



Pro Sanctity Movement New York

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How do *WE* say: “Our Father?”

May the **fire** of your love burn away the impurities of our human weakness, and give us the strength to follow the invitation to the infinite **perfection** of the Father.

Of faith, give us firmness; of charity, zeal; of hope unshakable certainty.
Give us the desire to be heroic in every virtue, and the trust to attain holiness with the help of Mary, your mother and our mother. Amen.

(Parts 3 and 4 of the Pro Sanctity Prayer by Bishop Giaquinta)



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How often do we pray prayers without thinking about them? They become just words we recite. Sometimes, it is important for us to stop and think about what we are saying. It is said that Saint Teresa of Avila sometimes could not get beyond the word “Father” in the Lord’s Prayer because she became enveloped in meditation about the meaning of that one word!

The prayers of Bishop William Giaquinta are veritable storehouses for meditation material. The Pro Sanctity prayer

that we recite is filled with images and ideas that can and should lead us further and deeper into the mystery of God’s love for us and teach us how to move forward on our journey of sanctity.

Look at these last two paragraphs of the prayer!

Fire is a powerful image. Fire, obviously, can destroy. We have all seen how that is true. People are made homeless because fire destroyed their homes. It can eat

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This Just In...
Rosemary Darmstadt

**A New
Pro Sanctity Center**

A new Pro Sanctity Center was opened to serve the Indian community in Ontario, Canada with the arrival of four missionary Apostolic Oblates.

Below: Teresa & Mariakutty with the four new Indian Oblates



Teresa Monaghan, consultant to the Pro Sanctity Movement from Omaha, NE and Mariakutty from New York went to Ontario to welcome the new missionaries.

May God's blessings be upon this Center and Servant of God Bishop Giaquinta's prayers continue to be fulfilled as Pro Sanctity spreads to other countries throughout the world.

**Pro Sanctity East Newsletter
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Words from the Founder

Servant of God William Giaquinta

"Perhaps, at times, we may feel that the Father has abandoned us, especially when things do not go our way. But he knows and he loves us; he leads our lives toward perfection – for he is perfection – but, of course, we need to cooperate." We can do this best by "turning to the Father [when] we do not feel interiorly aflame with the reality of our rapport with him. We need to ask the Spirit to stir in us love for the Father; ask Christ to inspire us with some of his love for the Father; ask the Father to help us know him, love him and see his face, not through exceptional events, but through our day as it unfolds before us."

Excerpts from The Face of the Father

"Although it is our duty to strive for perfection, it is also true that our mortal body makes the path difficult, and the enemies of our soul cease not from their attacks...[and] our own interior weakness and temptations...produce in our souls a feeling of faintness and sadness, which means only one thing – distrust in ourselves...[and] the means to attain it...When the ascent to the perfection of the Father makes us weary, whisper a word of help, O Mary: trust! If we will listen to this word of yours, the way will be easier, the goal closer, and our confidence more certain that we shall reach sanctity."

Excerpts from Prayer to Our Lady of Trust

Pope Francis said... *(Copyright – Liberia Editrice Vaticana)*

"In the well-known Sermon on the Mount, which opens with the Beatitudes, the Lord teaches that perfection lies in love, the fulfillment of the precepts of the Law. In this same perspective, St. Luke specifies that perfection is merciful love: to be perfect means to be merciful. Is a person who is not merciful perfect? No! A person who is not merciful good? No! Goodness and perfection are rooted in mercy. Certainly, God is perfect. However, if we consider Him in this way, it becomes impossible for men to aim towards that absolute perfection. Instead, having Him before our eyes as merciful, allows us to better understand what constitutes His perfection, and this spurs us to be, as He is, full of love, compassion, mercy."

General Audience, September 21, 2016

"Mary, woman of decision, illuminate our mind and our heart, so that we may obey, unhesitating, the word of your Son, Jesus; give us the courage to decide, not to let ourselves be dragged along, letting others direct our life. Mary, woman of action, obtain that our hands and feet move 'with haste' toward others, to bring them the charity and love of your Son, Jesus, to bring the light of the Gospel to the world as you did."

Prayer offered in St. Peter's Square, May 31, 2013

Continued from page 1

up acres and acres of forests leaving just burnt remnants of trees and no life. Fire can be life-giving as well. We can feel the warmth of a fire in a fireplace on a freezing winter night or taste the delicious food that is prepared over a fire. It also gives light, as at the Easter Vigil when the new Paschal candle is lit and the darkness is banished.

When we ask that the fire of God's love "burn away the impurities of our human weakness," we are really asking that both qualities of that fire be employed in us. We ask that the destroying power of God's fire destroy what is not holy in us. Like the woods made bare by a forest fire, there will now be room for new growth in us. That new growth is a movement in us towards the "perfection of the Father."

How can we be perfect like the Father? He is God. We

are not. Of course, we cannot be exactly like God but in Jesus we have the model to imitate. In Jesus, we move towards that perfection. We live our lives striving to become perfect looking towards the perfection of Jesus and the Father. We move along the road of holiness.

How? The final paragraph of the prayer tells us. Give us firmness of faith! Make our faith strong so that even when we are tested we can believe and trust. God is always with us and God loves us and God knows what is good for us. Give us zeal in our charity! When we act because we are Christians, let us act with all our heart and soul. We reach out to others not because we are directed to or because we feel guilty, but because we truly love our neighbors and we want to be images of Christ to them.

Give us unshakable hope! The Lord has promised

good things for us. Eye has not seen and ear has not heard what God has ready for those who love him. We need to live in that hope, confident that God will always take care of us as we strive to attain what he promised us. We trust him.

Finally, Mary is always our model in all this. God made Mary the perfect example for us. The Lord gave her to us as our mother. We imitate her and we ask her to intercede for us, to pray for and with us as we strive to live our lives of holiness.



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

*Remember that God has created you with love,
and with Maximum Love.
By +G Giaquinta*

Comedy Corner – Knowing Scripture can save your life!

A woman returned home from an evening Bible Study when she discovered a man robbing her house. She yelled, "Stop! Acts 2:38" (*Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven*).

The burglar stopped in his tracks while the woman calmly called the police and told them what she had done. As the officer cuffed the man, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there – all the woman did was quote scripture to you." "Scripture?" said the burglar. "She said she had an axe and two 38's!"

Why is Pope Francis the Man for our Time?

In an ever fast-changing world which is becoming increasingly secularized and materialistic, Pope Francis has been reaching out to world leaders and the people of the world to hear the voices of our brothers and sisters who are poor, sick, homeless, marginalized, and those deprived of their basic rights. It is very disheartening to see leaders of some countries turn a blind eye to their impoverished citizens or neighboring countries. Pope Francis in his speech to the United States Congress reminds them to, "Let us remember the Golden Rule: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.'" This is a true reflection of Jesus' teaching.

Formerly known as Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Pope Francis said that when he got the votes needed to be the next pope, his friend, Cardinal Claudio Hummes "hugged me, kissed me and said, 'Don't forget the poor.'" Pope Francis took to heart the words of his friend and chose to be called after St. Francis of Assisi, "the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation," (Cindy Wooden [Catholic News Service](#)).

Pope Francis is indeed the Man for our time because he constantly reminds us of who we are in relation to God and how we should act towards one another in Christ. He uses his position to teach and model for us sisterly and brotherly love. For example, when he embraced a man covered with tumors due to an illness which left him disfigured, in another instance when he washed the feet of 11 Muslim refugees on Holy Thursday saying in his homily, "All of us together, Muslims, Hindus, Catholics, Copts, Evangelical [Protestants] brothers and sisters — children of the same God — we want to live in peace, integrated." These acts demonstrate for us what humility and servitude should look like.

On the feast of All Saints Day, Pope Francis gave a Catholic mass in a Malmo stadium, highlighting the lives of Swedish saints. In describing what it calls for to be a saint, Pope Francis said "Christ's followers today are called to confront the troubles and anxieties of our age with the spirit and love of Jesus." "New situations require new energy and a new commitment." He then offered a new list of beatitudes for modern Christians:

- "Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others and forgive them from their heart.
- "Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalized and show them their closeness.
- "Blessed are those who see God in every person and strive to make others also discover him.
- "Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home.
- "Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others.
- "Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians.

I In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

The Personal Challenge**Nina L. Riti**

This newsletter will certainly give you your summer spiritual challenges. Let's start with the lead article when Msgr. Aguggia asks us "How often do we pray prayers without thinking." I know people that SAY the rosary every-day...but did they PRAY the rosary and use it as a meditative vehicle to obtain all it promises as the ending prayer of the rosary says "*meditating* upon these mysteries... may we imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise." All our prayers said this way will result in igniting the flame within us to destroy those enticements that pull us away from responding to our call to holiness and enlighten the way.

Using our Founder, Bishop Giaquinta's, prayer "to follow the infinite perfection of the Father," Msgr. rightfully questions this and asks HOW can we be perfect, we are not God, but he goes on to challenge us with the ending of the prayer. Take time, not just to read it, but PRAY it, and let it open the door to show you the way to serve the Lord.

In conclusion, he reminds us to continue to imitate Mary, her FIAT when asked by Gabriel to be the Mother of God. She didn't say No, I don't understand, I don't know how this will be done. She just said "Thy Will" trusting that HE would show her the way. Do we accept the challenge God presents to us daily by saying YES to HIS will knowing she will intercede for us and help us on that journey.

Finally, in *Ask Pro Sanctity* the answer to "Why is Pope Francis the man of our Time?" you will read the suggestions that Pope Francis gave the Swedish people when he told them that "all of Christ's followers today are called to confront the troubles and anxieties of our age" and he suggested Six new Beatitudes to meet the needs of this age. In the last newsletter, I suggested you take the last Seven words of Jesus on the cross and put it on your refrigerator door as a daily motivation. This time I am suggesting that you do the same with the Six new beatitudes for modern Christians that Pope Francis spoke about in his homily that day. For example, the first one...Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others and forgive them from your heart". Wow, start your day or week with that challenge..."Remain faithful" despite the adversity you are facing or "forgive from their heart" the hurt someone caused. This is just the first, the next five are equally as challenging. As I said in the beginning PRAY not just read and the fire of God's love will see you through.

In ending, I urge you to think about the two saints that are presented in this newsletter...they were people of our time ...they were people responding to their call to holiness and can challenge us to do the same today.

*Our Lady
of Trust
Celebration*

Our Stories



Below: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Kevin's as PS members honor Our Lady of Trust, Patroness of the Pro Sanctity Movement.



Above left and center: PS Members listen attentively as Deacon Julio Barreneche inspires us with his reflection on trust.



Above: Agnes, Giovanna and Antonia sing one of the Founder's songs that praise Our Lady of Trust with our guitarist Mr. Santos Fernández



Below left and center: No PS celebration is complete without the sharing of good food and good conversation with friends.



Above: Members from St. Fidelis parish finish lunch and listen to Angela for the afternoon agenda as they continue their study day at the St. Kevins's PS Center in Queens.



Left: Members of PS from St. Fidelis, Our Lady of Miracles and St. Kevins with Jessi Kary (back row, 3rd from left), our National Director from Omaha smile for the camera on May 6th when all the movements in the diocese of Brooklyn and Queens met for a day of reflection on the need for the movements in the church.

Story of Two Modern Servant of God.

This is the story of two deeply religious Americans: **Sister Blandina Segale**, who was born in modern-day Italy and settled with her parents in Cincinnati at an early age, and **Msgr. Bernard Quinn**, born to immigrants who settled in Newark, New Jersey. These two Catholics devoted and risked their lives helping others to overcome injustices, and are now being considered for sainthood. **Sister Blandina Segale**, whose birth name was Maria Rosa Segale, was born January 23, 1850. At the age of 16, this young girl joined the Daughters of Charity in Cincinnati and fulfilled her lifelong dream to become a nun. She taught in Cincinnati, Ohio for a short time, but in 1872 was ordered to head west and for the next 20 years, she served in her lifelong mission as a school teacher while helping those less fortunate. **Msgr. Bernard Quinn** was born in Newark New Jersey, January 15, 1888, the same day of the canonization of St. Peter Claver, who had dedicated his mission to serve and defend African slaves in Colombia. Similarly, Father Bernard J. Quinn devoted his life to the needs of African American Catholics in Brooklyn New York.



Sister Blandina Segal

At the age of 22, Sister Blandina was a newcomer to Trinidad, Colorado, where vigilante justice was the norm, and punishments were handed down, not by the sheriff, but by mobs of unruly citizens. However, this did not prevent her from attending to her teaching duties and reaching out to those in need. On one occasion she found herself preventing a lynching by a mob, because one man had shot another who ultimately died. In this case, she was able to convince the sheriff to allow the prisoner to go to the bedside of the wounded man to ask for his forgiveness. The wounded man offered his forgiveness and the mob dispersed, leaving the court to determine his fate.

On another occasion Sister Blandina convinced the famous Billy the Kid to spare the lives of four doctors. Billy the Kid had come to Trinidad to scalp the physicians for not treating a fellow outlaw. Ironically, Sister Blandina herself had been caring for the man, and Billy the Kid was grateful for her help and granted her request to spare the doctors' lives. Her efforts earned her the amusing nickname of "The Fastest Nun in the West."

Sister Blandina was later transferred to Santa Fe and later to Albuquerque where, besides her job as a teacher, she opened a house for wayfarers. She was also an activist supporting Hispanics and Native Americans who had been robbed of their lands.

Sister Blandina's last years were spent in Cincinnati, where she joined her sister, Sister Justina, in establishing the Italian Welfare Center for impoverished immigrants and the Santa Maria Institute, the first Catholic settlement house in the United States in 1897. In 1933, at the age of 83, Sr. Blandina retired to the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse. She died on February 23, 1941 at age 91. Her cause for canonization has been approved.

Msgr. Bernard Quinn

Father Bernard Quinn was ordained a priest on June 1, 1912, and was assigned to St. Gregory the Great Church in Brooklyn. In 1916, while attending a conference with other Brooklyn clergy, then Bishop Charles McDonnell appealed to the priests to consider offering their services in the southern states where there was a shortage of priests serving white parishioners. Although Quinn was moved by their plight, he couldn't help but notice that the needs of African Americans right in his own diocese were continuously ignored.

Quinn voiced his desire to reach out to these forgotten Catholics and was eventually granted permission after returning from his duties as a chaplain in WW I. He walked the streets in search of Catholics in the black community and acted like the Good Shepherd who goes in search of his sheep as he invited others to join the Catholic faith.

In 1921, Father Quinn founded St. Peter Claver Church, the first parish established for Black Catholics in the Diocese of Brooklyn and placed it under the patronage of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, whom he had admired after reading her biography while stationed in France. Through her intercession, African American Catholics continued to increase "fourfold."

In 1928, with the economic depression brewing, Father Quinn bought property and established an orphanage in Wading River, Long Island. However, he met with violent opposition from the KKK. The orphanage was promptly burned to the ground and met the same fate when it was rebuilt the following year. All under the silence of the diocese, and the then governor of New York, Alfred E. Smith, a Catholic and presidential candidate. These attempts were not fruitless. The Little Flower Children Services, an orphanage for African American children still exists today on Long Island.

Msgr. Bernard Quinn died on April 7, 1940 at the age of 52. He was buried at St. Peter Claver Church in Brooklyn, NY. Canonization process is ongoing.

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

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

Summer Festival of Faith Camp

To Jesus through Mary: July 10-14, 2017

8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. St. Kevin Parish Center

45-50 195th Street, Flushing NY 11358 –Tel:718-357-5317

or 718-649-0324 For children ages 4-10

Bible Sharing

Our Lady of Miracles

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

(DVD) “Follow Me” Every Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Fr. Simonetti Center East 86th Street, Brooklyn NY 11236

St. Kevin Parish/ Pro Sanctity Center

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

(DVD) “Follow Me” Tuesday Evening 7 pm-Friday morning 10 am

PS Center 45-30 195th Street Flushing, NY 11358

St. Fidelis Parish (Spanish)

A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother (DVD)

Sunday 11:15 am -1:00pm 123rd St, College Point, NY

“Lord, **open my heart** so that the Holy Spirit can enter it, and I can understand that Jesus is the Lord”

Pope Francis

Pro Sanctity Weekend Retreat
April 27 –April 29, 2018
Don Bosco Retreat Center, Stony Point , NY
Retreat Master: Rev. Msgr. Steven Aguggia

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.

Founder's Day Celebration

Saturday, June 10, 2017

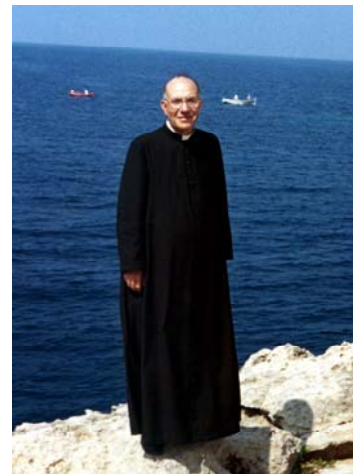
5 pm Mass

St. Kevin Catholic Church

Celebrant: Msgr. Steven Aguggia

45-21 194th St, Flushing, NY 11358

Followed by pasta dinner/Please call 718-649-0324



Pro Sanctity Family Gathering

Sunday, September 10, 2017

3:00 to 6:00 PM

***Pro Sanctity Center 45-30 195th Street
Flushing, NY 11358***

For information call 718-649-0324