

Good News



The Pro Sanctity Newsletter

Published by Pro Sanctity East

prosantitynewyork@verizon.net
New - www.nyprosantity.org

New York - Spring 2008

Women Get the Word on Personal Growth

IN THIS ISSUE

Personal
Challenge..... p 2

Holy Men
And Women.....p 3

Tools for the
Journey.....p 3

Ask Pro
Sanctity.....p 4

St. Paul
Part III.....p 6

Holy Week and
Pro Sanctity.....p 7

Come Grow
With Us.....Insert



Sandi Webster, Principal Consultant of 2 Go, LLC (above) told women how to improve their self-esteem. She also gave them tips on starting a business of their own.



Barton P. Levine, Esquire, (right) specializes in Estate Planning and led an educational session on balancing your financial situation.

WHAT IS THE WORD?

First, the event was an exciting new endeavor for Pro Sanctity East. Second, it was good, because it brought 100 women together to discover some remarkable things about their mind, body and spirit that they may not have thought about before.

March 8, 2008 - the day on which the gathering took place, surely was a wet one, but these women braved the heavy rain to come to Canarsie, relax in Fr. Simonetti Hall with a cup of hot coffee, and listen to guest speakers discuss personal growth, finances, health and nutrition issues. In addition, many of the women took advantage of the free mammography and health screening provided by the American-Italian Cancer Society.

Josie Nover, (see photo on the Insert) a Pro Sanctity member, well-versed in health issues, presented a workshop on nutrition. As a fitting conclusion to the day, all the women had the opportunity to feed their spirit, as well as their mind and body, by listening to Teresa Monaghan, National Director of Pro Sanctity. (See article on Teresa's talk, *Holy Men and Women for a Holy, Happy World*, on page 3)

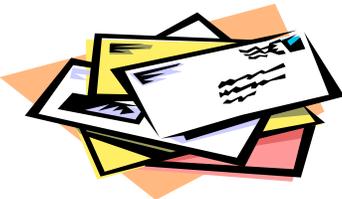
The day was such a terrific success that a follow-up gathering is planned for Sunday, May 18th at the Pro Sanctity Center.

Carol Polanish

This Just In

Rosemary Darmstadt

The pope has asked that everyone “pray for priests that they may be valuable witnesses of Christ’s love.” Members of Pro Sanctity have answered this request by choosing the name of a priest for whom they will be a spiritual companion for the next year. We informed them of our intention to pray for them and here are excerpts from the letters of two very grateful priests.



What a wonderful and important ministry. There are so many tensions, trials and temptations in our daily life and only God’s grace and the support of good dedicated people like you, get us through each day. Please pray that God will always give me the strength and wisdom to do His work.

I am in need of all the prayers I can get as I carry out my priestly mission. This May, I shall celebrate my 60th Anniversary of Ordination. I am confident that your good prayers will play no small part as I carry out the final years of what has been a glorious experience in serving God’s good people.



You might consider partaking in this prayer ministry by becoming a spiritual companion to a priest that you know. Tell him of your intentions or do it anonymously if you wish.

Mind Teaser

Answers are on page 6

Where in the world was St. Paul?

M	E	A	M	N	S	U	R	M	O	P	S	Z	R	T	D	O	N	E	K
A	R	N	Y	D	F	O	M	H	Y	N	O	A	H	O	P	E	R	G	A
C	N	T	A	R	S	U	S	O	U	R	M	E	O	N	H	R	O	N	L
E	O	I	L	Q	U	E	R	I	S	F	D	R	D	R	G	S	T	D	O
D	S	O	R	Y	O	W	H	Y	I	K	S	G	E	S	T	M	N	U	T
O	R	G	T	J	S	D	A	M	A	S	C	U	S	I	N	K	B	S	R
N	G	H	A	L	E	M	O	N	M	O	R	Y	L	S	E	T	S	Y	O
I	L	E	T	R	G	R	E	T	Z	Y	T	I	F	O	R	U	K	A	P
A	O	L	E	T	A	S	U	N	C	S	G	H	O	A	S	I	D	O	N
E	P	K	T	Z	J	L	I	S	K	G	O	N	D	E	O	S	L	N	Z
Z	Q	J	E	I	S	T	J	L	A	J	I	L	H	R	S	Y	S	Y	K
F	G	Y	R	P	D	O	N	E	D	L	Y	P	T	J	T	M	U	H	S
R	S	I	C	O	N	I	A	M	P	I	E	A	J	W	A	S	T	O	N
T	D	B	W	M	M	Y	A	P	W	S	T	M	O	N	O	N	I	C	R
I	O	V	A	R	H	T	O	S	T	G	S	Y	P	R	I	T	Z	Y	P
A	P	X	Y	N	E	L	Y	J	R	J	M	T	I	R	M	A	S	P	D
E	N	P	J	U	L	Y	M	H	X	W	E	F	O	D	W	T	Y	R	E
C	W	E	C	A	E	S	A	R	E	A	D	G	V	E	N	Z	H	I	U
E	U	F	Y	T	O	T	B	E	N	Q	G	V	A	N	S	E	J	S	I
E	R	C	O	M	S	R	H	O	W	A	N	E	P	A	P	N	U	D	N
R	O	M	E	Y	O	A	G	Y	C	X	U	N	O	P	R	S	W	Y	T
G	P	W	B	D	Q	S	R	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I	Y	S	X	N

Antioch	Cyprus	Jerusalem	Rhodes	Crete
Athens	Damascus	Lystra	Rome	Iconium
Caesarea	Ephesus	Macedonia	Sidon	Philippi
Corinth	Greece	Perga	Tarsus	Tyre

The Personal Challenge... *Nina Ritti*

As I read Teresa Monaghan’s reflection on holy men and holy women I cannot help but think of the “saints in the making” that are in our own lives. Roger Wilbeck (see “*The Mark He Made*” on page 4) showed us how he confronted the challenges of his illness in very real practical ways as he traveled his road to holiness and dealt with the people in his life.

I think of my sister, who was paralyzed, and had to ask me to scratch her nose. This humble, beautiful person, inside and out, taught me so much. I remember, toward the end, telling her how blest I was to be her sister and was privileged to be able to serve her. This was not only my feeling, but was shared by many. Msgr. Chapetto, Fr. Chapetto then, Pastor of Our Lady of Miracles, would come to visit my sister. She always had questions and dialogued with him. One day, as he was leaving, I asked him how it went. He said, “I always leave here feeling better than when I came.”

We are all “saints in the making” as we live our lives as joyful, happy people in whatever role we have, be it wife, husband, daughter, son, mother, father, friend, worker, boss. Do we see the Christ in the people we meet and more importantly do they see the Christ in us. We are almost at the end of our Easter season, let us truly meet the challenge of living our life by doing what Jesus our Savior has asked...**love one another as He has loved us.**

C

The cafeteria in the elementary school was a large room. The nun had placed the tray –

“Take only ONE
God is watching”

At the other end of the table was a large tray of cookies. A child had left a note here that said –

“Take all you want
God is watching”



Ask Pro Sanctity...

Nina Ritti

As a Catholic, what should I do when faced with all the issues that confront me in today's society?

There are many issues that the Catholic of today must deal with that are similar to (abortion) or completely different (cloning) than those that were faced by our grandparents or even parents. Yet the solution, I dare say, is probably the same. This is an election year and all Americans will be asked to vote for the next leader of the United States.

When facing moral decisions in society today, one must develop a **well-formed conscience**. This is not easy. It requires work...hard work. You must do the research, read about the issues in newspapers and magazines, look up topics on the Internet, discuss the issues with people you respect. In some

cases the choice may be between bad and less bad. Then one must choose the one that



would result in the least harm.

When a liberal discusses a political issue with a conservative, for instance, they should be able to respect each other's right to disagree without getting upset and angry. Discussing issues with people that have different ideas helps us solidify and crystallize our opin-

ions. I love it when a discussion leads to a deeper insight or understanding of an idea. Finally, I pray. I pray that I am strengthened with the gifts of the Holy Spirit such as wisdom, understanding, right judgment, and courage and thus do all I can to develop that **well-formed conscience**.*



*See **Tools for the Journey** on page 3 for specific suggestions that will help you nurture a "**well-formed conscience**."



The Mark He Made

Roger Wilbeck made a mark on many lives. We mourn his loss. His membership in the Pro Sanctity Movement goes back so far that he actually was an editor of Brooklyn's Pro Sanctity Newsletter in the days when it was run off on a mimeograph machine. Roger was a high school teacher and student counselor who gave generously of his time to projects that helped the poor and hungry

Twenty-two years ago Roger was afflicted with Parkinson's disease, and you may recall the beautiful testimony he and his wife, Efi, gave to this newsletter in 2001.

In it, he said that he offers his suffering to God for the intentions of the Pro Sanctity Movement. As his illness progressed, Roger was confined to a wheelchair, and in the days before he had an aide with him during the day, he would sometimes fall out of the chair, then spend the time on the floor saying the Stations of the Cross and offering them for Pro Sanctity.

During the last months of his life, his family or his aide would bring him to Mass as often as possible because he had such a great desire to receive the Eucharist. At these times, the pastor frequently cited him as an example to the school children to show the sacri-

fices some people make to attend mass and receive communion.

Shortly before his death, Roger was a patient in a rehabilitation center. Although he was well treated overall, one day a nurse was rude to him, and when he told Efi about it, she asked what he said to the nurse. He answered, "I prayed for her."

In these, and in many other ways, in sickness and in health, Roger's life always set an example for those around him and plainly showed what the call to holiness really means. Now, that he is with God, we know that his prayers for Pro Sanctity will never cease.

Our Stories

On Women's Wellness Day, Fabiola Plaza, M.D., demonstrates exercise as a way to good health.



Sandi Webster addresses a rapt audience on developing their skills to enhance their life.

The three campuses of Our Lady of Trust School - Holy Family, Our Lady of Miracles, and St. Jude (not shown in photo) celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Trust with Pro Sanctity.



The Queens Spanish Bible Sharing Group participates in the Our Lady of Trust Celebration.



Many members of Pro Sanctity Centers and students of Our Lady of Trust Campuses gather in the beautiful Church of Holy Family to listen to Msgr. Andrew Vaccari as he gives an inspiring reflection on Mary and trust.

St. Paul's Mission

Third in a 3-Part Series on St. Paul by Jorge Diez, PhD,
Theology and Religious Education

Paul's conversion reveals the profound renewal that takes place when an individual responds to God's call, an invitation to sanctity. Even though St. Paul describes, in a very reticent way, the precise nature of his conversion (Gal. 1:11-24), his mission is clearly observed as a mission of evangelization and service to God, Jesus, and to the Gospel.

St. Paul recognizes that all of humanity, every nation, needs to be put right with God because we are all alike under the power of sin. And he assures us that it is by faith that all believers are put right with God; when in union with Christ, a new life and relationship will flourish. He is convinced that Christian behavior flows naturally from the love that emanates from our faith in Christ.

“St. Paul’s mission delves deeper into the details of daily life and emphasizes the good that is found in Jesus...”

Through St. Paul's mission, Christians are able to better visualize the importance of repentance and reconciliation; we tend to be more generous with offerings and with helping the needy and the Church. St. Paul teaches and preaches by continuously addressing the misunderstandings of Christian life and faith. He endeavors to rescue those people who are being misled by false teachings and offers them true faith and practice. He encourages believers to have confidence in spite of all their troubles, and invites them to maintain a hum-

ble attitude through Jesus, rather than be controlled by selfishness, ambition, and pride. St. Paul's mission delves deeper into the details of daily life and emphasizes the good that is found in Jesus and rejects what opposes him.

St. Paul reminds Christians that our life, when in union with Christ Jesus is a gift of God's grace that we have received through faith, not through obedience to ceremonies and customary laws. "The Gospel reveals how God puts people right with himself: it is through faith from beginning to end" (Rom. 1:17). He believes that Jesus Christ is able to offer full salvation because Paul considers that, since through Christ, God created the world then it is also through Jesus that God brings creation back to Himself, thus calling all Christians to holiness, to sanctity.

“Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.”

*This year as we celebrate
The Feast of Pentecost
on May 11*

Let us pray



*Breathe on me O Holy Spirit
That my thoughts may all be
holy;*

*Act in me O Holy Spirit
That my work, too, may be holy*

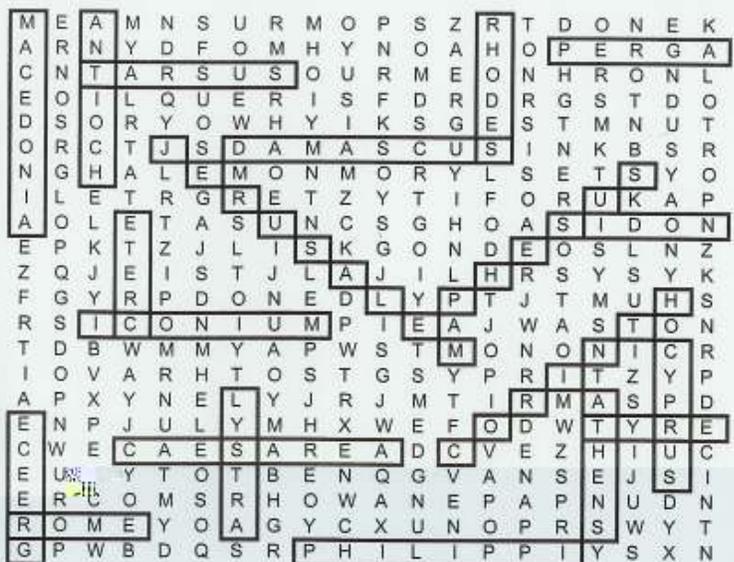
*Draw my heart O Holy Spirit
That I love but what is holy;*

*Strengthen me O Holy Spirit
To defend all that is holy;*

*Guard me then O Holy Spirit
That I always may be holy.*

St. Augustine

Answers to Mind Teaser



Fr. Steven's Reflections on Holy Week

This being the first experience of Holy Week that Fr. Steven Aguggia, Spiritual Advisor of the NY Local Board, has had as a Pastor, his reflections bring to light the close association between Pro Sanctity, his parishioners, and all Christians on the road to holiness.

Having just finished the celebrations of the Sacred Triduum and Easter Sunday in our parish, I can now take a moment or two to reflect on those events in relation to the Pro-Sanctity Movement.

First, Easter ...not just a day but a season...a whole period of time which the Church gives us to explore the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. How could we ever understand fully what this means to us. At Easter we separate out the mystery in order to understand it better, but we really live this mystery all the time. Our lives as Christians are based solidly on the Pascal Mystery. This is the center of who we are! The death and resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith.

Celebrating the mysteries of the death and resurrection of the Lord in the parish is at the same time challenging and rewarding. It is challenging because so many people come and, while that is great, it is also distressing in that one must wonder why the spark of

faith doesn't compel them to come every week. After all, it's the same mystery we celebrate every day at Holy Mass, isn't it? It can be a challenge to priests and faithful alike to be crowded into church and to participate in the liturgies in a prayerful and solemn way. On the other hand, how wonderful to see so many touched by the liturgies of Holy Week. The power of the example of the Washing of the Feet

mystery we are called to live all the time. This is where the Pro-Sanctity Movement comes in. To be called to holiness means to live every moment of our lives the mystery of the death and Resurrection of the Lord. We are called to bear this message, this Good News, by the example of our own lives. How can we fail to proclaim the death of the Lord if we strive to live each day of our lives growing in holiness which is summed up so well in those liturgies...service in love, embracing the Crosses of our lives and rising with the Lord in victory.



on Holy Thursday; the solemnity of the Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday; the glory of the Celebration of the Resurrection at the Vigil! How rewarding it is to see so many touched so deeply by these mysteries. The events of Holy Week are celebrations of various aspects of the

A mystery to be lived, a mystery to be embraced by all who call themselves Christian and who want to grow in holiness, the holiness to which we are all called by virtue of our baptism...our own death and resurrection with Christ.

Apostolic Oblates
Pro Sanctity
730 East 87th Street
Brooklyn NY 11236

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BROOKLYN, NY
PERMIT NO. 1808

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.

*COME and CELEBR:776KW DtoLOMESFOMr.0
-6:V-kbPJ01K::776KW--*