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From Darkness to Light

THE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: A Time for Renewal

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5)

As the summer comes to an end and autumn begins to approach, the days get shorter and the darkness comes earlier. The summer and its bright light contrasts greatly with fall and its darkening shadows. The image of light and darkness comes into play in Saint John's Gospel right



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in the beginning when The Word which is Light comes into the world and the darkness which is its opposite tries but cannot overcome the Light which is Christ. The reality is though that without the Light, the darkness can take over. It can overwhelm and control. Without Jesus the Light, the darkness can win. With the Light, the darkness is banished.

At our baptism, we are infused with the life of God himself. The Light is poured into us and then it is up to us to let that light shine brightly before all

people. We cooperate with the Light that is Jesus and we live our lives according to that.

Sometimes we do not, however. Sometimes we allow the darkness to take over and extinguish the light. That is because we are sometimes comfortable in the darkness. This is when we allow habits of sin and selfishness take over. Sin has a power. That power can control us and sin separates us from God because it is darkness and God is light. It is al-

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This Just In...

Nina L. Riti

The 135-year-old home where the Oblates have been living in Elkhorn, Nebraska, was in dire need of repair and considered to be structurally unsafe. After much deliberation it was decided that the cost to repair the Bethany (that's the name given to the home of all Oblates) was too high.



The old Bethany house was torn down and a new one is arising in its place. In the meantime, the Oblates are living in the Pro Sanctity Center until their new home is completed. Please keep them in your prayers and give whatever support you can during this transition time.



Pro Sanctity East Newsletter Editors

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Words from the Founder, Servant of God William Giaquinta

Jesus, universal Brother, sent by the Father to reveal to us
the mysteries of his infinite love,
we give thanks to you for having called us to repeat to others
the message of your love and of your Father's love.

Stay close to us, Lord, our Brother
when weariness, sadness or discouragement descend upon us,
remind us that as you and your Mother
accepted the weight of suffering on our account,
so should we do the same for our brothers and sisters.

Grant us the ability to be for others - and for your brothers
and sisters and our brothers and sisters -
your light, your heart, your hands,
that we may walk with them toward you and together
reach Our Father in Heaven. Amen.

Apostles of Brotherhood, Prayers

What can we do? Give a phone call to those who are lonely, instruction to those who are uninformed, a listening ear to those who are ignored, food to those who are hungry, a helping hand to those who are overwhelmed, a cheerful word to those who are downhearted, a small gift to those who never receive one — and finally, your complete attention to everyone you meet each day because you need their presence as much as they need yours.

Rosemary Darmstadt

Pope Francis said...

The Eucharist - is not a sacrament "for me;" it is the sacrament of the many who form one body, God's holy and faithful people.

Love - Wherever someone is reaching out, asking for a helping hand in order to get up, this is where our presence, and the presence of the Church which sustains and offers hope, must be. And I do this, keeping alive in memory of those times when the Lord's hands reached out to me when I was in need.

Unity - All of us have something we need to be cleansed of, or purified from. May the knowledge of that fact inspire us to live in solidarity, to support one another and seek the best for others.

Hope - Brothers and sisters, we are all poor sinners in need of the mercy of God who has the strength to transform us and to restore our hope, every day. And he does this!

Light - Nothing happens in vain; and no situation in which a Christian finds himself is completely resistant to love. No night is so long as to make us forget the joy of the sunrise. And the darker the night, the closer the dawn.

PopeFrancis Everyday@Francis_evryday

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ways a choice though. We can choose the dark or the light. When we choose the light, we choose the Lord and his ways and the power of the light is much greater than the power of the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.

This is a choice we each make for ourselves. It is also a choice that our community makes. We are living through a difficult time in the Church's history. The patterns of abuse in the Church are signs that we have let the darkness creep in. People have been irreparably harmed. This is the worst part of it all. The victims of abuse must be the prime focus of our attempts to heal. The Church community has also been harmed. Darkness has crept in and it may indeed seem that it has the upper hand.

How do we recapture the

Light? It is not extinguished; it is just obscured. So, we must remember Jesus. We must remember all that Jesus said and did and is. Those responsible cast out the dark by accepting responsibility, asking forgiveness and then by making changes which mean growth, development, and movement along the road of holiness. This is done by the institution of the Church and by individuals.

As individuals we also sometimes let the dark have the upper hand and that baptismal light is obscured: when we let sin take over. So we as individuals also must accept responsibility for our choices, make changes and move forward in holiness.

Remember though, St. John's words. "The light shines in the darkness, and the dark-

ness has not overcome it." This is true because Jesus the Light is always at the center of our life. Sometimes the darkness seems to obscure him, but it cannot overcome him. So this means that we must keep on and focus on the light. Focus on Jesus: in our personal lives as well as in the life of the Church as a whole. Only when we focus on Jesus the Light do we see clearly and in brightness.



Rev. Msgr. Steven J. Aguggia
Pro Sanctity Spiritual Advisor
and Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens

"To do good to everyone, to leave a trace of God in everyone, is the perfect form of love and at the same time the best approach for any ministry."

"The measure of our love for God is our love for our neighbor. We must love those who live around us and see in them the image of God."

Servant of God William Giaquinta

Comedy Corner - A Child Sees the Light

A little girl walked to and from school daily. One day, though the weather that morning was okay, by afternoon the winds had whipped up bringing thunder and lightning.

Soon the thunder was roaring and the lightning flashed like a flaming sword, cutting through the sky. The little girl's mother was worried and got in her car and drove along the route to her child's school.

As she did, she saw her little girl walking along the sidewalk. At each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up and smile.

The mother pulled up next to her daughter, opened the door, and asked, "What are you doing, Honey? Why are you stopping?" The child answered, "God keeps taking pictures of me, and smiling every time there is lightning." The mother asked, "Don't you think he wants me to smile?"



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The Second Book of Catholic Jokes by Deacon Tom Sheridan

How can I get my teenager more involved in our Catholic faith?

A teenager is an adolescent or young adult who loves to have fun. I would like to characterize most of them as becoming more and more free-spirited. In these socioeconomic times, it is increasingly very difficult for parents to raise an adolescent. One of the many challenges that parents face is how to raise quality young adults who are the embodiments of the Catholic faith. Nowadays it is ineffective to give “lip-service” or “do as I say” and expect our young adults to follow through.

A few ways that parents can involve their young adult in the Catholic faith:

1) **Be a role model** of what the faith encompasses, especially in our interactions with other adults. We have to express love, love, love—we have to walk the walk and talk the talk—parents are the first model for their children. Lead by example as Jesus did to the twelve Apostles who in turn showed others namely disciples or followers. If you want your child to be more involved in their faith you too must be involved. Volunteer to help in your parish by getting involved in the ministries in your church and encourage your teenager to volunteer for different ministries such as being an usher, a lector or a Minister of Holy Communion. Participating in parish events as a family is another way of sharing your faith and building strong family bonds and memories.

2) **Be present** or active in your teenagers’ happenings. Find and create ways to show that as a parent you truly care and want to know what is going on in their life. Young adults love to talk, they have a lot to express. They can be very passionate and as adults we tend to underestimate them. Be open to their ideas—give them your ear and be actively attentive.

3) **Be humble when communicating or discussing** any issue. Adults don’t have to act like they have all the answers. Use those moments as opportunities to go and seek the answers together.

4) **Be active in a stewardship** and involve your young adult in it so that they will know what it is to serve or to give back to others less fortunate. Have discussions with them on the community affairs. Encourage them to be a Big Sister or Big Brother which fosters a mentoring relationship, whereby they in turn may put into practice those qualities you are working on shaping in them.

Parents, you are the first and maybe the most important witnesses of the Catholic faith for your young adult. None of us is perfect and it is alright for your adolescent to see you thriving and striving to live out the values and virtues that epitomize your faith.

The Personal Challenge

Nina L. Riti

This entire newsletter is a personal challenge for everyone reading it Normally I start with the lead article but today the story of Venerable Pierre Toussaint has inspired me to realize whatever challenges are before us, if we live them in a loving, kind way, trusting in the Lord, doors open, pathways are revealed but we must also have a forgiving heart that reaches out to all the people God has put in our path. Pierre was born in Haiti. His family were slaves so he was a slave but his master allowed him to be educated and he was raised as a Catholic and truly lived a Christ-like life. At one point his master came to New York and Pierre was eventually freed. When the master died Pierre could have taken his wife and left. He had money, he was free and could do what he wanted...but instead he stayed and took care of his master’s widow and the other house slaves. Did the life of a slave make him angry and unforgiving? I don’t know about you but I really don’t think I would have stayed to take care of my master’s wife...that takes a kind, forgiving heart and I truly believe he reaped the rewards that true forgiveness brings to the person forgiving. He had lived in darkness but chose to live in the light.

The lead article points out that we are going through a dark time in the life of the Church. Some will let this wrong that has happened turn them from the Church. They can let their justified anger lead them on a path of unforgiving rage. I am sure all of us have gone through dark times in our lives as Msgr. Aguggia points out and then suggests what choices we have. Embrace the darkness or turn to the light. In Ephesians 5:16-18 we are told, “making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish but understand what the Lord’s will is...and be filled with the Spirit.” I truly believe in these dark days of the Church or the dark days of our lives if we like Pierre, choose love and forgiveness and let the Holy Spirit be our guide we will have the wisdom to be soldiers of Christ (a role we received at Confirmation) and to quote Deacon Joe Oliva in his homily “This is a good time for each of us to reach deep down inside and think about what it is that we believe...the way you embrace faith, hope and love can be a beacon for the Church.” So let the Holy Spirit work within so we all can be Children of the Light in this dark time.

Our Stories



Above & right: surprise celebration of a birthday

Right: St. Fidelis parish
June 24 had a pilgrimage
to the National Shrine of
Divine Mercy,
Stockbridge, MA
Chapel & group picture



Left & Below:
Bishop Ray
Chappetto
Welcomes
the
Pro Sanctity
Family
Gathering
Sept. 9
at St. Kevin
parish





**Venerable
Pierre Toussaint**
—
**From Slavery to
Sainthood**

The life of Venerable Pierre Toussaint has transcended slavery, to entrepreneur, to performing great acts of charity. *During his lifetime, this Servant of God stood out as a model of virtues, who performed such unselfish and extraordinary acts that he is now in the process of being named Saint.*

Pierre Toussaint was born in Saint Domingue, which is present day Haiti, on June 27, 1766. His maternal great-grandmother, Tonette, was brought to the Caribbean from Africa after being sold into slavery. The maternal side of his family was owned by the Bérards who took an interest in his education, and even as a house slave, allowed him to be taught to read and write by their tutors. Pierre was raised a Catholic and for more than sixty years, he attended 6 AM mass every day.

From Haiti to New York

In 1787, amidst tensions which led to political uprisings in Saint Domingue, his owners relocated to New York City, bringing along Pierre and his sister Rosalie. Here Pierre was apprenticed to a local hairdresser. He learned the trade quickly, and was so successful at his craft, he was hired by some of the rich women in New York City. He was also allowed to keep the earnings he made from his work.

After his master died, Pierre made the commitment to take care of himself, his master's widow and the other house slaves. His master's widow, who had remarried, eventually died in 1807, and shortly after her death, her husband freed him to satisfy a promise made to his wife. True to form, Pierre purchased the freedom of his sister, Rosalie, and in 1811, he purchased the freedom of a young lady, Juliette Noel, who was 20 years his junior and who became his wife. The couple also adopted Euphemia, the daughter of his sister Rosalie who had died of tuberculosis.

Life as a Free Man

Toussaint and his wife devoted their lives to helping the poor and needy in New York City. They worked hand in hand finding jobs for refugees and raising funds for Catholic orphanages. They also donated their own money to the Orphan Asylum in New York City and

organized a credit bureau. Migrants from Haiti also sought him for help when they arrived in New York City. The couple took people who were suffering from yellow fever into their home and nursed them. They also crossed barricades to help isolated patients suffering from an outbreak of cholera.

Toussaint was also a benefactor of the first African American Catholic School, St. Vincent de Paul, in New York City. He helped raise the funds needed to build, the Old St Patrick's Cathedral on Mulberry Street. Once, when he was asked if he ever thought of retiring, the humble Pierre Toussaint replied: "I have enough for myself, but if I stop working I have not enough for others."

Declared Venerable

Pierre Toussaint died June 30, 1853 at the age of 87, two years after the death of his wife, Juliette. Years after his death, various groups and individuals started to advocate for consideration for Sainthood. They were met with almost no resistance and, in 1991, Cardinal John O'Connor sent the necessary documents to the Vatican. The Cardinal also ordered his body exhumed, examined, and reinterred in the present location of St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue, giving him the honor of being the first layman to be buried in the crypt below the main altar. In 1996 Toussaint was declared Venerable by Pope John Paul II, the second step toward sainthood. To those who are familiar with his great deeds, he continues to be a model of service for God and man.

[Prayer to Venerable Pierre Toussaint](#) - O virtuous Pierre Toussaint, son of Haiti, pray for all the poor and afflicted. Pray especially for your brothers and sisters in Haiti as they seek freedom from the oppression of poverty and calamity. Through your prayerful intercession, strengthen the weak, enrich the poor, comfort the downcast and inspire courage and hope among all those who struggle each day. Amen.

Mark your Calendar for 2018!

...Come and grow with us

There will be Eucharistic Adoration every **Monday** from **10 AM to 5 PM** in the chapel of the Pro Sanctity Center at 45-30 195th St., Flushing, NY 11358

Come to the Pro Sanctity Center and spend some quiet time in Chapel with the Lord.

Bible Sharing

Our Lady of Miracles

Meeting Jesus in the Gospels

Every Thursday - beginning 9/13 at 7:30 p.m.

Fr. Simonetti Center East 86th Street, Brooklyn NY 11236

St. Kevin Parish/ Pro Sanctity Center

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel Matthew (DVD)

Tuesday Evening 7 pm-Friday morning 10 am

PS Center 45-30 195th Street Flushing, NY 11358

St. Fidelis Parish (Spanish)

Meeting Jesus in the Gospels - beginning 9/16

Sundays 11:15 am-1:00pm 123rd St, College Point, NY 11358

Home gatherings of Bible study

CONOZCAMOS A CRISTO

Wednesdays 7:00-8:30 pm

Bay Ridge—Brooklyn, NY 11209

Call 718-848-3206

CONOZCAMOS A CRISTO

Tuesdays: 7:00-8:30 pm

Mr. & Mrs. Eduardo y Claudia Ruarte

32-34 72nd St. # 2fl, East Elmhurst, NY 11370

Call 718-848-3206

Reflections

"Rejoice and Be Glad"

"The Call to Holiness in Today's World"

On The Thoughts of Bishop Giacinta and Pope Francis

Thursdays, October 4 & 18 at 7:30 pm by Fr. John Costello

Holy Family Parish, Brooklyn, NY 11236

Tuesdays, October 9 & 23 at 7:30 pm by Msgr. Steven Aguggia

St. Kevin Parish, Flushing NY 11358

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Pro Sanctity Weekend Retreat

March 27 -29, 2019

Don Bosco Retreat Center, Stony Point , NY

Retreat Master: Rev. John J. Costello

For more information for all events please call 718-649-0324

Apostolic Oblates
Pro Sanctity
45-30 195th St.
Flushing, NY 11358

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The Pro Sanctity Movement is a Catholic Organization dedicated to promoting the Universal Call to Holiness by seeking to address the needs of the mind with theology, the heart with spirituality, and the hands with ministry.

The Pro Sanctity Movement
cordially invites YOU to join us to celebrate the
Day of Universal Sanctification
Saturday, November 10, 2018

Mass 11:00 AM

St. Kevin Church
195th Street & 45th Avenue
Flushing, NY 11358

Celebrant: Most Rev. Raymond F. Chappetto, DD
Auxiliary Bishop and
Vicar General of the Diocese of Brooklyn-Queens
Pastor of St. Kevin Parish

Music: Mr. Ed Contreras and Choir

Light lunch will be served in Msgr. Finnerty Hall