



Pro Sanctity Movement New York

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WINTER - SPRING 2022

ORDINARY ACTS!

Saint Teresa of Calcutta said, “Do ordinary things with extraordinary love.” This is kind of a variation on St. Therese of the Child Jesus’s “Little Way.” She maintained that one can achieve holiness by doing simple things with love. Even picking up a spoon which has fallen on the floor can be a means of growing in holiness, if it is done with love.



Do
All
With
LOVE



This is a great way to sanctify our entire day. Everything we do can help us grow in holiness. What could be more “Pro-Sanctity” than that!

That is because we are always able to recognize and rejoice in the presence of the Lord at all times.

How often we go through all our routines in life without thinking about them much less God present in them! I have a friend who literally thanks God for each thing that comes into his life, the good and the bad. God is always with us and, moreover, God constantly offers us opportunities to grow closer to him and grow in holiness.

What does it mean for me in my daily life? It means that I don’t need to be a pope or bishop or abbess to be holy. It means that God has given me the means to be holy in the life he has called me to: family life, single life, consecrated life, whatever! We need not be on retreat or at church

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This Just In...

By Nina Riti

With the beginning of the new church year Pope Francis has reminded us that we are in the C cycle of the liturgical year, and that the scripture readings would be mainly from St. Luke. Pope Francis has said it is the Holy Spirit who “makes Sacred Scripture the living word of God experienced and handed down in the faith of His holy people”.

He then suggested that we read the entire Gospel of St. Luke as preparation for Lent and the Easter season.

(See page 5 for details)



Spring new life, new hope!

Lent begins Ash Wednesday
March 2

A new journey toward Easter, time
to reflect on the 3 Pillars of LENT

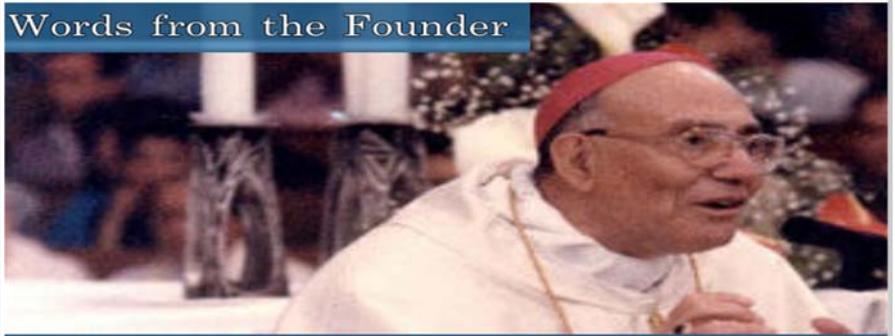
PRAYER, FASTING

ALMSGIVING

Pro Sanctity East Newsletter Editors

Rev. Msgr. Steven Aguggia
Mona Edwards
Angela Di Paola
Rosemary Darmstadt
Mariakutty Joseph
Teresa Marracello Bajor
Cathy Palermo
Nina L. Riti
Ann Sutherland

Words from the Founder



Servant of God William Giaquinta

Extraordinary Words from the Founder

The postulator for the Cause of Bishop Giaquinta described him as a “not ordinary man or priest,” but as one whose gestures, words, and ministry were of an “ordinary extraordinariness.” From him, therefore, we can learn to grow in ordinary holiness as we see how his reflections mirror the Gospel in these six experiences of our everyday lives. Bishop Giaquinta’s words are in red followed by the corresponding Biblical verse in black. **Christ’s Call** – *We know Christ’s invitation.* “Take my yoke upon you...and you will find rest” (Matt 11:29); **Awareness of God’s Love** – *God not only asks for or wants my love but emphasizes that he needs my love.* “The Father ran to his son, embraced and kissed him” (Luke 15:20); **Acceptance** – *Mary’s example of peaceful acceptance shows only one expression of sorrow,* “Son, why have you done this to us?” (Luke 2:48); **Sacrifice** – *The law of sacrifice is indispensable for authentic maximum love.* “In my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the affliction of Christ on behalf of his body which is the church. (Colossians 1:24); **Patience** – *Have patience with those who are most weak.* “Pull up the weeds and you might take the wheat along with them” (Matt 13:29); **Brotherly Love** – *My brother is really my brother in Christ, and I must love him with the same ardor with which I love Jesus.* “The community of believers was of one heart and mind.” (Acts 4:32).

by Rosemary Darmstadt

Pope Francis Said

A Christian must necessarily be merciful because this is the center of the Gospel. “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:36) God sent his Son, God made himself man in order to save us, that is, in order to grant us mercy. God, in his loving concern for each one of us, desires our well-being and wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful. Just as he is merciful, so we are also called to be merciful to each other.

One should truly listen to the word in the Gospel, meditating on the Scriptures to put their content into practice every day. To listen to God’s Word is to read it and ask oneself: “What does this say to my heart?” Only in this way does our life change. This happens every time we open the Gospel and ask ourselves: “Is God speaking to me, is he saying something to me?”

The way of holiness is mercy, that mercy which he has shown, and daily continues to show to us. To be a saint is not a luxury. It is necessary for salvation of the world.

Excerpted from “A Year of Mercy” by Pope Francis

By Rosemary Darmstadt

Continued from page 1

services or even engaged in something “spiritual” because, if we allow ourselves to, we can find the spiritual in everything we do!



*Rev. Msgr. Steven J. Aguggia
Pro Sanctity Spiritual Advisor
Chancellor Diocese of
Brooklyn and Queens
Pastor of St. Pancras Parish*

JESUS

Jesus,
May your thoughts be my light
and your words my guide.
May your eyes be upon me,
and your ears hear my voice.
May your arms outstretched
on the Cross open me to
Universal love.

Jesus,
May your crucified feet move
me to give myself tirelessly
to my brothers and sisters.
May your pierced heart be
a fount of grace for my
journey, and a place of rest
when I am weary. Amen

*by Servant of God Bishop
Guglielmo Giaquinta*

The world needs
prayers
To be able to
CHOOSE
Respect for life



FROM THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Ann Sutherland

Sisters and Brothers, I hope that you and your family are in good health. The past few years indicate that we really can't take life for granted, however, there continues to be hope in our future.

We were fortunate to have Jessi Kary, Co-Director of the National Board, and Teresa Monaghan who were visiting from Nebraska. They were here to attend meetings in Rome virtually. Obvious reasons prevented any extended visits. We welcome them and hope the meetings were successful.

Pope Francis called a *Synod on Synodality* (which culminates in October 2023). A process in which all of us are called to contribute. Pope Francis asked the Bishops of the dioceses and the pastors of the local churches to convene parishioners to respond to questions on how they perceive the church today. The movements, including Pro Sanctity had to follow the same procedure. I am happy to report that Pro Sanctity Movement, New York, with the help of the Holy Spirit, has responded to the questionnaire and submitted it to the diocesan office. We may ask why Pope Francis came out with these listening sessions. It's to have the opinion and the participation of all the Christians of the church. He will look how to improve the communications between parishioners and clergy and in the church in general.

At this point, many of us have returned to church and our individual groups continue to meet several nights a week (some groups are meeting every night) as we try to reach out to each other and do God's work. In the ensuing weeks, we are reading and studying the Book of Luke (as requested by Pope Francis) Individual members have the opportunity to present each chapter and discuss it in depth. It's a learning experience for all of us.

We are also making a great effort to meet face to face one Saturday a month. Each time we enjoy a special presentation which helps us to grow in knowing God in a deeper way. On Saturday February 12th we learned in depth the meaning of the Pro Sanctity Movement and on March 12th we will have a special guest Deacon Philip Gonzalez giving a presentation on "Forgiveness." We look forward to this as we prepare for the season of Lent.

Let us continue to live in the hope that we'll see each other on a continuous basis very soon.

All the Best!

Ask Pro Sanctity...How do I grow in holiness in my daily life

Mona Edwards

In these secular times when God may seem far away from our reality, holiness may be thought of as an idea that is unattainable for you or me to grasp. But when we look closely at the state of our world as it is today, it is crying out for help in every way-----globally, economically, socially and politically. As a human race we need to be united in God's trust and love to overcoming life's storms. The way in which we may be united to God is in our daily walk with Him. Life is difficult to live on its own. We need life's GPS—God.

We must choose to live a life that is intentional by growing closer to Our Lord, who will give us the grace we need to grow in holiness.

Some ways to grow in holiness:

- 1) **Reflecting on your day as** to whether it would be pleasing to God---what did I do for the Glory of God?
- 2) **Daily reading of Scripture**---this helps you to be in sync with what God's will is for you today.
- 3) **Prayers** -- *"For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy."* (Saint Teresa of Calcutta).

Growing in holiness daily requires discipline and perseverance. It requires time and patience with our selves.

"I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect." (*Romans 12:1-2*)

Points to Ponder

Nina L. Riti

To Ponder-Webster says that *ponder* is a *verb* and means to consider something deeply and thoroughly; to meditate or to weigh carefully in the mind. That is how we should be reading the Bible.....the Bible, *sacred* writings that are the inspired word of the Holy Spirit. When we ponder on the words in the Bible (instead of just reading them the way you read a romance or mystery novel) you will find the deeper, hidden meanings in these love letters that the Lord is sending to you and once you grasp the deeper meaning.....it should move you to action. In addition, wise sayings from people whose journey has been enlightened by the inspired words in the Bible are also words we should ponder.



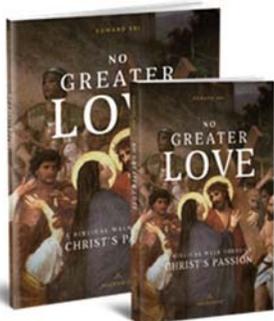
After reading the lead article I couldn't help ponder on the words of two saints.....St. Teresa of Calcutta, also called Mother Theresa, who said "Yesterday is gone, tomorrow has not yet come, We have only today" so do something *today* and St. Therese of Lisieux, whose nickname is "The Little Flower", and is known for "The Little Way" which is doing the smallest actions with great love so do whatever with great love. The smallest actions brought to mind a scripture passage "In all circumstances be happy" 1 Thes. 5:18 **That** is a powerful way to live - *all circumstances* as Msgr. Aguggia said "even picking up a spoon that has fallen".....so instead of getting annoyed that I dropped it now I say thank you God for the exercise to pick up this spoon and smile.



I urge you to ponder the words of Founder in this newsletter..... "We know Christ's invitation".....so what are you doing about it? or Pope Francis saying "A Christian must necessarily be merciful because this is the center of the Gospel".....can you forgive that person who hurt you?.....or in how to Grow in holiness.....pondering the three suggestions. The one that jumps out to me is *Prayer* and I thought about a prayer that a friend told me she repeats all during the day.....My God, I believe , I adore, I hope and I love You! I ask pardon of you for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You.....This was the prayer the Angel of *Peace* taught the 3 children of Fatima in the spring of 1916. What a great Lenten exercise! Ponder these points and hopefully be moved to action. Read all the articles and after *pondering* their deeper meaning decide how **you** are going to put them into action.

Mark your Calendar for 2022

...Come and grow with us



Dates – Times – Location St. Kevin Parish

Mondays, Feb. 28, Mar. 7, 14
7:00 pm

on "Go to meeting"
To receive the link

or

Fridays, Mar. 4, 11, 18
after the 9:00 am Mass
in the parish Center

Registration –more info
call Agnes Rus
718-649-0324

agnesrus44@gmail.com
Ed Wallace 718-423-1284
entwallace@gmail.com

Lenten Journey Reflection on the Gospel of Saint Luke

Pro Sanctity Group of
Brooklyn

Conference call on
Monday, Thursday, Friday
7:00 pm

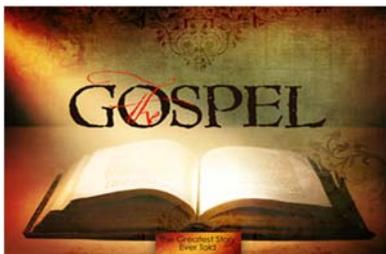
Call No. 339-207-8069

Pro Sanctity Spanish Group
of Brooklyn & Queens

Conference call on
Monday to Friday

At 8:15 pm

Call No. 339-209-4970



El group
Conozcamos a Cristo
de

Saint Fidelis Parish
Presenta en Espagnol

"Symbolon" in DVD

In the Madonna Rm

First and Third
Sunday
of the month
11:30 am
after the Mass

For information call
Gloria 646-267-8162
Alba 917-683-4670

Comedy Corner

A new priest wanted to rent a house while the rectory was being painted but only one place was available and it was rumored to be haunted. That didn't bother the priest since he didn't believe in such things. He went ahead and rented the place. Soon the ghost made its appearance. The priest told his friends about the ghost but they didn't believe him. They told him the only way they would believe him was if he took a picture of the ghost. The priest went home and called for the ghost. When it appeared the priest explained the situation and asked the ghost if it would mind having its picture taken. The ghost agreed. When the picture was developed the ghost wasn't visible. Feeling disappointed the priest called again for the ghost. When it appeared the priest showed it the picture and wanted to know why the ghost wasn't in it. The ghost thought a minute and replied "Well I guess the spirit was willing but the flash was weak."

Lenten Reflection

Saturday, March 12, 2022

"Forgiveness"

Deacon Phillip Rodriguez

Our Lady of Miracles Parish

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Fr. Simonetti Center

East 86th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236

For information call: Auldeen 347-330-0707,
Maxwell 917-566-6633

Our Models ... Saints for Our Times

By **Cathy Palermo**



VENERABLE JULIA GREELEY

Servant of God Julia Greeley was a woman born into slavery, whose dedication to Christian charity inspired the city of Denver. She is one of six Black Americans who are on the path towards officially being recognized as saints in the Roman Catholic Church.

Julia Greeley was born in Hannibal, Missouri sometime between 1833 and 1845 (There are no records of her exact birthdate).

At the young age of 5 while witnessing her mother being beaten with a whip by a cruel slave master, Julia's right eye was caught with the whip and it was permanently injured.

After she was freed in 1865, she found a job as a cook and a nanny to Julia Pratte Dickerson, a wealthy widow and mother of four children. After Mrs. Dickerson married Colorado's first governor, William Gilpin, Julia moved with the family to Denver in 1878. With the influence of Mrs. Dickerson, who

was a devout Catholic, Julia became a Catholic and was baptized in 1880 at the Sacred Heart Church. From that day on, God's grace began to shape her life. She received communion every morning and fasted every day until noon. She would say that "Communion is my breakfast".

HER DEVOTIONS

Julia soon developed a deep love for the Virgin Mary and the Blessed Sacrament, as well as a strong devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The priests of her parish described her as the most fervent promoter of the devotion they had ever seen.

Every month, despite a great deal of arthritic pain, she walked to all the Fire houses in Denver to give out pamphlets about the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She referred to these as "tickets to Heaven". Being a firefighter was an especially dangerous job in those days so she wanted the firemen to come to know Jesus' love and to be prepared to meet him.

ANGEL IN THE CITY

Inspired by the life of St. Francis of Assisi, Julia joined the Secular Franciscan Order in 1901. She spent most of her time visiting and assisting the poor. She used her small earnings to give to the poor and when it wasn't enough she begged on their behalf. She became a familiar fixture on the streets of Denver pulling her red wagon filled with clothing, coal, food and whatever other items were needed. Once she was even seen walking with a mattress strapped to her back that she was bringing to a family

in need. She often did these activities at night to avoid embarrassment to the white poor people she served. Julia had an infectious sense of humor and loved children. She gave them presents, took them on trips through the city and organized wholesome dances for girls. Over time, her acts of charity earned her the title of Denver's "Angel of Charity".

Julia was not well spoken, nor could she read or write, but her actions spoke volumes. She knew how to serve and treat people with kindness even in the face of prejudice. In church she occasionally experienced derogatory comments, as well as some complaints about her appearance and the fact that she sat in the front row. Despite all this she kept her focus on Jesus and chose to follow his lead in not fighting back. Instead she always responded with love and a spirit of true forgiveness.

On June 1, 1918 fittingly on the feast of the Sacred Heart, Julia died suddenly in Denver. She had given away her burial plot to a poor man. In repayment, Julia was buried in her Franciscan habit and laid in state in Sacred Heart church. Hundreds of people, rich and poor alike, came to pay their respects. Shortly after her death, people began asking that Julia's cause for canonization be opened. Finally in 2016 the Archdiocese of Denver officially began the canonical investigation that has led her to be declared a "Servant of God".

During a time where division and racial tension seem to only be increasing, the life of Servant of God Julia Greeley shows us how Jesus can empower us to love even those who treat us as enemies. She has a lot to teach us about living as a Catholic with love and respect for everyone.

Keeping the Equation...

Part 1

By **Teresa Marracello Bajor**



These days, it seems like, everywhere we look, God is being taken out of the equation. Prayer has been taken out of the classroom and public institutions. The Ten Commandments have been removed from parks, schools and courthouses. *"One Nation Under God"* has been cut from the Pledge of Allegiance. And, more recently, some are trying to remove 'Christ' from 'Christmas.'

While this can be discouraging, and you may feel like you are powerless in the fight to keep God at the center of life as we know it, we can't sit back and just let it happen. How can we overcome such a powerful force in society? What can we do?

As I think about these two questions, I'm reminded of the many times, 'small' people in the Bible overcame great obstacles by remaining faithful, taking action and trusting that the Lord would be by their side and protect them.

Take Moses' mother, for example. At the time of Moses' birth, Hebrew baby boys were being drowned in the Nile river by the Egyptians for fear that the Hebrews would multiply and become too great. Trusting in the Lord, she placed him in a basket and looked on as Pharaoh's daughter discovered him.

And, in God's unexplainable ways, Pharaoh's daughter chose Moses' actual mother to nurse him. Moses went on to be one of the most important prophets known to Judaism and Christianity

How about Joshua? Joshua was one of twelve men sent by Moses to determine if they could overtake the Promised Land. He and only one other, Caleb, believed that the Israelites could. So, the battle was delayed forty years until Joshua was in charge. When it was time to do battle with the Canaanite people, the casual observer would have thought him crazy because the land of Canaan and its people, according to Numbers 13:28 and Numbers 13:32-33 was "strong and fortified" – "a land that devours its inhabitants", and where "people are of great size."

The Israelites had no weapons and were much weaker in strength and in size. But, Joshua trusted in the Lord who led him into the battle at Jericho and we all know how that turned out! Joshua fought and won - with no weapons other than faith in the Lord.

Then there was Daniel the prophet and three young men with him that resided in Babylon at the time of Nebuchadnezzar's reign. King Nebuchadnezzar made a massive statue of gold and demanded that all fall down and worship it. Anyone who refused would immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire. The three brothers, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, refused to worship the golden statue and they were tied up and thrown into the furnace of blazing fire.

They placed their trust in the Lord and told the King that they would only worship God. They trusted in the Lord and were protected. They were released completely unscathed.

"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, "There is no need for us to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If our God, whom we serve, can save us from the white-hot furnace and from your hands, O king, may he save us! But even if he will not, you should know, O king, that we will not serve your god or worship the golden statue which you set up." (Daniel 3:16-18).*

As for Daniel, he too refused to worship anyone but the Lord. He was thrown into the Lion's Den and no harm was brought to him. "At [the King's] order Daniel was brought up from the den; he was found to be unharmed because he trusted in his God. (Daniel 6:24).

To be Continued in the next Newsletter.

"Ignorance of Scripture is

Ignorance of Christ"

(St. Jerome)



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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 Members of  Pro Sanctity invite
YOU to come and Celebrate the
Feast of Our Lady of Trust

Eucharistic Adoration /Marian Hour
Sunday, May 22, 2022 3:30 p.m.

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

Pro Sanctity Weekend Retreat
June 10-11-12, 2022.

Immaculate Conception Seminary
440 West Neck Road
Huntington, N.Y. 11743

For more information, please call 718-649-0324