



Pro Sanctity Movement New York

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We are Called to be Reflections...

Perhaps one of the most commonly used words when describing Christianity is "love." When we think about what the essence of our faith is, we naturally think it is love. That is accurate. Love is what God is, according to Saint John and so if we are of God, we naturally are motivated by love.

However, there is another word which should also come to mind in thinking about our faith. That word is "fraternity." Another way of saying this is that we are



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all brothers and sisters. Love should extend even to those whom we do not know or our enemies. Fraternity implies more the relationship we have with one another because we are all believers; we all come together in one family with God as our Father.

In the Letter to the Romans, Saint Paul says: *Love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor* (Rm 12:10). This means within our community, we are being called to love each

other and to outdo one another in showing that love! A competition! A competition of love. It seems idealistic but don't we do that in our families? We anticipate each other's needs and we just do what we have to do for one another. Well, our faith community is a family as well. God is our Father and so we are all brothers and sisters.

Saint John goes even further when he says: *If someone who has worldly means*

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This Just In... From India

Rosemary Darmstadt

Fifteen Cooperatives renewed their Apostolate commitment to spread the Good News among Pro Sanctity families.



From January 11 - 30 General Moderator, Loredana Reitano (4th from left) and others visited Indian Nation where their vibrant and energetic presence aroused fresh vision among the Oblates and Pro Sanctity members of Indian Nation.



Pro Sanctity East Newsletter Editors

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Words from the Founder Servant of God William Gaiquinta The Mystique of Love—Adapted from Love is Revolution

We could describe the mystique of love as that clear understanding which comes when one knows and loves an ideal intimately and holds it dear above all else without compromises, fears, or vacillations. It is an authentic mystique when:

- . we are not ashamed to insist on the ideal and make every effort to spread and defend it
- . we do not fear difficulties or give up because of them
- . we do not yield to unjust pressure from others or give up too easily
- . we know how to cope with the tiredness and hard work that comes from realizing the ideal
- . we know how to escape the risks often tied with the ideal chosen as the purpose of our life.

The type of ideal has little importance; what matters is giving oneself to it, risking one's life for it. Our mystique of love needs to be a bit irrational and really infused with fervor to be accepted and lived without limits. If the Lord gives to someone the inner attraction for this mystique of love, we must not judge him or her as an unrealistic dreamer or as someone who is insane, but rather as a person attracted or caught by the Spirit. Don't we all need hearts on fire with love, quick to follow the interior movements of the Spirit?

We speak uselessly when we go on and on about the universal call to perfection, making it into a brilliant jewel--as has become commonplace to do--for great occasions, without speaking in a way to give this call any practical meaning whatsoever. But the worst danger comes from the general teaching to follow the minimum way and so reduce our vocation to sanctity to something that is trivial. How can we in our daily life, present the call to holiness and proclaim that love is revolution?

Pope Francis said... in "Joy of the Gospel"

88. The Gospel tells us constantly to run the risk of a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their pleas, with their joy which infects us in our close and continuous interaction. True faith in the incarnate Son of God is inseparable from self-giving, from membership in the community, from service, from reconciliation with others.

92. ... the way we relate to others, which truly heals instead of debilitating us, is a *mystical* fraternity, a contemplative fraternity. It is a fraternal love capable of seeing the sacred grandeur of our neighbor, of finding God in every human being, of tolerating the nuisances of life in common by clinging to the love of God, of opening the heart to divine love and seeking the happiness of others just as their heavenly Father does. Here and now, especially where we are a 'little flock' (Lk 12:32), the Lord's disciples to live as a community which is the salt of the earth and the light of the world (cf. Mt 5:13-16). We are called to bear witness to a constantly new way of living together in fidelity to the Gospel. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of community.

168. Rather than experts in dire prediction, dour judges bent on rooting out every threat and deviation, we should appear as joyful messengers of challenging proposals, guardians of the goodness and beauty which shine forth in a life of fidelity to the Gospel.

Continued from page 1

sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth (1 Jn 3:17-18). Saint John is saying that if we don't show love and live in a fraternal way, we do not enjoy God's love in us.

You see, we are called to be reflections of God. When we live in union and communion with one another we reflect God

and when we love one another we reflect what God is made of, that is, love!

Finally, Saint Peter sums it all up in giving us the way to live out our Christian lives with one another under God: *Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble (1 Pt 3:8).*



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

*“A man who works with his hands is a worker;
a man who works with his hands and his brain is a
craftsman; but a man who works with his hands, his
brain and his heart is an artist.” St. Francis of Assisi*

Inspirational Corner - Acts of Kindness

Jim and the Job

“My neighbor, Jim, had trouble deciding if he wanted to retire from the construction field until he ran into a younger man he'd worked with previously. The younger man had a wife and three children and was finding it difficult to make ends meet since he hadn't worked in some time. The next morning, Jim went to the union office and submitted his retirement paperwork. As for his replacement, he gave them the name of the young man. That was six years ago and that young husband and father has been employed ever since.”

Miranda Maclean, Brutus, Michigan

Breaking Bread

“Last December, before work, I stopped at a deli and ordered an ‘everything bagel’ with cream cheese. It was toasty warm and I couldn't wait to dig in. But, as I left the store, I noticed an older, indigent gentleman sitting at the bus stop. Knowing it would probably be his only warm meal of the day, I gave him the bagel.”

“But all was not lost because another customer from the deli saw what I did and offered me half of her bagel. I was so delighted because I realized that in one way or another, we are all looked after.”

Liliana Figueroa, Phoenix, Arizona

Ask Pro Sanctity...

Mona Edwards

According to the dictionary, a peacemaker is a person who brings about peace, especially by reconciling adversaries. St. Paul wrote to the Romans about God's mercy, grace, and forgiveness in justifying unjust people through the work of Christ, "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1). Our peace is secured through our faith in Jesus Christ. In one of the Beatitudes, Jesus Christ calls upon us in turn to be peacemakers "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." Just as He is the Son of God and is our supreme mediator between God and ourselves, so those who imitate His example of peacemaking at an earthly level, will be called sons of God.

Jesus Christ said before departing from his apostles as seen in John 14:27 --"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you"-- as his last will entrusted peace unto them and he left it for them to communicate his gospel of peace to all people in the world. The apostles in turn left the gospels—which teach us how to be mediators or peacemakers.

Now it is our duty and responsibility to be peacemakers. Throughout the bible there are examples of peacemaking--- Joseph reconciled with his brothers (Gen. 45), Jonathan made attempts to reconcile his father and David (1 Sam. 20), David found ways to be reconciled to Saul (1 Sam. 24:8–15). We can be peacemakers---some suggestions:

- Drop meaningless arguments that seem to be going nowhere.
- Stand out as the calm and collected one in whatever encounters you experience.
- Respect others no matter how angry you are at the person at the moment.

St. Paul urged us "if it is possible" and "as much as depends on you" to live peaceably with "all men." Peacemakers not only live peaceful lives but also try to bring peace and friendship to others, and to preserve peace between God and man.

The Personal Challenge

Nina L. Riti

Msgr. did it again...giving us several challenges in the lead article of this newsletter starting with "Love is 'fraternity'". Another way of saying that is that we are all brothers and sisters. Love should extend to those that we don't know and our enemies." Wow, that is a challenge...when I think of families where fathers don't talk to sons or daughters don't talk to mothers, siblings who refuse to share family gatherings if the other is present. Yet they all claim to be Christians...in word Yes... in deed No. How can we love a stranger or an enemy if we can't love our own family.

Before we can meet the challenge of reaching out to others as Msgr. suggested by referring to St. Peter who summed it up by saying "be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble" we need to look into our own hearts and try and understand why we are so angry with the people we once loved so dearly. Underneath that anger is HURT...how can they do that to me, how can I be so naïve to let them hurt me so much. Embracing the hurt and praying for the strength to forgive comes with grace and maybe, just maybe, we can be of one mind with them and try to be sympathetic and compassionate toward them. If we read further as to what St. Peter said we find he tells us "do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult...repay evil with blessing because to this you were called so that that you may inherit and be blessed". When I read this I started thinking of when I am driving my car and someone cuts me off or does something stupid and dangerous, my normal reaction is to get angry and think, if not say, very unchristian things...what if I said a prayer for them instead and asked God to help them drive safely and try and think why they did that to ME and not take it so personal but be sympathetic to them and ponder maybe they were late for work or an appointment. If we can start with one little change like this... seeking peaceful and loving reactions instead of negative responses we can achieve unity with our brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis has encouraged us to try and seek unity with all our brothers and sisters as we mark the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the door of a church in Germany. Much has to be done if we are to do what Jesus said when he prayed "that they may all be one as you Father are in me and I in you." John 17:20-21

Our Stories



Left: Msgr. Aguggia leads us in prayer as we line up at the tables of the food and dessert, as we celebrate the closing of Summer and the family annual reunion.



Above: Msgr. Aguggia Celebrates Founder's Day at St. Kevin Church



All enjoy good food and friendship



Left: Msgr. Steven smiles as we surprised him with a birthday cake and songs.



Above: Leadership workshop led by Jessi Kary, National Director.

Right & above: the representatives were updated and happy



Compiled by Ann Sutherland



Stanley Rother First US-Born Priest to be Named Blessed

The life of a 46-year-old priest from a small German farming community in Oklahoma who came to live and die in a remote, ancient Guatemalan village is quite remarkable. On September 23, 2017, Fr. Stanley Rother was beatified at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. The young native of Okarche, Oklahoma, had given up the comfort of his home town to serve the people of Guatemala for many of his formative years.

Stanley was always persistent from a young age. Even when he felt he was being called to the priesthood, life was not that easy for him. He struggled with some of his classes and even had to leave one seminary before graduating. However, he had the backing of many religious people and his fifth-grade teacher, Sister Clarissa Tenbrick, reminded him that the patron Saint of all priests, St. John Vianney, also struggled in the seminary.

In the spring of 1968, a few years after he was ordained, Fr. Stanley accepted an invitation to join the mission team established by the diocese of Oklahoma City and the diocese of Tulsa, at the invitation of Pope St. John XXIII. The team was dispatched to the remote village of Micatokia, Guatemala, where, in spite of his problems learning Latin in the seminary, he studied Spanish and the native language, Tz'utujil.

Life as a priest in Guatemala was quite different from what he was used to back home. Not only was he expected to say Mass, he was also a mechanic, a farmer, a builder, or whatever else was needed. He even set up the first Catholic radio station, which provided catechesis to the even more remote villages.

The violent Guatemalan civil war, already going on for a decade, inched closer to Micatokia. Disappearances, killings and danger soon became a part of daily life, but Fr. Stanley remained supportive to his indigenous people who were regarded as the enemy of the ruthless government, and Father Stanley found himself on the enemy's list. Between 1980 and 1981, the violence in the small village escalated to an almost unbearable point of abduction and killing. In a letter to Oklahoma Catholics, during what would be his last Christmas, the priest relayed to the people back home the dangers his mission parish faced daily.

"The reality is that we are in danger. But we don't know when or what form the government will use to further repress

the Church.... Given the situation, I am not ready to leave here just yet... But if it is my destiny that I should give my life here, then so be it.... I don't want to desert these people." He completed his letter with his trademark quote: "The shepherd cannot run at the first sign of danger. Pray for us that we may be a sign of the love of Christ for our people, that our presence among them will fortify them to endure these sufferings in preparation for the coming of the Kingdom."

On July 28, 1984 three ski-masked Ladinos (non-indigenous) men, who had been fighting the native people and rural poor of the country since the 60s, broke into the rectory. They were known for their kidnappings, and wanted to turn Father Stanley into one of "the missing."

But Father Stanley refused. The five-foot-ten, red-bearded missionary priest, struggled but did not call for help for fear of causing harm to the other people in the rectory. He was shot and killed by the gunmen as they fled.

In June 2015, the Theological Commission of the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints voted to recognize Fr. Stanley Rother as a martyr. Pope Francis recognized his martyrdom in early December 2016.

This merciful man who fed the hungry, sheltered the homeless, visited the sick, comforted the afflicted, bore wrongs patiently, buried the dead—and died a martyr's death, is now the first US-born priest to be named blessed.

Mark your Calendar for 2017!

...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 (for info 718-649-0324)

Come to the Bethany and spend some quiet time in conversation with the Lord

Bible Sharing

Our Lady of Miracles Parish
Every Thursday 7:30-9:00 pm
Father Simonetti Parish Center
E. 86th Street– Brooklyn, NY 11236

CONOZCAMOS a CRISTO

St. Fidelis Parish 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
1st and 3rd Sunday of each month
Sharing the Bible

CONOZCAMOS a CRISTO

Bay Ridge—Brooklyn, NY 11209
Wednesday Oct. 25 / 2nd & 4th Wed.
For info please call Gloria 718-848-3206
7:00 to 8:30 pm

Arise Program

St. Kevin Parish
Mon, Tue, at Pro Sanctity Center
Evening 7:00—8:30 pm
Wed, at Parish Center
Morning 9:30—11:00 am
Friday morning 9:30– 11:00 am Pro Sanctity
for info please call 718-357-5317 ext. 3

CONOZCAMOS A CRISTO

Corpus Christi Parish
Wednesday Oct. 18, 7:00-8:30 pm
Mr. & Mrs. Eduardo y Claudia Ruarte
32-34 72nd St., 2fl. East Elmhurst NY 11370

MARY' NATIVITY PARISH, *1st -3rd Tue. 9:30 am*
46-02 Parson Blvd. Flushing NY 11355

Pro Sanctity Weekend Retreat

April 27 –April 29, 2018

Don Bosco Retreat Center, Stony Point , NY
Retreat Master: Rev. Msgr. Steven Aguggia



Below: Some of the members Our Lady of Miracles smile for the camera at the end of an evening of “Study the Mystery of our Faith”

Above & Left: the group of St. Fidelis “Conozcamos a Cristo” study and share the Holy Scriptures led by Gloria Florez

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 join us in celebrating

A Day of Prayer for Universal Sanctification

Saturday, November 11, 2017

Mass 11:00 AM

Mary Queen of Heaven Church

1395 East 56th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234

Celebrant: Rev. Thomas F. Leach

Pastor of Mary Queen of Heaven Parish

For information and questions please call 718-649-0324

Light lunch will be served in the Parish hall

Pro Sanctity Weekend Retreat

April 27-April 29, 2018