

PRECIOUS BLOOD FOUNDERS HYMN COLLECTION

SAINT GASPAR

Congregation and Keyboard

*In Honor of Saint Gaspar del Bufalo
Founder of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood*

*Text and Music
by
Ralph C. Verdi, C.P.P.S.*

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SAINT GASPAR DEL BUFALO

Founder of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood form a Society of Apostolic Life, a community of priests and brothers, whose purpose is to make its members and all people aware of the Precious Blood of Jesus through a variety of apostolic works.

Saint Gaspar del Bufalo founded the Congregation on August 15, 1815 in Giano, Italy. Because of the general moral decline among the people that followed the Neapolianic Wars, it was necessary to preach to the people about the great love of God that was shown especially through the shedding of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus. Saint Gaspar and his followers preached this devotion especially among poor people in rural areas. The work of the Missionaries eventually met with much success and they became well known for preaching ability and dedication to the Word of God.

In 1843, Father Francis de Sales Brunner brought the Society to midwest America. The purpose of the Missionaries coming to America was to take care of the spiritual needs of the many German immigrants who were settling there. In 1904, another set of Missionaries, Frs. Ricciardelli and Renzullo, came from Italy to America to minister to the many Italian-speaking immigrants in Canada and New York.

Today the primary function of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood is to build up the Church both in our native land and in missionary countries by the use of the model of the Blood of Christ as both reconciling and nourishing. The Blood of Christ nourishes us through the Eucharist, and reconciles us by the Word of God in the Scriptures.

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood have a special role in the scheme of salvation for all people. Because of its special devotion to the Precious Blood and because of its nature and makeup, its members serve the Church in any way that promotes the Word and Reconciliation.

Today the C.P.P.S. have several hundred members serving in many countries throughout the world. The members of the North American Provinces are involved in a wide array of ministries: urban and rural parishes; education; chaplaincies in hospitals, colleges, prisons and the military; home and foreign missions; preaching of retreats and parish missions; administration and support services; and serving wherever the needs of the People of God are recognized. As Saint Gaspar reminds us: "*Charity does not lie down inactively . . . it is a flame that never lies still!*"

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Rev. Ralph C. Verdi, C.P.P.S.
February, 2006

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Congregation:

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LIVELY $\text{♩} = 70 - 80$ $\frac{3}{8}$



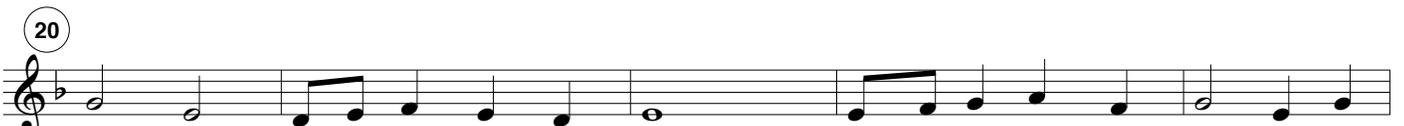
1. Saint Gas - par! Great preach - er! Pro - claim - er of God's Word! Brave wit - ness to



Je - sus who rec-on-ciled the world! Saint Gas-par! Great he - ro im - pris-oned for God's Word! Brave



soul and great mod - el, please pray to heal the world! world! 2. Mes-sen - ger of God's



mer - cy! Her - ald of God's great love! Work - er of God's com - pas - sion! A -



pos - tle of Pre - cious Blood! Wit - ness to God's great kind - ness! Har - bin - ger of God's hope!



Bear - er of peace and jus - tice, please pray for our wound - ed world!