

Good News



The Pro Sanctity Newsletter

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What Do You Cherish?

Do you remember back to your grammar school days? A noun announces a person, place, or thing. A verb is a word that describes an action.

So... Food is a noun. It describes what we eat. Eat is a verb because it describes what we do with the food.

Okay. That's enough grammar. Faith is a noun. Believe is a verb. What we believe is the content of our faith.

What does all this grammar have to do with Pro Sanctity? Well, our faith is something that we possess, something we hand down from one generation to the next. It is something we **cherish** and hold dear. It is something we define and try to pass on to others.



The Lord asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac in faith.

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To believe in the content of our faith takes some effort. To believe as a verb describes what we must do. We believe and so we act. Faith without actions is just an academic exercise. Faith without actions is something that can be described in a book. Faith without actions is something that even a nonbeliever can understand. Even an atheist can write about the Catholic faith. He can describe what Catholics believe and he also can describe what Catholics teach.

But a nonbeliever can never act upon this knowledge in the same way that a believer can. A believer is someone who takes the content of faith and puts it into action. Faith without works is dead we read in the Scriptures. That means that every good Catholic needs not simply to understand his faith, but also to act upon it.

As always, we look to our ancestors in the faith as examples. The Saints provide wonderful examples of both the noun "faith" and the verb "believe."

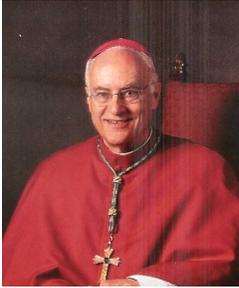
Just two examples... St. Thomas Aquinas was a man of great learning. His theological works have helped generations of Christians to understand the content of their faith. In fact, his theology is considered basically an official theology of the Church. As a contribution to

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This Just In...

Rosemary Darmstadt

Our New National Episcopal Moderator



Bishop Chappetto

Bishop Raymond Chappetto has been a friend and supporter of Pro Sanctity since 1983 when he was our next-door neighbor, Fr. Ray, the pastor of Our Lady of Miracles, affiliated with the Pro Sanctity Center in Canarsie.

Now, as Bishop Chappetto, he has formally accepted our invitation to assume the role of the National Episcopal Moderator of the Pro Sanctity Movement, following the recent retirement of Most Reverend Elden Francis Curtiss as Archbishop of Omaha, Nebraska.

In a startling demonstration of Divine Providence our long time friend is again our next-door neighbor as the pastor of St. Kevin in Flushing where our new Pro Sanctity Center is located.

We extend our heartfelt best wishes to him in his role as the National Episcopal Moderator of our Movement.

Pro Sanctity East Newsletter Editors

Angela Di Paola, A.O.
Rosemary Darmstadt
Mariakutty Joseph, A.O.
Nina L. Riti

Words from the Founder

Servant of God William Giaquinta

I BELIEVE IN YOU

I believe in you, Father, God of love.
Your love for us is infinite and you ask of us
in return a response of total love.

I thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ,
eternal word made flesh, and our brother.
By his life-death-resurrection he has not only
saved us, but he made us new.

Give us the Spirit of love to guide us
in living out your message.
Form in us the image of your Son
and grant us the courage
to extend to all your invitation to holiness...

May Mary, Mother of your Son
and our Mother, assist us.

May your saints, our models
who have gone before us on the path of love,
be our companions. Amen

You May Wonder...

What is an Episcopal Moderator?

Agnes Rus, A.O.

Why do we need a National Episcopal Moderator and what does he do? In the Pro Sanctity Charter, our Founder, Bishop William Giaquinta, indicated that each nation should have an Episcopal Moderator. The Episcopal Moderator has the function to ensure:

- ◇ the orthodoxy of the message
- ◇ the faithfulness of the Movement to the Church and her teachings
- ◇ that the Movement cares for the spiritual aspects of the members
- ◇ that their theological and spiritual formation responds to the Founder's guidance so all can walk towards the fullness of love.

We thank our previous Moderator, Archbishop Elden Francis Curtiss, of Omaha, Nebraska, for his many years of guidance for the Pro Sanctity Movement. Teresa Monaghan, National Moderator of the Apostolic Oblates, told us he is delighted that Bishop Chappetto has said, "yes."

We, too, are delighted that Bishop Chappetto said, "yes" and ask the Lord to bless him as he journeys with us, especially this year, into the Year of Faith.

an intellectual understanding of the Catholic faith it is unparalleled. It is doubtful that such knowledge could ever even be duplicated. What a tremendous contribution to the legacy of the Catholic faith. Here is an example of what the noun "faith" means.

On the other hand, we can look to Blessed Mother Teresa. She is an example of faith put into action. Her work among the poorest of the poor shows us what it means to be a Christian in action. She helped people without thinking about the cost. She exemplified what is said in the Scriptures, "without cost you have received, without cost you are to give."

Now, is one more important than the other? The answer to that is simply, no. We need to understand what we believe and we need to put that into practice. Each of us is capable of doing both. Some people might dedicate themselves to one or the other as in the examples we have just cited. But all of us are called to learn about our faith more and more and to put that faith into practice by expressing it in the love of one another.

Our involvement in the Pro Sanctity Movement offers us the opportunity to do both. We have times when we can learn more about our faith. We also have opportunities, especially through our parishes, to give of ourselves to others in love as

Christians are called to do.

Perhaps we can look to our examples, our friends, the Saints to inspire us to do both of these things: to understand our faith and to put it into practice.



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

New Local Board for Pro Sanctity East Announced

By Donna Spoto, Director Pro Sanctity East



As a Director of Faith Formation for a local parish in Queens, August and September always bring a flurry of activity to prepare for and begin a new pastoral year. Those of us in Pro Sanctity work on the same pastoral year calendar, which is only fitting since we strive to live out our baptismal call to holiness in our daily lives by serving God and others in our own parishes. This year brought with it even more activity for me as I was invited to and accepted a three year term as the new Director for Pro Sanctity East effective August 15th.

I take the reins of leadership from two very capable and

dedicated Co-directors, Miss Angela DiPaola, AO and Miss Nina Riti. They have served for a great number of years leading an amazing Local Board which has helped Pro Sanctity East thrive and grow through some very challenging changes which included moving our Pro Sanctity Center from its home of some 35 years in Canarsie, Brooklyn, to its new 2 year old home in Flushing, Queens.

While change is always a challenge, I am grateful to and am pleased to announce that the National Pro Sanctity Board has confirmed the new core Local Board for Pro Sanctity East for three year terms: Msgr. Steven Aguggia has agreed to stay on as Local Spiritual Advisor; Miss Rosa Charles (former local board counselor) has accepted the position of Secretary; and Mrs. Teresa Sorrentino has accepted the position of Treasurer.



- 1. The 50th Anniversary of Vatican II*
- 2. The Feast Day of Blessed Pope John XXIII, assigned to this date by Pope John Paul II so that John XXIII and the Council are forever locked together*
- 3. The 20th Anniversary of the promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- 4. The beginning of the Year of Faith announced by Pope Benedict XVI*



Ask Pro Sanctity... Are Both the Old Testament and New Testament the Inspired Word of God?

Nina L. Riti

Most books we read once, enjoy them and put them on the shelf and forget them. *What is it with this book that we can read it over and over and still get something new and inspiring.*

When I was growing up we were discouraged from reading the Bible. But the Author of the Bible wanted all of us to reap the benefits of *HIS* inspired Word and thanks to Vatican II and a synod of bishops called by the pope in 2008 that encouraged all Catholics to read the Bible there has been a wonderful resurgence in many parishes for Bible study or scripture sharing.

As some of you might know, the Catholic Bible has 73 books...46 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The Old Testament is made up of a large number of separate books collected into a single volume. Most biblical scholars today believe that the first Five books of the Old Testament were written by Moses, the rest by prophets and unknown writers in 1400 BC to 400 BC.

The New Testament Gospels, which we probably are most familiar with, were written by Mark, Matthew, and Luke and are known as the Synoptic Gospels because they are so similar and listed in the order written from 70 AD to 90 AD, while John was written last in the 100's AD. Luke wrote the Acts of the Apostles and John is the author of the last book of Revelation

The Bible starts the readings of these writers...The Gospel **according** to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.....Look at when the books were written...these Gospel writers were spreading the word of God to different groups. The followers of these writers were inspired to write down what the Evangelists were saying.

The various writers, known and unknown, give ample credence that these writings both Old and New HAD to be inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit. The power of the Sacred Word is felt today just as it was when Paul wrote it in 2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is God-breathed

and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" from the New Testament or from Deuteronomy, 18:21-22: And you may say in your heart "How shall we know the Word which the Lord has spoken...if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing the LORD has not spoken". Only writings that are inspired by God could have been so alive then and so alive TODAY unless the Holy Spirit inspired them then and still does today.

I repeat....All of Sacred Scripture is the inspired writing of the Holy Spirit. Regardless of which or how many persons wrote any book of the Bible, God remains the One True Author of all. John wrote his Gospel, but some other persons completed it, all under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote his letters, but with help from Timothy, Silvanus, and perhaps others.

Yet each book of the Bible, both Old and New, is entirely the work of the One God, Who is The Author of all.

The Personal Challenge

The personal challenge of the Inspired Word of God

Nina L Riti

*Every week we go to church and hear the Word of God, and the priest gives a homily on the Word just read. My question to you is - did you **HEAR** what God was telling **YOU**? The Word was written 2000 years ago. The message to the people then is just as true for **YOU** today.*

Someone once said that the Bible was a love letter from God. Each week we get this love letter. Let's say we go to church worried about something and we hear, "Do not worry" in the Scripture of the day (See Mt 6:34; 10:19; Luke 12:22). It might say do not worry about what you are going to say, eat, wear, or do not worry about tomorrow.

If you are afraid, there are 365 references in the Sacred Scriptures about not being afraid.

Worry and fear, two paralyzing emotions are addressed by our God to us. Do you have the faith to believe these words despite the overwhelming situations you are in today? The Word is inspired by God to help us in our everyday life. It tells us how to live - to love everyone, not just those we like, but more importantly, people we are angry at or who don't love us in return. Reach out to the Christ in them. It's up to you to listen and act.

*James 2:14 says, "What good is it if someone has faith but not good works." When the priest says, "The mass is ended," we say "Thanks be to God" not because it's over, but because as people of faith we are going to put into practice the message we just heard from our Beloved**Are you up to the challenge?***

Our Stories



Festival of Faith at Our Lady of the Angels, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn began with indoor and outdoor fun activities for the children.



Our annual picnic was a huge success. It was held in the Parish Hall at St. Kevin's, Flushing, Queens. It started with Msgr. Aguggia (not shown) leading us in prayer. Fun & food sharing (below left), and the youngest PS members and their parents.

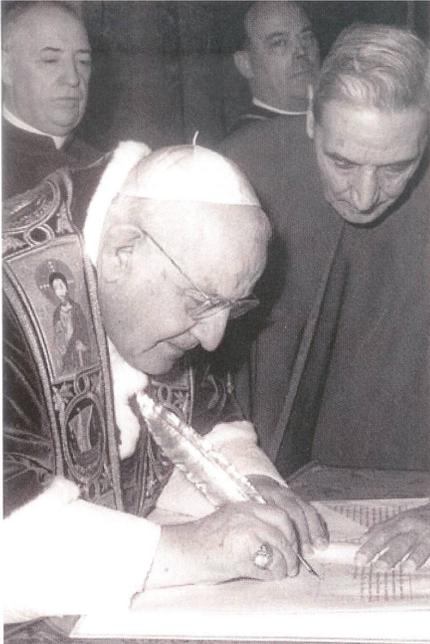


Meet the new local core Pro Sanctity East Board: (Counter clockwise) Donna Spoto, Director; Rosa Charles, Secretary and Teresa Sorrentino, Treasurer.



Our Models ... Saints for Our Times

Compiled by
Rosemary Darmstadt



Blessed John XXIII Convenes Vatican II

Pope John XXIII was born Angelo Roncalli in Bergamo, Italy, on November 25, 1881, the third of 13 children of peasant parents. He received his early religious education from his family and from the spiritual life of his parish and entered the seminary at the age of 12. A scholarship enabled him to further his religious education with a short interruption to serve in the Italian Army. Returning to the seminary he obtained a doctorate in theology and was ordained in 1904. Additional study of canon law led to his appointment as Secretary to Bishop Giacomo Radini-Tedeschi where for nine years Angelo obtained first-hand knowledge about the problems of the working class.

He served as a military chaplain in World War I, and in 1944 was chosen by Pope Pius XII to become nuncio to Paris and was active in healing wartime rifts. At

age 72 he was made cardinal-patriarch of Venice where his pastoral care for the parishes and working classes in his diocese endeared him to the people. However, this assignment was to last only five years, when in 1958 he was summoned to Rome for a papal conclave which, to his surprise, concluded with his election as the successor to Pope Pius XII.

Guided by the Holy Spirit

As John XXIII, he soon became just as surprising to his electors, who because of his age, viewed him as a 'caretaker' pope. Yet, here was a man with a burning desire to renew the life of the Church and reunite Christians throughout the world. Just three months after his election, this 'caretaker' pope decided to act on what he said, "came to us in the first instance in a sudden flash of inspiration." This inspiration of the Holy Spirit was, of course, to convene an ecumenical council. In spite of strong opposition from the Roman Curia (the papal court made up primarily of cardinals), the council, better known as Vatican II, was convened on October 11, 1962.

In his opening address to the council, John XXIII declared that the mission of the Church was not to hoard precious doctrine, but to go eagerly and without fear to the task demanded by the present age – and thus be faithful to what the Church has done in the past 20 centuries. On the evening of that memorable day the pope, exhausted as he was, went to a window to address and bless the crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square. Then this warmhearted man

made one of the most unforgettable pronouncements of his papacy, "As you return to your homes, give your little children a kiss – tell them it is from Pope John." Not only was "good Pope John" (as the Italian people called him) known for his gentle and loving manner, but it is said, for his sense of humor. Once when a cardinal complained that a mere usher in the Vatican earned as much as he did, Pope John responded: "That usher has ten children; I hope the cardinal doesn't."

Looking Toward the Future

Pope John thought the council would conclude within months, but died on June 3, 1963 before the second session. On his deathbed he said, "It is not that the Gospel has changed, it is that we have begun to understand it better...[we] were enabled to compare different cultures and traditions and know that the moment has come to discern the signs of the times, to seize the opportunity and to look far ahead." Pope John XXIII was beatified, by Pope John Paul II on September 3, 2000.

Vatican II was continued by Pope Paul VI and concluded three years later in December 1965. Today we can still hear the voice of Pope John's secretary, Archbishop Lori Capovilla, who at 96, gives this assessment of his former "boss:" For all the changes he brought to the Church, Blessed John saw himself as acting in full continuity with Catholicism's millennial teachings and traditions. Precisely because he was a great conservative, he was able to bring the world a message of love, hope, and faith.

Mark your Calendar 2012!

...Come and grow with us

Festival of Faith

For children 3 - 9 yrs
Arts & crafts and Fun & Faith
Our Lady of Angels Parish
Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, NY 11209
Saturday, Sep. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Bible Sharing

Getting to know Jesus
Every Thursday
Our Lady of Miracles School
Brooklyn, NY 11236
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

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 and spend some quiet time in conversation with the Lord.

Please refer to the insert about the Year of Faith and the School of Formation

Apostolic Oblates in the U.S. = 50 years = Pro Sanctity in the U.S.

The Double Anniversary celebrated in California on September 28th marked the coming of the first four Apostolic Oblates from Italy to the USA in 1962. With the arrival of Franca Salvo, Giovanna Piccioli, Palmira Tafani, and Vilma Di Gennaro (deceased) the seeds of the Pro Sanctity Movement were firmly planted in American soil.

Fifty years later the Movement is thriving and we sincerely thank these hardy pioneers for **making it so.**

Some Highlights of Vatican II

Vatican II was the first council to invite Protestant and Eastern Orthodox churches to send observers. Also very evident at this council was the diversity of national & cultural origins among attendees from all over the world. Just a few of the many declarations made by Vatican II were decrees directed toward:

- **People with Religious Vocations** – reform of the clergy and renewal of religious orders;
- **The Laity** – now called the “People of God” who will have greater participation in the liturgy and are called to bring God out into the world
- **The Liturgy** – encouraging more diversity in the language and culture of each country
- **Ecumenism** – seeking unity among religions; condemnation of anti-Semitism;
- **The Blessed Virgin** – proclamation of Mary as the Mother of the Church;
- **All People** – the Universal Call to Holiness invites everyone, regardless of a person’s state in life, to “the fullness of the Christian life.”

Vatican II has often been criticized for its apparent lack of historical perception by overlooking history and tradition in order to accommodate the needs of today’s world. Nevertheless, it is important to recognize that the Church is always in renewal and the Holy Spirit, is always with us. After the First Vatican council in 1870, Blessed John Henry Newman said, “It is rare for a council not to be followed by great confusion” and predicted that it takes a century to fully integrate its wisdom.

During this Year of Faith, Pope Benedict XVI asks us to reflect on the fact that “the Church, both before and after the council, is the same one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church journeying through time.”

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

A Day of Prayer

St. Kevin Church

45-21 194th Street, Flushing, NY 11358

Saturday, November 3, 2012

11:00 AM

Main Celebrant: Most Rev. Raymond F. Chappetto

*Auxiliary Bishop of the Brooklyn Diocese, Vicar for Clergy and Consecrated Life,
Episcopal Moderator of the Pro Sanctity Movement
and Pastor of St. Kevin Parish*

Any question please call 718-649-0324