, reached out to the marginalized of the city. Catechism classes for the peasants, for orphans and poor children were conducted and shelters for the homeless were set up.

All: Recite together the *haiku*.

Leader: Gaspar soon became a sought-after preacher in the city of Rome and its environs. He continued his outreach to the marginalized. With Father Francesco Albertini, his spiritual director, Gaspar founded the Confraternity of the Most Precious Blood.

All: Recite together the *haiku*.

Leader: Napoleon's suppression of the Papal States and his absolute control soon found Gaspar before the foreign authorities. When asked to pledge allegiance to Napoleon, Gaspar spoke his famous words: "*I would rather die or suffer evil than to take such an oath. I cannot. I must not. I will not.*"

All: Recite together the *haiku*.

Leader: Upon Napoleon's defeat Gaspar returned to Rome from exile. At Pope Pius VII's request Gaspar began an all-out effort of evangelization. He recruited the help of Father Albertini and Father Bonnani and with them formed a society of apostolic life, thus beginning the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. The Abbey of San Felice at Giano in the Umbrian Hills was the sight of their new home.

All: Recite together the *haiku*.

Leader: Gaspar worked tirelessly in the work of evangelization. Crowds gathered at parish missions to hear his captivating sermons. All the while Gaspar struggled to lay a firm foundation for the community of men who gathered around him. These early missionaries knew hardship and experienced opposition from others in the Church.

All: Recite together the *haiku*.

Leader: Notorious bandits dwelt in the hills between Rome and Naples. These brigands paralyzed townspeople who often felt the oppression of these lawless hill dwellers. They worked out of the town of Sonnino. At the pope's request Gaspar and his missionaries dared to set up mission houses where the bandits lived. Armed with no weapons, just a crucifix, the missionaries faced the bandits and won them over.

All: Recite together the *haiku*.

Leader: "Gaspar spent his life strengthening and nurturing his congregation. He was often on the road, traveling from mission house to mission house, from village to village, always exhorting those around him to turn to the Precious

Blood of Jesus for solace and guidance. After helping cholera victims in Rome in late 1837, Gaspar died in the city he loved on December 28, 1837. The medical report called him a *victim of charity*. Gaspar was beatified in 1904 and canonized a saint on June 12, 1954.”

All: Recite together the *haiku*.

(Above haiku biography based on facts found in in [A Kaleidoscope of Precious Blood Prayer](#) pp. 6-11)

## Summary Prayer:

St. Gaspar, fearless preacher who proclaimed the Gospel at all times, help us to act fearlessly in reaching out to serve those who live on the margins of our societies. Give us the courage to face opposition where we find it in our ministries; the compassion to identify with those most in need, and the dedication to commit our lives to the praise and honor of the Precious Blood of Jesus. Through your intercession may other men and women be drawn in unique ways to spend their lives in service of the poor. Help us to face and chase away the bandits who would rob or intimidate us as we proclaim the Gospel by endeavoring to be a reconciling, life-giving presence in a broken world.

## The Seven Offerings

Arranged by Terrence A. Nufer, C.P.P.S.



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1. For the glory of your name,  
For the coming of your kingdom,  
For the salvation of all people. Glory be to the Father, etc.
2. For the spread of the Church,  
For Pope Francis, for bishops, priests and religious,  
For the sanctification of all the people of God. Glory be to the Father, etc.
3. For the conversion of sinners,  
For the loving acceptance of your word,  
For the union of all Christians. Glory be to the Father, etc.
4. For our civil authorities,  
For the strengthening of public morals,  
For peace and justice among all nations. Glory be to the Father, etc.
5. For the sanctification of our work and our suffering,  
For the poor, the sick and the afflicted,  
For all who rely on our prayers. Glory be to the Father, etc.
6. For our own special needs, both spiritual and temporal,  
For those of our relatives, friends and benefactors,  
And also for those of our enemies. Glory be to the Father, etc.
7. For those who are to die this day,  
For the souls in purgatory,  
For our final union with Christ in glory. Glory be to the Father, etc.

*Reflective Reading:* "Go and Do Likewise," by Janet Winandy, C.P.P.S. Dayton, Ohio

Read through the following poem thoughtfully. Take time to let it ruminate within and then share one thought with those who are praying with you.

Blood...life fluid, irreplaceable,  
if blood stops, life ends,  
if blood flows, life continues  
if blood is transfused, life is healed.

Blood...limitless gift of Jesus,  
shed in the garden  
shed on the way to Calvary,  
shed in death on the Cross,  
He shed in final poverty.

Blood...love gift of Jesus,  
poured out when hearts need healing,  
poured out in compassion on the abandoned,  
poured out in broken relationships,  
He poured out in final chastity.

Blood...generous gift of Jesus,  
given when life is slipping away,  
given when anemia weakens,  
given when organs are transplanted,  
He gave in final obedience

All of us bleed the same,  
all suffer the same,  
all need redemption,  
all need reconciliation,  
We are one in the Blood of Christ.



*Ending Song:*

(Used with written permission of both authors)

*Chalice Prayer*

Text: Joseph Nassal, C.P.P.S.

Music: Keith R. Branson, C.P.P.S.

$\text{♩} = 60$

Blood of Je - sus re - fresh us; Blood of Je - sus re - deem us;

Blood of Je - sus re - mind us; Blood of Je - sus re - con - cile us.