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Good News

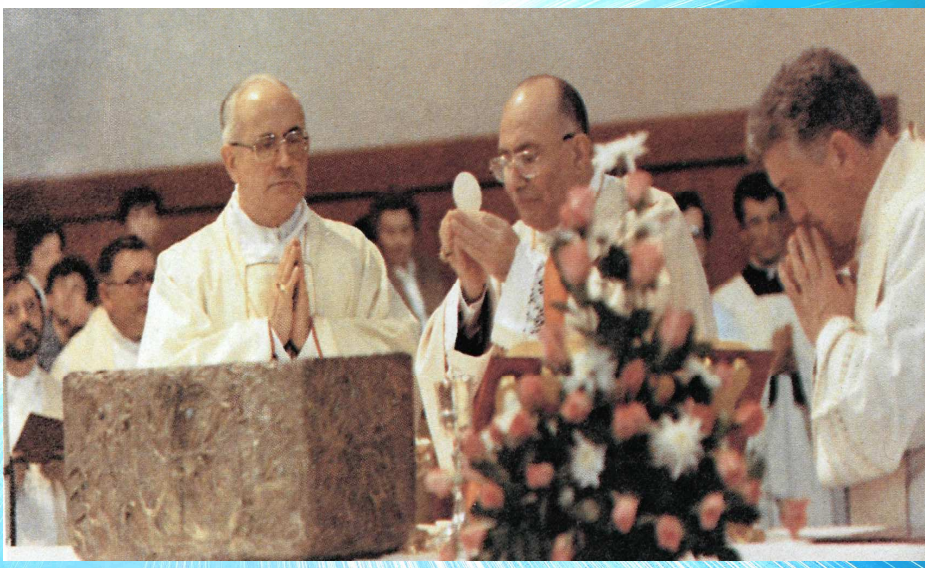
The Pro Sanctity Newsletter

Year of the Founder

Winter 2014

We Are Called to...

....live the primary legacy that was promoted by Servant of God Bishop William Giaquinta more than 15 years before it was proclaimed by the Second Vatican Council. The call to holiness has become Bishop Giaquinta's ministry, not only through personal contacts during his lifetime, but on a much wider scale, through the Pro Sanctity Movement which he founded in 1947. As recently as last year, *The Tablet,* the Diocesan newspaper of Brooklyn and Queens, in an article on Pro Sanctity's celebration of the Universal Day of Sanctification, said that the Movement was based on the belief "that holiness could be found in everyday life and that men and women of all vocations were called to be saints."[1]



It is through frustrations, mishaps, aggravations, and unexpected or often uneventful events of our everyday life that God calls us to grow in sanctity by praying for His grace to face these moments with serenity. In fact, Bishop Giaquinta himself cautions that "it is fundamental, basic, and essential to the Pro Sanctity Apostolate that its members be individually and personally involved in their own call before asking others to respond to their call to holiness."[2] The message that our Founder exhibited throughout his priesthood and his life can be conveyed in this 'user-friendly' way of expressing the Pro Sanctity Mission Statement: Feed the mind with knowledge of God; warm the heart with His Spirit

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Office of the Auxiliary Bishop
Diocese of Brooklyn
45-21 194th Street
Flushing, NY 11358-3533
Phone: 718-357-8888 • Fax: 718-357-3671

January 2014

Dear Members of the Pro-Sanctity Movement,

I take this opportunity to write to you, in our winter newsletter, as the Episcopal Moderator of our beloved Pro Sanctity Movement.

We are celebrating this year of holiness – this year of remembering our Founder, Bishop Giaquinta – this calendar year of 2014! May this year bring all of us a little closer to our goal of becoming saints – our common vocation to draw closer to the source of all holiness – Jesus – so we can radiate that holiness to all.

During my homily at the Mass for the Day of Prayer for Universal Sanctification at St. Margaret Church in Middle Village, I reminded the assembly (myself included) of the way that Bishop Giaquinta loved the saints and saw them as great helps to us in our path to holiness. I mentioned his great insight of the saints as people who never tire of yearning for holiness. The saints keep on trying to be holy. The saints seek the love and mercy of God after failures in their personal lives.

We recognize our need for God's mercy and forgiveness. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis has stressed this concept so often in his writing and in his homilies. His wonderful example of the use of the Sacrament of God's Mercy (the Sacrament of Reconciliation) should encourage us all to make use of this opportunity to know, in a personal way, the mercy of God!

The vision of Bishop Giaquinta is complimented by the vision of Pope Francis. Our Holy Father wishes: "Let us not forget this word: God never, ever tires of forgiving us! ...The problem is that we ourselves tire; we do not want to ask; we grow weary of asking for forgiveness. He never tires of forgiving, but at times we get tired of asking for forgiveness. Let us never tire; let us never tire! He is the loving Father who always pardons, who has that heart of mercy for us all. And let us too learn to be merciful to everyone. Let us invoke the intercession of Our Lady who held in her arms the mercy of God made man."

Please be aware of God's mercy – made available to us in a very personable and most intimate way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. May the mercy that Bishop Giaquinta dispensed in his priestly and episcopal life and the tender mercy preached by Pope Francis inspire us in this holy year to approach the Sacrament of Peace and Reconciliation with confidence and trust.

Let us continue to pray for each other.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Raymond F. Chappetto

Most Reverend Raymond F. Chappetto, D.D., V.G
Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn
Episcopal Moderator of the Pro Sanctity Movement

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of Love; use the hands in service to His people.

Bishop Giaquinta's many writings form another invaluable part of his legacy. These writings include Meditations, Retreats, Journals for Personal Growth, Prayers, and Books of Formation for the Pro Sanctity Movement and all the Families within its structure and are now being examined in Rome for the Cause of his Beatification.

It can be seen that Bishop Giaquinta's outlook was "geared to the sanctification of the world. [He] believed in the goodness of human beings and made a point of looking for signs of hope in every event and situation….He believed that a saint is the one who becomes what the Lord has called him to be….[Finally] the structures he established are conducive to prayer, to self-knowledge, and self-giving. They are Bishop Giaquinta's legacy to all people to enable them to develop a mature faith and grow in holiness."[3]

1. *The Tablet, Nov 13, 2013, Pro Sanctity Provides Daily Call to Holiness,* Jim Mancari
2. *The Sirituality of the Pro Sanctity Movement,* Servant of God Guglielmo Giaquinta
3. *Presentation at a Pro Sanctity Convention*

Rosemary Darmstadt

From the Desk of the Director — Donna Spoto

On January 12, 2014 many of our members gathered together to celebrate our local Pro Sanctity Movement Membership Day. It was particularly fitting that the celebration took place on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It was a great reminder of the importance of our own baptism. Just as Jesus began his public ministry following his baptism, our baptism is when our call to holiness began. It marks the beginning of our journey to become Saints.

Msgr. Steven Aguggia was the celebrant and homilist for our holy hour that day. He asked everyone a very important question, "How many of you know the date of your baptism?" He reminded us that we should celebrate our baptismal day just like we celebrate our birthday. This is the day we began a new life in Christ Jesus and became beloved daughters and sons of God. There is nothing more special than that!

Our baptism day is the day we received our primary vocation to holiness. As Pro Sanctity Members, we are not only concerned for our own holiness but for the sanctification of the whole world. We are called to assist each other on this journey. We can do this by actively pursuing as best we can our Pro Sanctity Member Commitments that appear on our membership card:

- Praying the Pro Sanctity Prayer daily.
- Participating faithfully in the sacraments and remaining dedicated to the Church and Her teachings.
- Taking time for your own spiritual growth (prayer, retreats, spiritual reading, etc.)
- Living the spirituality of the Movement.
- Using the aids offered by the local Pro Sanctity Center such as publications, gatherings, conventions, courses.
- Participating in the organized life of the Local Center when possible.
- Sharing the spiritual message of the Movement and inviting others to be involved.
- Financially supporting the work of the Movement according to your ability.

In this Year of the Founder, let us rededicate ourselves to our personal call to holiness and to the growth of the Pro Sanctity Movement for the sanctification of the world.

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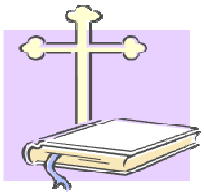
Ask Pro Sanctity…

As a Pro Sanctity Member How Can I Evangelize? *

Rosemary Darmstadt



"go into the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15)

Not only Pro Sanctity members, but everyone should be united with the causes of the poor and social justice. This does not simply mean praying for these intentions and contributing financially to organizations that help the poor and work for social justice. It means actively working to help create structures and pass laws that will alleviate poverty and injustice. Bishop Giaquinta counsels us "to go into the world and proclaim with loud voices that it is only by following Christ– or at least by striving and making every effort toward holiness – that things will change." A similar approach has been put forward by Pope Francis who says: "Jesus wants evangelizers who proclaim the good news, not only with words, but above all, by a life transfigured by God's presence."

Pope Francis goes on to use the word "solidarity" to describe "the creation of a new mindset" that thinks beyond performing a few acts of charity to building a welcoming community concerned with the dignity of the human person and the priority of life. He stresses our need to build a new world by "sharing the lives of all, listening to their concerns, helping them materially and spiritually in their needs, rejoicing with those who rejoice, weeping with those who weep." It is worthy of note that these goals are the same as Bishop Giaquinta's teachings on the call to holiness. In addition, Bishop Giaquinta says that evangelization means that we must be able to understand the cultures, technology, social, and economic relations of this new world.

A further resemblance between these two saintly men can be seen in their respective conclusions to the documents I have cited above. Both entrust the future of evangelization to the Holy Mother of God. Bishop Giaquinta expresses it in a few simple words: "May Mary make you truly holy." Pope Francis finishes his Apostolic Exhortation by saying: "Mother of the living Gospel, wellspring of happiness for God's little ones, pray for us." May we, as Pro Sanctity members, follow their example and rely on Mary's help in our own efforts at evangelization.

Adapted from writings of Bishop Giaquinta* and *The Joy of the Gospel by Pope Francis

The Personal Challenge

Nina L. Riti

Usually when I read the articles in the newsletter one idea jumps out and I see it as a personal challenge that I try to embrace and share with you. Sorry to say that did not happen with this newsletter. I started with the first article…We are Called to holiness and the sentence "It is through frustrations, mishaps and unexpected or often uneventful events of our daily life that God calls us to grow in sanctity" words from our founder…STOP… that is so true…that could be the challenge we embrace…our daily frustrations…not enough money to pay the bills; sickness our own or in the family, the guy who cuts us off on the road or as we pull out of the church parking lot…whatever (our frustrations they are too numerous to list) but you know YOUR cross… and the challenge is how do we embrace the cross that we are asked to carry…Do we respond with the deep knowledge that God is with us and will help us every step of the way and that we should be cheerful and grateful for each day trusting that the good Lord who loves us so much will help us through whatever we have before us.

Well I thought I was all set then I read Ask Pro Sanctity…How to evangelize? Immediately I thought about those people that ring our door bell and are so persistent in sharing their ideas… **evangelize**… NO not me…but as I read the article I realized YES me and yes YOU...and there was the challenge…not forcing and preachy …but let me summarize what the article clearly explains wit the words of St. Francis of Assisi:"Go out into the world and preach the gospel and if necessary use words".

We can evangelize every day to the world and to all those around us by the way we act, how we live our life with kindness and cheer despite the hardships.

But how can I meet that challenge? Then I read the inspiring words of Msgr. Aguggia… when he talked about the third person in the Creed...the Holy Spirit whose whisper guides us and is there to help us meet the challenge of responding to our Call to Holiness and to go out into the world - our world - home, workplace, community…and evangelize.

The word

EVANGELIZE

means preach the gospel - so let us try to follow the example of St. Francis - and meet the challenge of OUR Call to Holiness.

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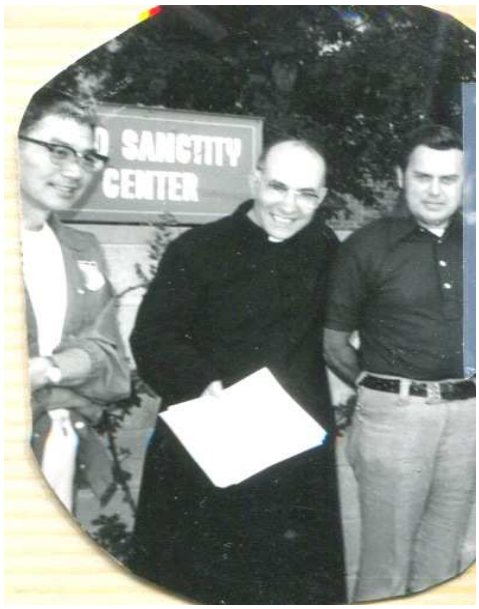
Journey with our Founder in California

Above: Founder smiles for the camera during the center's annual picnic at a local park in California with the Pro Sanctity Members



Bishop Giaquinta, our founder, takes a break from the Social Animators meeting with Art and Bill

Above: Our founder attentively listening to his cousin during a visit to their home in San Diego.
Left: the founder visiting workers at their plant

Pro Sanctity members Take a break to visit Disneyland with Bishop Giaquinta and Fr. Paul

Founder concelebrates mass with Fr. Paul in the chapel of the Pro Sanctity Center.

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This Just In…

Teresa Monaghen, A.O.

International Approval

I just returned from a great trip to our Pro Sanctity Center in Rome, Italy, where I participated in everything from the approval of our new Charter (statutes) for the Pro Sanctity Movement, to updates of our mission from around the world.

When the USA Episcopal Moderator of the Pro Sanctity Movement, Bishop Raymond Chappetto, wrote to every bishop in the USA to tell them about the Pro Sanctity Movement, he asked them to write and send a letter of support and approval for the Movement, to the Pontifical Council of the Laity in Rome. He was seeking international recognition for the Movement. The Council asked for two international leaders to assist our work throughout the world. We had been approved for years in the dioceses where we are active, but not internationally.

The work of Bishop Chappetto was a success! An avalanche of supporting letters for the Pro Sanctity Movement came in from all over the country and we now have official approval as an International Movement with the stipulation to study and practice the new Statutes for two years, then make changes if necessary. After we successfully live it out for another five years, it will become permanent. We are very happy for this process and know our Founder must have interceded for us to have received this huge grace!

We thank God for our Founder, Bishop Giaquinta, for Bishop Chappetto, and for all who supported this great gift to us!

Pro Sanctity East Newsletter Editors

Angela Di Paola, A.O.
Rosemary Darmstadt
Mariakutty Joseph, A.O.
Nina L. Riti
Agnes Rus, A.O.
Donna Spoto

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

The Role of the Holy Spirit in our Lives

In our other articles, we examined the first parts of the creed. We thought about the Father, and the Son. The final section of the creed presented heredeals with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the most difficult person of the Trinity to talk about. In some sense we know he is there; we feel his movement and his action. However we do not know quite how to describe him. The church uses many images to talk about the Holy Spirit - Fire, Wind, even the finger of God's right hand. In a very real sense all of these descriptions are true.

The Holy Spirit is hard to pin down. All of the descriptions of the Holy Spirit are accurate. Fire is power. Wind is force. The finger of God's right hand is the action of God in our lives. The Holy Spirit is the lifeblood of the Church. The energy. The force. The Holy Spirit is the love of the church in action.

The creed tells us that the Holy Spirit has made himself known through the prophets. The Holy Spirit is the guiding force behind the writing of the Scriptures. The creed describes the Holy Spirit as the Lord and the giver of life. The challenge for us, then, is to acknowledge the presence in the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We received the life of God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in baptism. That life is Grace which is alive in us. At Confirmation this life is literally confirmed by the reception of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit enlivens us to live out our Christian lives, to live out the grace we have received in baptism.

This means living lives of holiness - growing in holiness each day. We can grow in holiness each day if we acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and rejoice in it. The Holy Spirit is what allows us to grow in holiness. It is important to remember that our baptism and confirmation are not just points in our history. Rather they are times when we have received the gift of grace from God and we use this gift through the power of the Holy Spirit to grow closer to him each day.

O Holy Spirit,
make us instruments of
your plan of love.
Amen.

Bishop William Giaquinta

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Mark your Calendar 2014!
...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 Bethany and spend some quiet time in conversation with the Lord.

Festival of Faith
For children 3-9 years
Our Lady of Angels Parish
Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, NY 11209
Feb. 15 & Mar. 15, 2014, 4-6 pm

Pro Sanctity Retreat
March 21-23, 2014
Seminary of the Immaculate Conception
Huntington, NY 11743
Retreat Director: Fr. John Costello

Our Lady Of Trust
Sunday, March 2
Holy Family Parish
Canarsie, Brooklyn, NY
3:00 PM

St. Kevin - Pro Sanctity
Journey Through the Bible
Begins: Tuesday Feb. 11 7:00 PM
Friday Feb. 14 10:00 AM
at Pro Sanctity Center

Bible Sharing
Encountering ***Jesus in the Scripture***
Every Thursday, 7:30-9:00 pm
Our Lady of Miracles School
Canarsie, Brooklyn, NY 11236

Spanish Speaking
Catolicismo
Feb. 2 & 16, Mar.2 & 16
St. Fidelis, Madonna Room
College Point, NY 11356

Spanish Weekend Retreat
Friday to Sunday March 7,8,9
Pro Sanctity Center , Flushing

Spanish Mission
April 1, 2, & 3
O.L. of Angels Parish
Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, NY

Italian Mini Retreat
Sunday, April 6 at 2:30 PM

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Year of the Founder Pilgrimage
to Sicily, Rome, Assisi
June 17-28, 2014

Pro Sanctity International Convention
visit the birthplace of the Founder, tour Rome & Assisi
meet Pro Sanctity friends from all over the world!

For information: **718-649-0324** or prosanctitynewyork@verizon.net

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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.

Our Lady Of Trust Celebration

Sunday, March 2, 2014

Eucharistic Service
3:00 pm

Holy Family Church

Rev. John J. Amann

Pastor of Holy Family Church

9719 Flatlands Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11236

Refreshments will follow in the parish hall

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Annual Pro Sanctity Weekend Retreat

March 21 -23 , 2014

"Walk with William Giaquinta and discover a Wealth Grace"

***Presenter*: Rev. John J. Costello**
Administrator of St. Kevin Parish

Interested? For reservations please call 718-649-0324

A Retreat … is a spiritual refresher and inner renewal.

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception
440 West Neck Road
Huntington, NY 11743
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