



Year of the Founder

Fall 2013

Almost 100 Years Ago...

on June 25, 1914, Maria and Gaetano Giaquinta became the parents of their third child, Guglielmo (William). He spent the first nine years of his childhood with them in the place of his birth, Noto, Sicily, but when they moved to Rome, he was not able to join them until he was 11 years old.

However, some of his youthful escapades in the big city surely did not point to the saintly man he was to become. Guglielmo's favorite mode of transportation was to hang on the outside of trains

to avoid paying the fare. Then there was the time he, though acting with charitable motives, collected stamps for the missions, but played 'hooky' from school for a month to do it. His older brother kept the secret, then finally told his father after the brothers had a fight.

Gaetano soon decided that his youngest son needed discipline and sent him to the Minor Seminary in Rome where he learned good study habits and self-control. Most important, it was there that he discerned his vocation. Though Guglielmo was developing a strong character, he was also becoming a kind, gentle, modest, and holy young man.

After continuing his formation in the Major Seminary of St. John Lateran, Guglielmo was ordained a priest in 1939. Further study led to a law degree and appointment as Judicial Vicar in the Vicariate of Rome – an office that he held for ten years. He was known as a faithful priest, an effective spiritual director and retreat master, an



understanding confessor, an eloquent preacher, and a gifted writer.

In the aftermath of World War II, Msgr. Giaquinta saw the need to minister to Italian youth who were rootless and searching for something. Thus in 1947, he founded the Pro Sanctity Movement as a means to spread the Universal Call to Holiness and provide a structure that would give meaning to their lives.

Guglielmo Giaquinta became a bishop in 1968 and continued

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The first of 4 special issues commemorating Bishop Giaquinta's 100th Birthday

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This Just In...

Agnes Rus, A.O.

**Update on the Cause of
Beatification of Servant of God
Bishop William Giaquinta
Founder of the
Pro Sanctity Movement**



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

*continues his study of the Creed
.....*

Last time, we talked about the beginning of the Creed... God our Father.

We turn now to the second (and longest) section, that is, the part that describes the Son, Jesus Christ. There is really too much to discuss in just one short article. It requires an entire course on Christology (the theological study of Christ) and Mariology (the theological study of Mary).

I would like to concentrate our attention, then, on one important aspect of the mystery of Jesus Christ. In fact, it is so important and central to us that, when reciting the Creed, we honor this section in a particular way by a bow or by a genuflection.

"...And by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man."

Here is the mystery of the Incarnation which is the central mystery of Christ. Imagine if you will... God, the Creator of all things, the All-Mighty, becomes a man, human in all things but sin, out of love for His creation... us! "Incarnation" means "the taking on flesh"... God becomes man.

The mystery of the Incarnation is what makes possible our salvation. The Death and Resurrection of the Lord is possible

because of the Incarnation. The Blessed Virgin Mary has a tremendous role in this. Could God have chosen to accomplish Salvation another way? Of course! But He chose to have the Second Person of the Trinity become a human being through the cooperation of the Blessed Virgin and so her participation in the mystery of the Incarnation is paramount. This is why the Church honors and venerates the Mother of God in a profound way. This is why her greatest title is in fact, "Mother of God." Can we easily see how it all stems from the central mystery of the Incarnation?

The Incarnation also means that the created world is good. Sometimes in history, various groups of heretics claimed that the world was evil or that created things drew us away from God. However, the fact that God became man (a creation) proves that God loves His creation and that since it is from God, it is good. We can, of course, misuse creation and sin but that is a corruption of what God intends. The mystery of the Incarnation is also the reason we use images in our churches and for our devotion (pictures, statues, icons, etc.). God became man and so is able to be pictured. These things (and all created things) should lead us to God, as long as we are not too attached to them and they become more important for us than God Himself.

So...it is easy to see why we bow at these words when we recite the Creed (or genuflect on Christmas and the Annunciation). They are the words which describe the very heart of our Catholic Faith!



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

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his pastoral care, deep concern for his fellow priests, and apostolic activity as the prophet of the Call to Holiness, such that in his lifetime the Pro Sanctity Movement spread from his native Italy to the United States, Belgium, Malta, and India, and more recently to Latvia (north of Lithuania), and Holland.

Although Bishop Giaquinta was ill for the last eleven years of his life, he served his diocese as long as he was able and led all branches of his Pro Sanctity Family until his death

in Rome on June 15, 1994. Ten years after his death, the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of Servant of God Guglielmo Giaquinta was opened.



Bishop Giaquinta's Coat of Arms

(at left) contains the symbols of a **boat** which depicts the Church, firm in her direction in the midst of the forces of evil represented by the **stormy seas**. The **star** stands for Mary, Mother of the Church and light for its journey.

DUC IN ALTUM

"Put out into deep water." (Luke 5:4) expresses Bishop Giaquinta's teaching to be more and to do more.

From the Desk of the Director

Donna Spoto

The universal Church recognizes November 1st as All Saints Day: a day we recognize the holiness of the saints in heaven—both known and unknown. The desire of Bishop Giaquinta to communicate to all people their fundamental vocation to holiness was so great that he designated November 1st as the Day of Universal Sanctification. This essential Pro Sanctity celebration touches the very core of our baptismal call to live holiness in our daily lives and the Founder dreamt that this would become a celebration of the whole world.

This year's celebration will be particularly poignant, as it opens the **Year of the Founder** (November 1, 2013 to November 1, 2014), celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Bishop Giaquinta. Our newsletter will focus on the life of our Founder and will assist us in coming to know him more intimately—as a person, priest, bishop, founder, and devoted Servant of God. We celebrate his life as a true apostle of holiness!

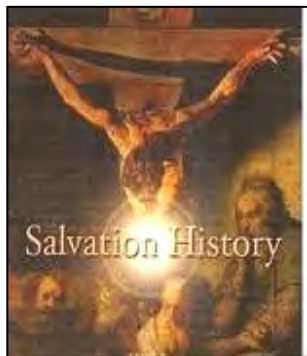
We are particularly blessed to have as our Episcopal Moderator Bishop Ray Chappetto, who has already embraced with great enthusiasm the Year of the Founder by sharing the Pro Sanctity message with all of his brother bishops in the United States (see enclosed letter). His love of the Pro Sanctity Movement shines through in his beautiful letter and generous availability to Pro Sanctity.

Since the core of Pro Sanctity is to understand and know Christ personally and respond fully to His love, Bishop Chappetto shares that the Pro Sanctity Movement promotes 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**. This was affirmed by our Holy Father Pope Francis in his morning homily September 26, 2013. The Holy Father stated, "In order to fully understand Christ, one must speak the three languages that are necessary to know him: that of **"the mind, heart, and action."** What a beautiful gift to know how closely the Pro Sanctity Movement, formed so many years ago, is united with the Holy Father and the Universal Church.

Ask Pro Sanctity...

Salvation History - Part III

Agnes Rus , A.O.



The Salvation History throughout the Old Testament is focused on Jesus Christ. The Church teaches us that Jesus Christ is the complete fulfillment of Divine Revelation; all that God wants us to know is revealed to us in the life and words of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Covenant, and not only of the Old Law but also the Old Testament roles of priests, prophets and kings. He is the New Covenant ratified in His own blood (Hebrews 7:22). He is the Prophet, the Priest and the King.

Out of the perfection of Jesus' humanity He returned to the Father "love for love." Christ's perfect living for the Will of the Father is both the perfection of man and the glory of God. In Christ and by His grace man becomes both fully alive and the glory of God (St. Irenaeus).

The History of Salvation is not over, we are actively part of it. The knowledge of God's Plan before and in Jesus, is the foundation of the work and mission of the Church. The Catholic Church reveals Jesus Christ to every generation and brings His salvation to the people of every time and place.

The Personal Challenge

Nina L. Riti

Msgr. Aguggia did it again. He presents in Part II of the Creed a challenge for all of us to embrace as we near the end of the Year of Faith. He says, "The Incarnation which is the central mystery of Christ...God becomes man" Wow, we say it so easily. Do we really comprehend the magnitude of such a statement?

In an attempt to explain this concept to my Confirmation class I used the analogy of what it would mean if they, human beings capable of thought, reading, writing...all their human qualities and gifts, put that spirit into the body of an ANT...no longer able to read, write, think etc. – only able to scurry around for food and mere existence. Would they give up all their gifts and do that for the love of a really good person. You know their response. NO, NO way. I then said that this is nothing in comparison to what God the Son, fully Divine, gave up by becoming

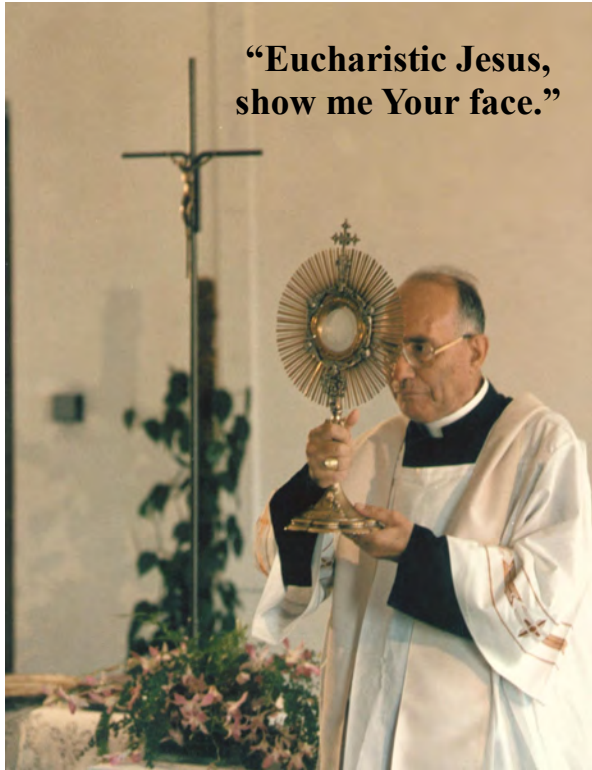
man. This great sacrifice challenges us to live a life that Christ asked us to live...one of love for ALL of God the Father's creation because, to again quote Msgr. Aguggia, "Incarnation also means that the created world is good...we can misuse creation and sin but that is a corruption of what God intends" and therefore, the challenge for me is to care for and love ALL of God's creation. That means every single human being ...even the person who has hurt you and you are angry with. Can you really forgive and love them or do you give that lip service and walk around thinking I have the right to be angry because of what they did?

Sometimes I think people care for their pets more than they do human beings. They reason that the pet does not choose the evil deed that some humans choose. I truly believe that man is incapable of choosing evil for evil's sake...but rather, the evil which

one is doing, is presented as a good, necessary act and that one has the right to do 'whatever.' The person acts by fooling themselves that this act is really good. To oversimplify...I don't rob someone's house because it is wrong, I need the money to buy the drugs so I can function in this world – thus presenting a bad as a good.

Abusing the environment for our own greed and valuing material things over people, are just some examples of the individual presenting a situation as good when it really is abusive and wrong. Even Pope Francis, in his January 5, 2013 weekly address, said the "culture of waste tends to become a common mentality that affects everyone." He links disrespect for the environment and disrespect for life. So, we face these challenges daily and must pray for discernment and strength to perceive the situations rightly and act accordingly.

Journey with our Founder



“May there be love and fraternal unity among us, as well as fidelity to those You have chosen to be the rock and pillars of Your Church.”





Venerable Benedetta Bianchi Porro

This is the story of a young girl named Benedetta Bianchi Porro who was born on August 8, 1936 in northern Italy. She was one of six children in a family whose mother had a deep faith that she cultivated in her family. As an infant Benedetta was stricken with polio, the first and the least of the medical problems that were to confront this bright, beautiful girl. The disease went into remission but left her right leg shorter than her left, causing her to limp. One day a boy said, "Oh the cripple" while playing a game in the schoolyard. Her brother heard this and started a fight with the young man. Benedetta yelled at her brother and said "He called me the cripple. What is wrong with that? It's the truth." As a result, the boys stopped fighting. This was the way Benedetta was to deal with the many crosses she would bear in her short lifetime.

Jesus is her true guide

At the age of 10, in 1946, she began keeping a diary about the many things she was dealing with in her life. In 1953, she started losing her hearing. This created many difficulties and on one occasion when she could not hear the question her Latin teacher had asked her she became worried. She wrote in her diary "What do I look like when this happens? But what does it matter? Maybe one day I will no longer understand anything that other people say, but I will always

hear the voice of my soul, and that is the true guide that I must follow." What a prophetic statement from a young high school girl. Benedetta was to eventually lose the sense of hearing completely. However, she graduated high school and went on to college but missed getting her medical degree by one course because she contracted neurofibromatosis. Her doctors eventually concurred that she indeed had this terrible illness that was also called Von Recklinghausen disease. This caused her to lose not only her hearing, but also her sight, and complete feeling of her entire body except her left hand. When she initially began losing her hearing she had the foresight to study lip reading and sign language, as this was to become the only means she would eventually have to communicate. With great patience her mother would trace letters on her hand so that Benedetta would be able to know who was visiting her and greet the visitor cheerfully.

She is happy and free from sin

Benedetta loved the words of Saint Francis who said, "Praised be You, my Lord, for our sister bodily death, whom no living man can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin". She told her Mother "How happy I am, Mama, to be pure as I go to the Lord, without mortal sin". Here was a young girl who lost her hearing, lost her sight, lost feeling of her entire body except her left hand saying "How happy I am." Don't misunderstand...it was not always happy, cheerful Benedetta... she wrote a friend once "There are times that I would like to throw myself out the window" ...but she would not give in and with acceptance came the peace...eventually she was completely bedridden, denied those senses that we use to communicate and experience life and yet she writes "I live everyday life, but how full it seems to me! Life itself seems a miracle to me, and I would like to sing a hymn of praise to Him Who has given it to me." To reiterate, the ups and

downs of her emotions, I again quote Benedetta when she wrote a friend "I am going through a period of great aridity. I feel alone, tired, somewhat humiliated and without much patience. The worst is that I am not at peace. Pray for me, pray for me. Why is this happening to me? Why is God allowing this?" Her friend's advice helped her through this difficult time and she was finally able to write someone who was going through a rough time by telling him, don't ask WHY, rather ask that Jesus walk with you in carrying your cross because she understood what Jesus felt when he said on the cross "My God, my God why have you abandoned me?" My understanding of the discourse with this young man was that asking WHY causes us much pain; it is with the full acceptance of the cross that we experience peace.

Her 'special' miracle at Lourdes

On a trip to Lourdes in 1962 Benedetta had a true epiphany. She and another young girl were at the grotto for a final meeting with the Madonna and Benedetta told her, "The Madonna is there, she is looking at you." Suddenly the girl got up from her stretcher and was cured, but Benedetta remained completely paralyzed, unable to hear or speak. In her book *Benedetta*, Maria Grazia Dantoni writes, "She had gone there to be cured. Little by little, she understood, consented, abandoned herself to Him." Benedetta herself who a year after her trip to Lourdes, found her condition worsened and said, "I've realized more than ever the wealth of my state and I want nothing but to keep it. THAT was the miracle of Lourdes for me."

Benedetta died on January 23, 1964, only 28 years of age. In December 1993 Pope John Paul II approved her journey to sainthood and now Venerable Benedetta awaits a miracle for the next step to sainthood. What better way to close than quoting her

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Mark your Calendar 2013! 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.

Year of the Founder Pilgrimage to Sicily, Rome, Assisi

June 17-28, 2014

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

**Please contact Jessi for more information or to register.
Deadline is December 1, 2013 or when full. Space is limited.
402-661-0223 or prosantcity@prosantcity.org**

Festival of Faith

For children 3-9 years

Our Lady of Angels Parish
Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, NY 11209
Nov. 16 & Dec. 21, 2013, 4-6 pm

Bible Sharing

Getting to Know Jesus

Every Thursday, 7:30-9:00 pm
Our Lady of Miracles School
Canarsie, Brooklyn, NY 11236

Pro Sanctity Retreat

March 21-23, 2014

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception
Huntington, NY 11743

Spanish Speaking

Catolicismo

Every other Tuesday beg. Oct. 15
St. Fidelis, Madonna Room
College Point, NY 11356

For information: 718-649-0324 or prosantcitynewyork@verizon.net
www.nyprosantcity.org

Venerable Benedetta Bianchi Porro - continued from page 6

"I want to say to those who are suffering, to the sick, that if we are humble and docile, the Lord will do great things in us."

The author of the book *Benedetta* ends with telling the legend that Benedetta had talked about ...a beggar saw the golden coach of a great king arriving. He stopped to wait for alms in the hope that the king would liberate him from his poverty. But the king, having descended from the coach, unexpectedly held out his own hand. What have you got to give me? Confused and hesitant, the beggar drew from his sack a grain of corn and gave it to him. In the evening, emptying out the sack, among his handful of possessions he found a grain of pure gold. He wept bitterly that he had not had the courage to give all he possessed. Are you able to give everything?

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.

Day of Universal Sanctification

Year of the Founder Servant of God Bishop Giaquinta - Apostle of Holiness

St. Margaret Church

66-05 79th Place · Middle Village, NY 11379

Saturday, November 9, 2013

Holy Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Bishop Raymond F. Chappetto

Main Celebrant and Homilist

Pro Sanctity Mission

St. Kevin Church

45th Ave & 195th Street, Flushing, NY 11358

December 1, 2 & 3, 2013