

Good News



The Pro Sanctity Newsletter

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She is Alive

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We know her by the many roles she has enacted – bride, mother, teacher – yet she has been a mystery since her birth. She is old, yet always young, respected, yet not always loved, even though her mission in the world is to spread love. Her strong and powerful structure has often been described as a pyramid, although many call it a structure that is too narrow at the top, while others view it as too narrow at the bottom.

Who Is She?

Though she was born on Pentecost, her life among the people began when small groups met in their houses to

share the Word and receive the Eucharist. Soon, however, this became too dangerous and the meetings were held underground in what we now know and visit as the famous Catacombs. After the edict of Constantine, the communities were again free to worship openly in churches and cathedrals that were built as places to bring the faithful together. Her strength, therefore always has, and always will be, most evident when her many components work together as one.

We are speaking, of course, of the Church, not a building, but the people - **you and I** - the Mystical Body of Christ. Nevertheless, the Church still remains a mystery even after 2000 years. The reason is that the human mind can't understand how God became man and continues to be present through the course of the Church's history. Christ is present now, as then, in his priests. Without our priests there would be no Eucharist and without the Eucharist there would be no Church. It should be no mystery, then, why we, as members of this Church, owe its priests our gratitude, our prayers, and our support.

See page 3 for the testimony of a priest who recently celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination.

This Just In...

Nina Riti

In our Winter 2008 Newsletter I shared with you Pope Benedict's announcement that his 2nd encyclical would be forthcoming during Advent. Today I am so happy to again tell you that the Pope has just completed his 3rd encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*, which was released on July 7th.

Caritas in Veritate, Charity in Truth, is a must read for all people. The way the pope inspired us with hope in *Spe Salvi facti sumus* where he said, "The dark door of the future has been thrown open...the one who has HOPE lives differently." In his latest encyclical the pope attempts to show us ways that the 'person of hope' acts differently when faced with life's choices.

He concludes by reminding us "in the face of the enormous problems facing the development of peoples, which **almost** make us yield to discouragement, we find solace in the sayings of our Lord Jesus Christ who teaches us, 'Apart from me you can do nothing' (Jn 15:5) and then the pope encourages us by quoting Jesus again: "I am with you always, to the close of the age." (Mt 28:20),

(See p 6 for reflections on this topic.)

On June 27, Bishop Caggiano ordained Fr. Daniel Champoli, Fr. Robert Mucci, and Fr. Thomas Shepanzyk as priests for the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens. What a great way to begin the Year For Priests - June 19, 2009 to June 19, 2010 - which was declared by Pope Benedict XVI to foster within priests a yearning for 'spiritual perfection.'

Please keep our newly ordained priests in your prayers.

The Personal Challenge

Yesterday ... Tomorrow

Nina Riti

Pope Benedict XVI said there was a close link between the Year of St. Paul which ended June 28, and the current Year for Priests. St. Paul showed how "the mystery of Christ must stand at the very heart of our lives as individuals and as a community." He went on to say "Proclamation and power, that is, the word and sacraments are the two fundamental columns of priestly service." He reminded us that a priest is "aware of his own limits while at the same time of the extraordinary enormity of the vocation he [has] received."

I feel the pope is challenging us this year to PRAY for priests...individual priests that you know, the newly ordained priests of all dioceses and for the increase of vocations to the priesthood. I believe deeply with the pope when he says that PRAYER is fundamental for the sanctification of priests and for the abundance of ordinations. He concluded by saying that "Whoever prays is not afraid, whoever prays is never alone, whoever prays is saved." Pope Benedict asked that the whole Church pray for the world's priests and appreciate the role of the priest in the community. Enclosed in this newsletter is a prayer for priests written by Bishop Giaquinta. Take the challenge to say it every day as we celebrate the Year for Priests.



What Are You Doing This Summer.....

when you and the kids have had more than enough of sand and surf and sun?



If you stay at home with the kids...

Treasure - Create a game by drawing a map of your back yard. Hide several "treasures" around the location. Send the kids out to collect them.

If you go on an auto trip with the kids...

Car Bingo - Make a game board for Car Bingo before the trip. Put different things you might see on the trip in spaces on a piece of paper. Have your kids mark things off as they spot them. Give prizes to the winners.

If you take time for yourself
(and it's absolutely essential that you do)...

Do whatever you most enjoy - walking, biking, appreciating God's nature, reading an inspiring book, going to a museum, gardening, going to a wholesome play, movie or a relaxing concert.....



Priesthood

Because each human life is unique, the Spirit of God offers different gifts to us, empowers different forms of service, accomplishes different workings of his grace. Now I would like to say more about one particular form of service: the ordained priesthood.

The Special Gift

It is a gift that one could say has not fared too well in recent years both quantitatively and qualitatively. Many, both within and outside the Church recognize that the ordained priesthood has been found somewhat lacking in our day. Suffice it to say, though, that it is God's Church, and the Spirit does in history what the Spirit needs to do, and if the priesthood is in need of purification and renewal, so be it. The Spirit will accomplish it.

To the priest are given certain tasks, and they are awesome tasks that we must never take for granted. Priests are to preach the Word of God, always a word of hope and joy and life, and it is important that they teach and

preach God's word, and not their own. Priests are to celebrate the sacraments at specific moments in the lives of people, and to celebrate them in a way that helps people to experience and encounter the abundant, welcoming, nourishing, sustaining, forgiving, healing, loving – in a word, sanctifying – grace of God in their lives. And priests are to work to bring people together into one family, one community, one Body, with a particular solicitude, as a Good Shepherd, for those on the fringe: the poor, the powerless, those in greater need.

The Awesome Tasks

These are awesome tasks, but that is why the ordained priesthood is a gift of the Spirit, given in the sacrament of ordination (Holy Orders). This gift is given daily to a priest as well by the regular infusion of the Spirit into a priest's life, an infusion accomplished through conscious contact with God and through sharing in the fellowship of the Church. When lived well, the priest experiences God in Jesus as the first and greatest love of his life, so that he can

say with St. Paul, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20). It is a love that fills him and truly makes him happy, joyous and free.

Moreover, when lived well, the priest also experiences a second great love in his life, the love of his fellow human beings. He sees them as his brothers and sisters and is in all ways one with them. When lived well, a priest discovers himself to be a trusted servant of others, for whom he strives to keep himself radically available as Jesus was, Jesus the one and only priest in truth.

Rev. James Heuser, SDB
Former Provincial of the
Eastern U.S. Province
Salesians of Don Bosco



Two priests were riding very fast on a motorcycle. They were promptly stopped by a policeman who said,
*"What do you think
 You're doing?
 What if you have
 An accident?"*

The priests said,
*"Don't worry, my son.
 Jesus is with us."*

The policeman said,
*"In that case, I have to
 book you.
 Three people are not
 allowed to ride on
 a motorcycle."*



G8 Summit* Gets Together

Can You Name the 8 Countries and their 9 Guests?

the Big 8 and the Little 9

C _ _ x _ _	 <p>After you have filled in all the blanks use the letters from the blanks marked with an 'x' to form two words that describe the purpose of the summit.</p>	x R _ _ _
F _ _ x _ _		C _ _ _ _
G _ _ _ _ _		I _ _ _ _
I _ _ x _		M _ _ _ x
J _ _ _ _		S _ _ _ A _ _ _ _
R x _ _ _ _		E _ x _ _
U _ x _ _ K _ x _ _ _		A _ _ _ _ x _ _
U _ _ _ S _ x _ _		I _ _ _ _ _
	S _ _ _ K _ _ _	

Answers are on page *See page 6

Ask Pro Sanctity

Donna Spoto



Why Go To Mass?

As Catholics we have an obligation to attend Mass every Sunday. Many of us take this responsibility and obligation very seriously. For some, going to Mass is just a part of who they are and what they do, but for others it can be a struggle at times. This can especially be true for children... "It's soooo boring!" Even for adults, "fitting" Mass in our busy schedules can become just one more task to complete. Our time is valuable so we tend to measure the value of activities by what we get out of them. Is it really about what we "get out of it" or is it about what we are called to be and do as a member of the Body of Christ?

We Encounter Christ

As members of the Body of Christ, our participation in the liturgy is ultimately about something bigger than ourselves. We must come to it with an openness of heart whether we feel like it or not. Every act of liturgy is an opportunity for encounter with each other, with and in Christ, and ultimately with our God. We may not always leave

Mass feeling any different than we did before, but we must consider that our act of participation is needed and desired by God for the transformation of the world.

Article 14 of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of the Church calls us to "full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations." What exactly does "participation" mean? Pope Benedict notes in his book, *The Spirit of the Liturgy*, that "the word [participation] was very quickly misunderstood to mean something external, ...as if as many people as possible should be visibly engaged in action."

Christ Encounters Us

However, the word "participation" refers to a principal action in which everyone has a "part." He goes on to say, "the real action" in the liturgy in which we are all supposed to participate is in the action of God himself who inaugurates the new creation, makes himself accessible to us, so that, through the things of the earth, through our gifts, we can communicate with him in a personal way." This not only implies an individual and personal relationship but a collective relationship as the Body of Christ between the Church and God. Through liturgy, through the collective worship of the Body of Christ, the Church, we present who we are to the world and in so doing, we present the world to God.

Answers to Puzzle on Page 3

The Big 8: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, United Kingdom, United States

The Little 9: Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa, Egypt, Australia, Indonesia, South Korea

The Purpose of the Summit: GLOBAL UNITY

"I Sanctify Myself"

Excerpts from a Payer by Bishop William Giaquinta

Lord Jesus, in the mystery of your love
for humanity,
you perpetuate your own priesthood
down through the centuries.

On behalf of all my brother priests
throughout the world,
I lift up to you a fervent plea:
Help us understand the profound
meaning of your word:

*"I sanctify myself for their sakes now,
that they may be sanctified in
truth."* (John 17:19)

Help us become holy,
that we may help others grow
in holiness.

Grant us the conviction that
we lead humanity to your Father
through holiness alone...



And you,
model of
keep in
those who
marked by

Mary,
holiness,
your heart
have been
the seal of

the Spirit's love
and are sharers in the priesthood
of your Son... Amen.

Our Stories

All the Honorees



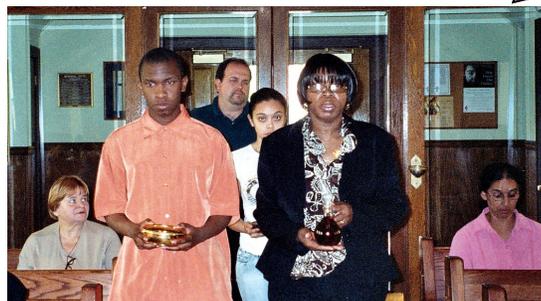
Candid shots at our
Appreciation Luncheon



Josie Nover's Commitment
as cooperative of the
Apostolic Oblates



Fr. Aguggia, Jean T and Angela
presenting the Awards



Remembering
Bishop Giaquinta on
Founder's Day



A time to pray...



...A time to share

REFLECTIONS ON *CARITAS IN VERITATE* RELEASED ON JULY 7, 2009

BY POPE *BENEDICT XVI*

NINA RITI

As a true shepherd for his **entire** flock, Pope Benedict continues to guide us in this thought-provoking encyclical whose message is *Charity in Truth*. Like many of his predecessors (starting with Leo XIII, the first pope to address social issues in 1891 on the rights and duties of Capital and Labor), our present pope, after inspiring us with hope in his second encyclical, now moves to show the flock how this can be accomplished.

We obviously see the Holy Spirit at work here as the timing of the encyclical coincides so appropriately with the G-8 summit meeting hosted in Italy on July 4, 2009. In a letter to the Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi, the host of the summit, the pope suggested that “the only way to find solutions that will match the global dimensions of the global economic crisis and have long-term positive effects for all peoples is to listen to the voice of Africa and the countries least-developed economically.”

I am sure that the pope enclosed copies of the encyclical for the G-8 members as well as the 9 other countries that Italy invited to participate in some of the summit sessions. Pope Benedict XVI felt that the presence of these countries was extremely important for the success of the summit when they dealt with matters of the economy, peace and international security.

Christian Values are Needed

In this encyclical, Benedict XVI emphasizes “the whole value of human solidarity and of love in truth” while working to achieve international cooperation in developing programs. He reminds us that “practicing charity in truth helps people understand that adhering to the values of Christianity is NOT merely useful, but essential for building a good society and for true integral development.” The pope addresses the need for moral values as part of our economic recovery: that a love for others requires an involve-

ment in politics to really be able to respond “to the Christian call to love one another and work for justice...”

Read what he says about sharing earth’s resources equitably and seeking an economic model that meets long-term sustainability. He asks unions to protect all workers even going beyond their membership. In spite of the economic crisis, he reminds us that we must continue to support and help the needy. I personally feel that when we do this we reap even greater rewards. The pope discusses this concept with profound clarity. How can we disagree when the pope concludes by saying, “Openness to God makes us open towards our brothers and sisters and towards an understanding of life as a joyful task to be accomplished in a spirit of solidarity.”

What an incredible number of ways to respond to **our Call to Holiness!**

Comedy Corner

The Farmer Goes to Church

One Sunday a farmer went to church and saw that he and the preacher were the only ones there. The preacher asked if the farmer wanted him to preach anyway. The farmer said, “If I went to church and only one showed up, I’d still feed him.”



So the preacher began his sermon. One hour then two and a half hours. When he finally finished, he asked the farmer how he liked the sermon. The farmer answered slowly, “Well, I’m not very smart, but if I went to church and only one showed up, it’s a sure bet I wouldn’t feed him all the hay.”

*The will of God
will never take
you to where the
grace of God
will not protect.*

Journey with Us

Mark your Calendar 2009

Monthly Adoration: Second Friday of every month 7:30 PM
Come and spend time with the Blessed Sacrament
Sept. 11, Oct. 8, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

Mini Retreat

Thursday 9:30-10:30 AM
In the lower rectory of OL Miracles
757 E 86th Street - Brooklyn
Oct. 8, 22, Nov. 12, Dec. 10

Bible Evening

Study, Share and Prayer
Every Thursday 7:30-9:00 PM
Starting September 17

Festival of Faith

For children 3-9 years
Faith building with Arts, crafts
songs, games and lots of fun.
10:30 -12 NOON
Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12
in Fr. Simonetti Center

Spanish Mini Retreat

Third Friday of the month
7:30 -9:00 PM - Madonna RM
St. Fidelis Parish 124St. & 515 Ave
College Point. Queens NY
Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov 20, Dec. 18
For info call Maria E. 646-262-9096
Margot 718-353-9014

Women on the Journey

Personal Growth - Mind, Body and Spirit
Join us for an inspiring speaker and a great pancake breakfast
On Saturday October 17, time: 10:00 to 12 Noon

SAVE THE DATE

Pro Sanctity Weekend Retreat
April 23 to 25, 2010
Don Bosco Center

All the program will be taking place at the Pro Sanctity Center, 730 East 87th Street, Brooklyn, NY
Unless otherwise specified - for info call 718-649-0324

Apostolic Oblates
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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.

Annual Family Picnic ~ Birthday Bash

Sunday, September 13, 2009

2:30 PM

Pro Sanctity Center

730 East 87th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236

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# ***Day of Prayer for Universal Sanctification***

***Saturday, November 7***

***11:00 AM***

***Mary Queen of Heaven Church***

***1395 E. 56th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234***

***Presider: Rev. Msgr. Guy Massie***

***Vicar fro Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs***

***Pastor of St. Andrew's Apostle Parish, Brooklyn, NY***