



**Missionaries of the  
Precious Blood**

United States Province

# C.P.P.S.

## NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

*In Christ, through the  
shedding of his blood,  
we have redemption and  
forgiveness of our sins.*

*Ephesians 1: 7a*



**St. Gaspar's  
Feast Day is  
October 21**

## Growing Up Gaspar

**Gaspar's parents made sure he got off to a good start during his childhood in Rome.**

If you've ever seen an episode of "Downton Abbey," or watched Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," you know that there's a lively and bustling milieu going on behind the scenes at a palace.

Cooks and bakers, maids and valets, groomsmen and groundskeepers, all working long days to keep up appearances, in Italy, *la bella figura*, a fine appearance or impression.

That was the world in which St. Gaspar del Bufalo, our founder, born in 1786, grew up. Gaspar's father, Antonio, moved the family to the Altieri Palace (Palazzo Altieri) when he took a job there as a cook. Gaspar was one year old.

While his father was part of the working class, life in the environs of the palace, across the street from the impressive Church of the Gesù gave Gaspar and his brother, Antonio, his only sibling, a measure of protection against the harsher aspects of life in Rome in the late 18th century.

The best and most complete description of St. Gaspar's early life is described in the definitive biography of the saint's life writ-

ten by Amilcar Rey, C.P.P.S., the postulator of Gaspar's cause for sainthood, published in 1950.

"Rey paints a rather glowing picture of what life was like in Rome in those days. It seems, in Ray's view, that everyone was jolly," said Fr. Jerry Stack, C.P.P.S., who served six years as secretary general of the congregation in Rome and was the archivist at the generalate. "Rome's population at the time was around 100,000 people, much smaller than it is today. Its boundaries did not go on much beyond the walls. Where our generalate is today was probably farmland.

"Many of the people of Rome would have lived in grinding poverty. Afflictions like head lice and other skin conditions were very common. The city was dangerous, with a murder rate of something like 400 homicides per year. There were many babies who were abandoned, given up to convents and raised by nuns.

Gaspar was never abandoned by his devoted parents. The del Bufalo family lived  
*(Continued on page two)*



**The Palazzo Altieri in Rome,  
where St. Gaspar grew up.  
His childhood home is now  
home to a bank.**

*(Photo by Roberto Piperno/romeartlover.it)*

# CPPS Sisters to Celebrate 100 Years in Dayton

The Sisters of the Precious Blood are celebrating a century of presence at Salem Heights, on the north side of Dayton. Salem Heights has been the sisters' central home since 1923.

A celebration Mass will be held October 1 at Precious Blood Church, across the street from Salem Heights. Fr. Jeffrey Kirch, C.P.P.S., will preside.

CPPS sisters have been active in a variety of ministries in the Dayton area, including education, parish ministry, food and domestic service, health care and social justice. Sisters also serve throughout the U.S. and in Chile and Guatemala.

Sisters have served alongside the Missionaries at many ministry sites.

"We admire and applaud

the sisters for their longtime commitment to the city of Dayton. Their many ministries have improved the lives of God's people, in Dayton and everywhere they serve," said Fr. Kirch, provincial director of the US Province. "We have been blessed to serve alongside the sisters, so we know firsthand their absolute devotion to following God's call. They are a true inspiration to so many. May God continue to work through their capable, willing hands."

The religious community first arrived in the U.S. in 1844. For nearly 80 years, Maria Stein, Ohio, was the site of their motherhouse, which still houses the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics.