

Good News



The Pro Sanctity Newsletter

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Change ...

“Put away the old self of your former way of life...put on the new self, created in God’s way in righteousness and holiness of truth.” (Ephesians 4:24)

After 35 years at the Bethany in Our Lady of Miracles in Canarsie, the Apostolic Oblates and the Pro Sanctity Center have moved to a new location! As many of you know by now, the Oblates and the Pro Sanctity Center are now located in the parish of Saint Kevin, Flushing, Queens. While it was difficult to make the decision to leave, a great deal of prayer and discernment went into deciding this. For quite some time, dis-



Our beginning in Brooklyn....



continues in Queens

cussion about the best location for Pro Sanctity has been up in the air. In leaving Our Lady of Miracles, we bring with us many beautiful memories and shared experiences of faith, hope and love. The friends who supported Pro Sanctity and the Oblates for many years remain dear and treasured in our hearts. We stay united in our love for the Lord and our response to the universal call to holiness. The ideal set forth for us by Bishop Giaquinta is not limited to a particular place. This ideal of holiness unites us across the United States and around the world!

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While it is difficult to change, it is important to keep in mind that our commitment in Pro Sanctity is not to one place. We are committed to responding to the universal call to holiness. We are committed to spreading the universal call to holiness. This is why there must be a missionary spirit about all the members of Pro Sanctity. We carry the ideals of Pro Sanctity in our hearts, wherever we go. When we move to a new location, it is an opportunity to spread Pro Sanctity to another place. It is not just an end, but it is also a new beginning. And when some of the members of Pro Sanctity leave where we are, as dear as they are to us, we have to continue the Movement! The Members of Pro Sanctity who remain in Canarsie should continue to meet and support one another in the life of Pro Sanctity, as well as support those who will be starting in a new location. Pro Sanctity can continue to grow in Canarsie, just as it will begin to grow in Flushing!

Continued on page 3

This Just In...

Jessi Kary

School of Formation - Update

With much anticipation, Pro Sanctity USA launched a year of preparation for the initial School of Formation, which will begin following the Pro Sanctity National Convention, the weekend of July 29 - 31, 2011. Omaha, Nebraska and Vermillion, South Dakota offered "schools of prayer" as a way to till the soil in the hearts of Pro Sanctity members as preparation for the initial School of Formation, a 3-year program originally conceived by our Founder, Bishop Giaquinta.

New Center in Pune, India

Starting from childhood we want to promote cultural and religious integration among different Indian groups who immigrate to Pune. (See page 5)



Pro Sanctity East Newsletter Editors

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Words from the Founder

The Eucharist Transforms Us

I believe that I eat the flesh of Jesus and drink His blood, even though my senses do not grasp this. This is the meaning of faith. I believe that Jesus has this transforming power; it is not I who transforms the Eucharist into me, it is Christ who mystically transforms me into Him

If we would truly try to succeed at giving ourselves wholeheartedly to God in our Holy Communion, we would gradually be transformed in Jesus. If, after many years of daily Communion, we haven't reached this transformation, it means that we have not been sufficiently open to the grace of the Sacrament for it to transform us.

Eucharistic transformation could be followed by a more profound interior transformation, a mystical transformation, of which St. Paul says, "I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me." And even if there would not be mystical transformation in this world, there would then be the definitive, final transformation in Christ, through the glory of heaven.

Let us ask Jesus to give us the gift and grace that will transform us into Himself, crucified, and living for us and for our brothers and sisters.

The Personal Challenge

How do you deal with change?

Nina Riti

Change is a sign of growing. That's good! So why do we resist it? We fought to stay in the womb and came out crying, "No, no, it's safe and warm here in my comfort zone." (Can you imagine if you won that one?)

Think back about all the major changes in your life – they were hard: childhood to adolescence to adulthood, starting school, starting a new job. All good things that we were anxious about, but overcame our fear, our reluctance, and eventually embraced the new change. Unfortunately, all changes are not always perceived as good. They can also be...not so good... the death of a parent at 80+ or a young 40, the death of a spouse after 50 years or 5 years, the death of a child at any age.

Change ...some things we want and look forward to and some we hate and wish would never hap-

pen. Either side – change is inevitable. It's how you choose to deal with it that matters.

Our lead article on page 1 sheds light on how to deal with change, while our Goodbye/Hello article on page 3 shows how two people we know dealt with a major change of location – by prayer and acceptance of God's will. That acceptance of God's will and not their own – with joy and not begrudgingly, though hard, led to peace and gave them the strength to leave their comfort zone.

So let's decide to embrace change, leaving our comfort zone after praying for discernment and letting go of attachments to places, people, and things.



“Change” continued from page 1

This summer we have an opportunity to join with Members of Pro Sanctity from around the country as we gather in Schuyler, Nebraska at St. Benedict’s Center from July 29 – July 31, 2011. Plan to come and take part in what will be a delightful and spiritually refreshing weekend with workshops, guest speakers, prayer and time to meet old and new friends!

Change is an essential part of our spiritual life. The great artist Michelangelo prayed: “Lord, take me away from myself, and make me pleasing to You.” Changes come through conversion of heart and in new circumstances and challenges around us. As time passes, our natural selves often are resistant to change. We can become set in our ways, convinced that we have found the right path for ourselves. While we must form and maintain good habits, we also have to be ready for growth and avoid becoming complacent. The Lord gives us new graces and asks us to be ready for them. Putting on the “new

self” in God’s way is the path to holiness.

Let us all pray for the success of this move and this new beginning. Let us continue to support and encourage the Apostolic Oblates as they help us to live and share the ideals of Pro Sanctity.



Rev. Msgr. Andrew J. Vaccari
National Pro Sanctity
Spiritual Advisor

The Movement always prays for guidance from the Holy Spirit before it makes a decision and so after prayerful deliberation they responded and made several changes in many of the Bethanies.

Nina Riti

Saying Goodbye.....



...To Giovanna

was one of the hardest things for us in the Pro Sanctity Brooklyn Bethany...but Giovanna’s smile always made us feel good as she showed us how to embrace change and taught us acceptance of whatever God wanted. There were several opportunities for us to let her know how much we would be missing her and wished her joy and happiness as she returned to the Bethany in sunny California. Twenty-six years ago she had said goodbye to California and was sent to Brooklyn where she introduced many of us to Pro Sanctity and taught us how to respond to our Call to Holiness. How do we thank her for all that she did, all that she means to us, all that she taught us with that simple smile of acceptance.

Saying Hello.....



...To Agnes

was very easy - to some this was a reunion when Agnes returned to Brooklyn. Agnes had worked in Brooklyn for seven years before she went to Omaha, then on to sunny California. To some, it was a first-time meeting of such an open and helpful person. Agnes is always ready to lend a hand in whatever you are doing, in her quiet and extremely competent manner. She is certainly a welcome help as we struggle to move from the Pro Sanctity home we knew for over 35 years and start a new beginning in Flushing, Queens. Agnes is gently helping us say goodbye to many things and helping us to say hello to the new beginnings in Flushing. Agnes, like Giovanna, has shown us how to accept God’s will for us with her smile of acceptance.

*Both ladies have shown us by their joyful and trusting acceptance of the Lord’s will, how to embrace change and let go of attachments to a place. While they will not always be able to talk to us face to face, they will always maintain their close relationship with the members of Pro Sanctity and be united with us in prayer as we each respond to our individual call to holiness. As our Blessed Mother has shown us, we can all say **YES** to God’s will for us.*

The Comedy Corner
Time to Change your Ways



A boy asks his father to use the car and the father replies, “No, not until you cut your hair.”

The boy replies, “But Dad, Jesus had long hair!”

“Yeah,” said the father, “and Jesus walked everywhere.”

Adapted from the *Book of Catholic Jokes* by Deacon Tom Sheridan

Ask Pro Sanctity

Gail Elizabeth Evans

Technology, the Media and You - the Pro Sanctity Member

"A Rutgers University freshman posted a goodbye message on his Facebook page before jumping to his death ..." <abcnews.com> and <facebook.com> - 09/29/2010;



"A video ... on YouTube ... showed two teenage girls in a violent fist fight -- with two adults allegedly watching -- and another minor videotaping the entire thing." <youtube.com> and <cbsnews.com> - 02/02/2010

"Niceville teenager won the JCPenney Cares contest by getting the most online votes on Facebook for a charity she started when she was 7 years old." <cbsnews.com> and <facebook.com> - 10/21/2010

"View this great selection of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Videos from YouTube, ... and other great vintage footage of America's most popular Catholic apologist." <youtube.com> and <fultonsheen.com> - 2007

"[T]heir 12-year-old daughter ... has sent explicit text messages ... since she first owned a mobile phone." <drphil.com> - 2009

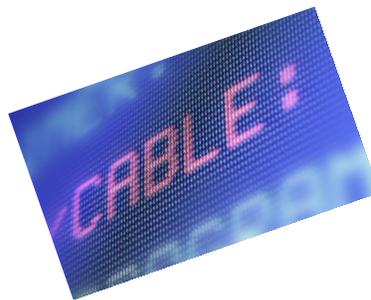


"Many charities have partnered with cell phone refurbishers and recyclers as a way of generating funds while keeping phones out of landfills, so everybody wins." <planetgreen.discovery.com> - 12/01/2009

Most of us will agree that the tools of technology and the media, so integral to our lives in these times, are intrinsically neither good nor bad. It's how they are used that makes the difference, we're likely to say.

While much that is positive can result from access to such powerful tools, the awareness of the destruction they can cause is inescapable. With a mere flick of a switch or click of a mouse, misunderstandings, the erosion of trust, even (as evidenced by numerous recent news events) the determination to die or to kill, can be provoked seemingly instantaneously.

Perhaps the question is that as members of Pro Sanctity, committed to the call to holiness, how far are we willing to go to make our day-to-day lives examples of God's word and God's will when it comes to technology and the media? In creating us in his own image and endowing us with free will, God has given us a tremendous share in the responsibility for the state of this world. The areas of technology and the media are no exception.



For a start we might consider making a commitment to be good stewards of whatever forms of technology and media may touch our own individual lives: Give sound guidance to youngsters who might siphon away precious time surfing the web, visiting social networking sites, listening to MP3 files, watching television. Speak out in support of the Church when it is unfairly denigrated in the news media. Focus on media and technology which encourage this, such as EWTN TV and NET TV, the numerous Catholic oriented sites and blogs on internet (including the magnificently constructed site of the Holy See at <Vatican.org>).

Finally, with prayer and the guidance of scripture, we Catholics can make the determination to use technology to fulfill the very reason for our existence: to show forth God's goodness and, ultimately, enjoy the reward of eternal happiness in His heavenly kingdom. Before clicking that mouse or flicking that switch, take at least a moment to reflect on whether or not by doing so we exemplify God's love.

Our Stories



Pune, India

Pune, in the western part of the country, is home to the newest Pro Sanctity Center in India (see left for building in progress). On the right children are enjoying playtime in the courtyard.



Membership Day– January 2011

Msgr. Aguggia blesses PS members before socializing with games and refreshments



Pro Sanctity National Convention, July 29--31, 2011 at St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, Nebraska Theme: Love is Fire

Presentations by Archbishop George Lucas, Fr. Timothy Gallagher, OMV, and Deacon James Keating, PhD

Daily Liturgy, prayer, workshops for all, programs for children and young adults, mixers and activities where members across the country get to know each other. Skits by the Centers that will keep you laughing at the Saturday Night Gala.

When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world. I found it was difficult to change the world, so I tried to change the Nation. When I found I couldn't change the nation, I began to focus on my town. I couldn't change my town, and as an older man, I tried to change my family. But now as an old man, I realize the only thing I can change is myself, and suddenly I realize that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family. My family and I could have made an impact on our town. Their impact could have changed the nation and I could have changed the world.

Author Unknown

Our Models ... Saints for Our Times

Compiled by
Rosemary Darmstadt

Mary Mackillop Australia's First Saint

Mary Helen was born in Melbourne, Australia, on January 15, 1842, the first of eight children born to the Scottish immigrants, Alexander and Flora MacKillop. They were caring parents, but the household was very poor. Her father, though not a good provider, was talented in home-schooling where he gave his children a fine secular and religious education. As the oldest child, Mary began working in her teens to support the family.

Let the poor come

When she moved to Penola in South Australia, she worked as a governess for her uncle's children and soon invited poor children in the area to come to the lessons. In Penola, she met Fr. Julian Woods who became her spiritual director and encouraged her to open a school for poor children in the outback. The only available site, an unused stable, became St. Joseph's School.

In 1866, they opened a new school in a proper building where, like the first school, children were accepted whether or not they could pay. Several young women came to join them and in 1867 Mary and Fr. Woods co-founded the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, the first Roman Catholic Religious Order founded in Australia. Mary took the name of Mary of the Cross, perhaps because she considered crosses as blessings in disguise and opportunities to learn and grow.

As the Congregation spread to other parts of Australia and beyond, they not only opened schools, but also orphanages, dwellings for the homeless, and refuges for ex-prisoners and ex-prostitutes who wanted to make a new start. Many people were not in favor of the Order's need to beg and their emphasis on the poor. Bishop Sheil intervened in 1869 by revoking the rule of central government of the Order and substituting control by each diocesan bishop.



Faced with excommunication

When Mary protested that this ran counter to everything she had tried to establish, the bishop excommunicated her for insubordination. An underlying reason was that her Sisters had unearthed a case of clerical sexual abuse which Fr. Woods reported to the Vicar General. A friend of the accused took revenge by manufacturing a long list of false accusations against the Sisters and Mary.

Bishop Shiel lifted the excommunication ban five months later after he learned there was no truth to the charges, but his successor established a commission of inquiry. Mary then chose to move the motherhouse to Sydney where she remained until her death on August 8, 1909. At her funeral, Cardinal Moran, Archbishop of Sydney, said "I consider this day to have assisted at the deathbed of a Saint."

Mary MacKillop was beatified in 1994 and canonized on October 17, 2010. Her life is well summed up by the official Vatican decree for her canonization which said the most striking thing about her was her kindness. She made no distinction between the rich and influential, and the lowly outcasts of society. Her legacy lives on in the words of her mission in life: "Never see a need without doing something about it."

A saint for the people

St. Mary MacKillop is truly a Saint for the People, and so it is fitting that the Perth Mint has issued gold and silver coins and Australia Post has circulated a postage stamp with St. Mary's image to commemorate her canonization. Several books have been written about this remarkable woman whose remains are entombed in North Sydney at Mary MacKillop Place. Here a chapel and museum are also dedicated to her memory. Mary MacKillop Place also offers many spiritual programs where people can come for days of prayer, retreats, faith education opportunities, and arrange for a guided pilgrimage **In the Footsteps of St. Mary MacKillop.**

Mark your Calendar 2011!
...Come and grow with us

Festival of Faith

for children 3 -9 yrs
Arts and Crafts
Saturday, Mar. 12, Apr. 9
10:30 – 12:00 Noon
Fr. Simonetti Parish Center

Bible Sharing

Getting to know Jesus
Every Thursday
7:30—9:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Miracles School

Spanish Mini Retreat

St. Fidelis Parish
124th St. & 14th Ave,
College Point, NY 11356
Madonna Room 7:30 pm
Viernes Feb. 4,18/ Mar. 4,18

Monthly Adoration

Second Friday of the month
Mar. 11, Apr 8, May 13
7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Pro Sanctity Center
45-30 195th Street, Flushing, N Y 11358

Spring 2011
Celebration of the Feast of
Our Lady of Trust

Patroness of the Pro Sanctity Movement,
The Institute of the Apostolic Oblates
and Our Lady of Trust Academy
(Our Lady of Miracles Campus, St. Jude Campus)

Sunday, March 6, 2011 - 3:00 P.M.

St. Mary Mother of Jesus Church
2326 84th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11214

Prayer Service conducted by Rev. Msgr. Andrew J Vaccari
National Spiritual Advisor of Pro Sanctity Movement and Pastor of Mary Mother of Jesus Church



All programs will take place at the Pro Sanctity Center 45-30 195th Street, Flushing, NY 11358
unless otherwise specified - for information call 718-649-0324
E-mail: prosanctitynewyork@verizon.net / web: nyprosanctity.org

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.

Pro Sanctity Weekend Retreat

April 29 –May 1st, 2011

Don Bosco Retreat Center, Stony Point , NY

Retreat Master: Rev. Msgr. Guy Massie, Chairperson/ Secretary

Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs, Pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle

Call 718-649-0324



The Pro Sanctity Movement Presents

Forgiveness: A Lenten Series

Culminating in a guest appearance from

Immaculée Ilibagiza

(Rwanda Genocide Survivor)

Come join us as she shares a story of: Faith, Hope and Forgiveness

Date: Thursday, April 14, 2011

Time: 7:30 p.m.

***Place: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
2805 Fort Hamilton Parkway, Brooklyn NY11218***

For information & tickets: call 718-649-0324 or 718-871-1310 ex 10