

# Good News



## The Pro Sanctity Newsletter

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New York - Spring 2009

### *The Hopeful Season*

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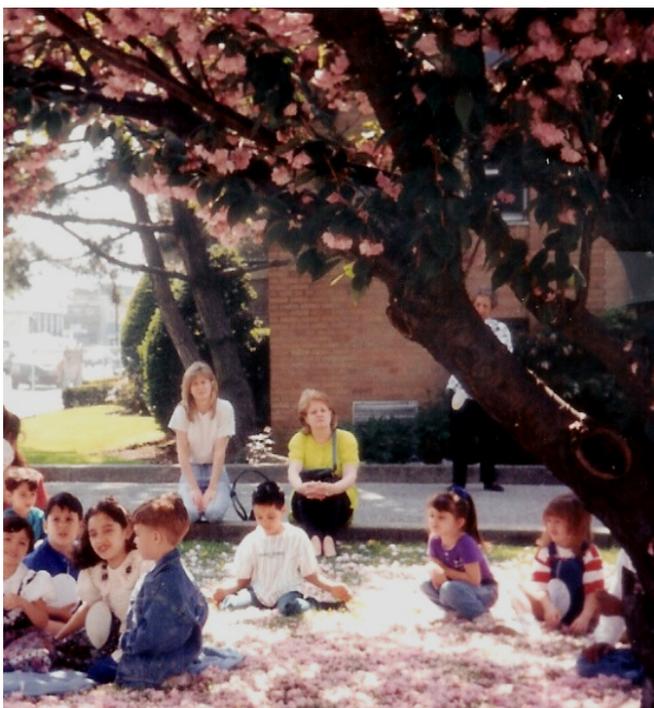
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Spring is the meaning of an old English word – **Lent**. It was originally intended as deep spiritual preparation for those who were to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The last six weeks of their preparation was structured around the six baptismal promises, thus giving us six week of Lent. The Lenten Season is forty days. Forty is a significant biblical number. Forty is symbolic of a substantial time period. Noah spent forty days on the Ark. Moses and the Israelites spent forty years in the desert. Jesus spent forty days of fast and prayer in the wilderness. In the fourth century when

infant baptism became the norm, the season of Lent was extended to those already baptized. Lent for the already baptized became a season of repentance for unfaithfulness to the baptismal promises. Those preparing for baptism celebrated Easter by making their baptismal promises and being admitted to the Eucharist. Those already baptized celebrated Easter by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, renewing their Baptismal Promises and receiving the Eucharist.

Lent is a journey from where we are in our life in the Spirit to where God is leading us. As on any journey, we need to be prepared. We must be open to God's Grace. The goal of Lent is Resurrection. While the Cross is central to Lent we must always focus on the Resurrection. It is through the Victory of the Risen Christ and the Gift of the Holy Spirit that we have the courage and strength to seek to change our lives. We begin Lent by asking the Lord to accomplish his work in us, for his glory, our good and the welfare of the Church.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## This Just In...

Nina Riti

We just received a notice from Msgr. Andrew Vaccari, National Spiritual Advisor, and Teresa Monaghan, National Director, sharing with us the details of the Pro Sanctity Pilgrimage (are you ready?) to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico, on August 13-18, 2009. The notice suggests it is a great way to come together and celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of our beloved Founder, Servant of God William Giauquinta.

This is the perfect time to start planning for your summer vacation and what better way than by renewing your call to holiness together with your fellow PS members.



Let's assume you made the decision to treat yourself to this great pilgrimage – you will need something to read. Hot off the presses is The Beauty of Mary, co-authored and edited by Msgr. Andrew Vaccari. (I know what you're thinking. Where does he get the time? But thank God he does, for this is ideal reading for your trip.)

Even if you are not coming, this also is a perfect book to read at home. Order now at: [psm@prosantcity.org](mailto:psm@prosantcity.org)

## Ask Pro Sanctity

Donna Spoto

### What is the Liturgical Calendar?

In one of my recent formation classes, I asked the group what season we are getting ready for. Their quick and happy response was "Spring!" (See main article on what "Spring" means). I knew I had to be more specific with my question. "What Church season are we going into?" sounded more precise. This was an excellent reminder to me to be on the lookout for catechetical opportunities to help in the formation of the groups I work with. I believe whenever the Church season changes, it's always a good time to review the Liturgical Calendar.



Certainly, the passage of time is marked by our secular calendars from January to December each year which we need to stay organized and to plan. Our liturgical calendar is different though. It's not about marking the passage of time necessarily, but drawing us into the mystery of Jesus Christ and into a deeper personal relationship with Him. The Liturgical Calendar not only takes us through Jesus' earthly life from His incarnation through His passion, death, resurrection, and ascension but also gives us plenty of time to reflect on it. There is much that can be said about each season of the Liturgical Calendar, but for now we'll just go through an overview of the whole year.

Our Church year begins with the first Sunday in Advent, usually in December. **Advent** lasts four weeks and is a season of preparation as we wait for the coming of Jesus. Advent ends on Christmas day when we enter the **Christmas season**. This is a season of celebration that lasts until the Baptism of the Lord. We immediately enter several weeks of **Ordinary Time**. This does not mean ordinary in the usual use of the word but rather refers to the fact that each week is ordered. Far from being ordinary, this is a season that gives us the opportunity to reflect on how we've grown spiritually in the last two seasons and gives us time to listen to scripture that helps us further understand Jesus' journey and mission. Ordinary Time lasts until Ash Wednesday which begins the season of **Lent**. This is a season of preparation during which we are called to pray, fast, and give alms. This season lasts 40 days. It ends with the **Triduum** of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday culminating with the Risen Lord at the Easter Vigil. The **Easter Season** begins and lasts 50 days ending on Pentecost Sunday. We once again enter **Ordinary Time**; the longest and last season our Liturgical Calendar year ending with the last Sunday of ordinary time, the Feast of Christ the King.

(continued from page 1)

Our Lenten quote: *“Let us lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”* (Hebrews 12:2)

Lent is a time to reflect, to repent, to reconcile, to renew and to experience resurrection. The guide for our Lenten Journey is the Baptismal Promises. The way is through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are called to holiness. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving we move from conversation with the Lord, to self denial and to compassion for others. The Baptismal Promises we are

asked to consider are:

*Do you reject sin and refuse to be mastered by it?*

*Do you reject the glamour of evil?*

*Do you reject Satan, the Prince of Darkness and the father of lies?*

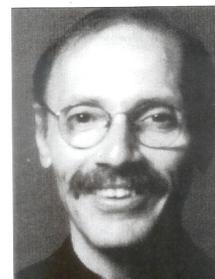
*Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth?*

*Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried, and rose on the third day, ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead?*

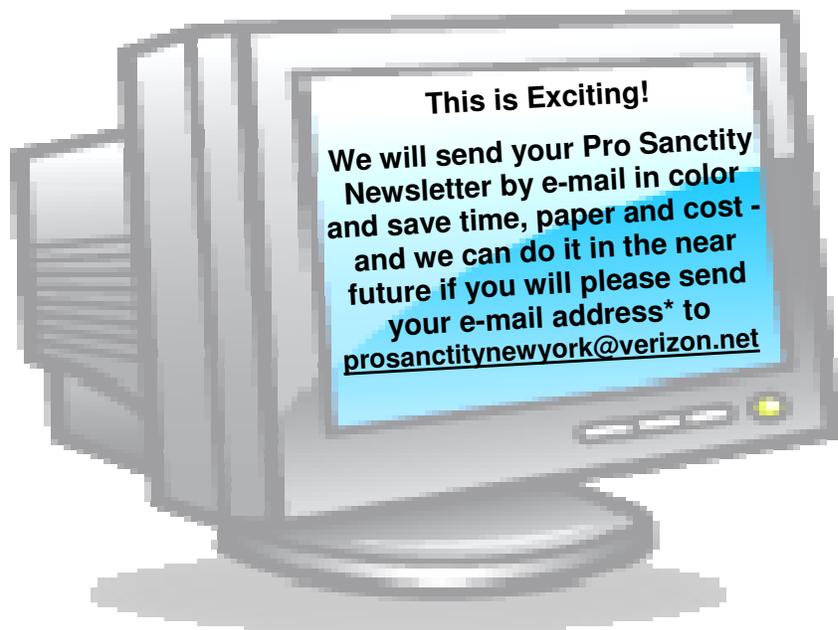
*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the resurrection of the dead and life of the world to come?*

Reflecting on our Baptismal Promises we can come to realize how we have sinned, the compromises we have made and the rationalizations we may have made to avoid facing the truth about ourselves. By freely affirming the faith, we have the opportunity to make the faith in Christ Jesus our own by seeking to live in witness to Christ.

**Msgr. Guy Massie**  
**Pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle Church**  
**and Chairperson/Secretary of**  
**Ecumenical & Inter-religious Affairs**



## **You Still Have Time To Enter The Electronic Age**



**Quit griping  
about your  
Church;  
If it was perfect,  
you couldn't  
belong.**

\*We will not share your e-mail address with other persons or groups.

## The Personal Challenge

Msgr. Massie's article on *The Hopeful Season* continues with the following challenge to us as we embark on our own Lenten journey. Here he speaks of the three pillars of Lent:



### Prayer

Lenten Scriptures are rich in inspiration and instruction. Hear them for the first time again. Even if you know the text, listen carefully, for while the words may be the same, you have changed since last Lent. You haven't yet lived Lent 2009.

The Lenten readings for Sundays and weekdays invite us to reflect on our personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. We have this relationship in the context of the Church, the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and Sacred Text. The goal of this reflection is to have a deeper conversion to Jesus in every aspect of our lives.

Lent is not a time to make up for sin or to win forgiveness for our sins. Jesus made one atonement for us and won the forgiveness of our sins. Our life as a follower of Christ is to seek to follow him more closely. We are called to live in cooperation with the redemption and are in-

vited to live in thanksgiving for all Christ has done for us.

Silence, adoration before the presence of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, reading the Passion of the Lord with great reverence and reflection, meditation on the Stations of the Cross, reverent praying of the Office of Hours, saying a scriptural rosary are suggestions that may help in our preparations to renew our Baptismal promises.

### Fasting

Fasting is an ancient practice found in many religious traditions. Jesus fasted. Hence, we, in imitation of him, also fast. It is not an endurance test and is not to be seen as making up for sin. As said above, atonement was made by Jesus.

Our reason for fasting is to mortify the senses so as to imitate Christ who willingly gave himself for us and to identify with those who, through no choice of their own, have little or nothing to eat. The feeling of emptiness we have reminds us that we are totally dependent on God for everything. It also reminds us that only God can satisfy all our longings. In our culture of satisfaction and self-centeredness, fasting that is not diet-related, is counter-cultural.



Fasting may be done in many ways. Some may fast from food and water for one day a week. Some may fast on one meal. The time used for the meal they are not eating may be used to pray or given to a charitable work. Others may fast from words, trying to speak less and avoid useless chatter, thus creating a silence within their hearts and minds. Whatever the fasting mode, we must be moved to uniting the fasting to prayer and charity.



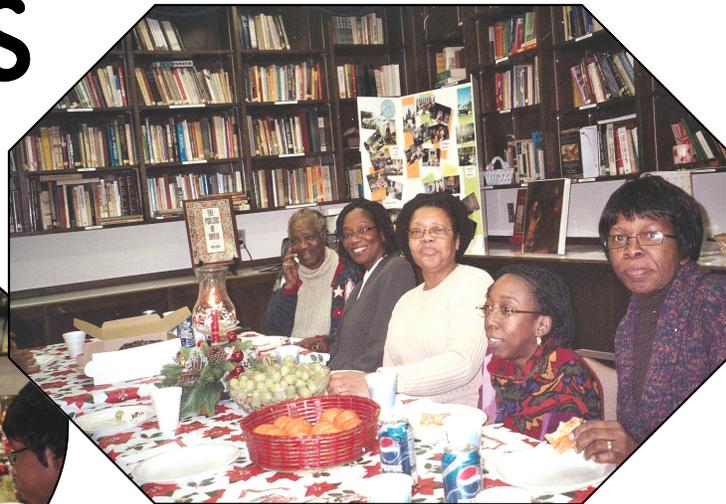
### Almsgiving

Almsgiving is charity. To give and not let your right hand know what your left hand is doing. Giving in charity should be silent. We should not even look at the amount of our donations.

The reason for this attitude is that what we give to others was not ours. What we have is pure gift. Almsgiving is sharing of gifts. One good way to give alms is to unite it to fasting. If you are fasting, then give the price of at least one meal to the poor. Almsgiving is a good way to identify with the poor. Acts of mercy are good ways to imitate God who is rich in mercy.

The Acts of Mercy found in Matthew 25:35-36 are good ways to be God-like in the world. If you want mercy, show mercy to others.

# Our Stories



Bible sharing is not only sharing the Word... here they share goodies at their Christmas party.



Some of the Festival of faith children smile for the camera at their Valentine celebration.



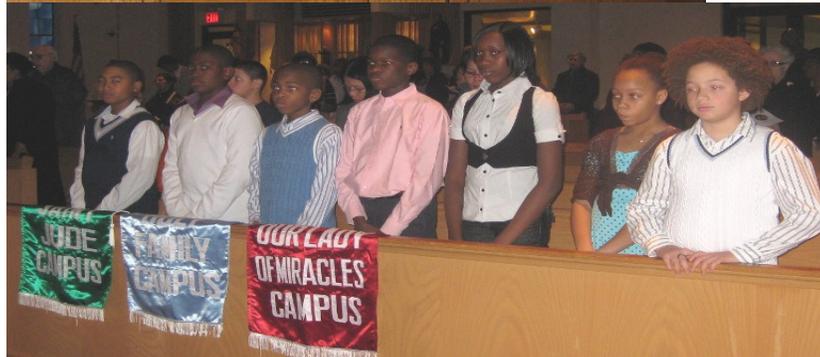
Pro Sanctity Welcomes Newest member Antonio Daniel Cerulli with his proud dad Dan.



The Ed Cabrerass' choir sings for Our Lady of Trust Celebration at St. Jude Church



The three campuses from OLT school were present.



Fr. Aguggia Exposes the Blessed Sacrament



## Words from the Founder

### *St. Paul: Our Guide*

*Adapted from Love is Revolution by Bishop William Giaquinta*

The many references Bishop Giaquinta made to St. Paul in *Love is Revolution* show the love Our Founder had for him and how closely their thoughts were in agreement with each other.

God did not limit himself to saving us; He made us sharers in his own divine nature through Baptism. Christ did not want to pay the price of redemption in a detached way, holding his nose as he passed among us, rather he became one of us – our brother. “For you have been purchased at a price” (1 Cor 6:20). St. Paul tells us in Colossians 3:4 that we must make Christ the center of our life. One could not sustain a truly holy life without, not only the frequent, but rather the abundant use of the sacraments – especially the Sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist. For no one can forget the essential doctrine taught by St. Paul that the unity of the Mystical Body stems from the one bread we eat (1 Cor 10:17).

Our mutual co-responsibility is

derived from our being one Church, and more precisely as Vatican II taught us, one people of God. The Council began to affirm the identification between love and holiness, a relationship that had never before been stressed sufficiently. In support, they quoted St. Paul’s letters to the Romans: “The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit” (5:5); “Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law” (13:10).

From the moment Paul surrendered himself to love, he did not know how to deny anything to the Master and the brethren. Was Paul’s dream of converting the pagan world any less utopian than our dream of a world of saints? The vocation to love is the most fascinating part of our Christian faith, even if living it and making it become lived, is not easy and demands generosity. St. Paul considers himself obliged to all: “To the wise and the ignorant, I am under obligation; that is why I am eager to preach the gospel...” (Rom 1:14-15). As we also are obliged to those who, with their generosity, have handed down to us an ideal of faith and holiness.



*For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment:*

*“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

*St. Paul to the Galatians 5:14*

*The most important things in your house are the people.*

### Comedy Corner

#### Ohmmemployment

Two men meet on the street. One asks the other, “How are you?” The second man replies: “I’m fine, thanks.” “And how’s your son?” “Is he still unemployed?” “Yes he is, but he’s meditating now.” “Meditating? What’s that?” “I don’t know. But it’s better than sitting around doing nothing.”



# Mark Your Calendar 2009!



## ***First Pro Sanctity Appreciation Luncheon***

***Saturday, April 25, 2009***

***12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM***

***Roma View Restaurant***

***For info call 718-649-0324***

## ***Women on the Journey***

***Personal Growth - Mind, Body and Spirit***

***Sunday, May 17- 3:00 to 5:00 PM***

### **LENTEN MINI RETREAT**

***Every Thursday - 9:30 to 10:45 AM***

***at Our Lady of Miracles Parish***

***Please call 718-257-2400 or***

***the Pro Sanctity Center 718-649-0324***



### **MONTHLY ADORATION**

***Come and spend some time with the LORD in the Blessed Sacrament***

***Second Friday of the Month - 7:30 - 8:30 PM***

***March 13, April 17, May 8***

### **FESTIVAL OF FAITH**

***for children 3-9 years***

***Arts and crafts***

***Saturdays, March 14, April 18***

***10:30 AM - 12:00 Noon***

### **BIBLE SHARING**

***Getting to know Jesus***

***Every Thursday***

***7:30 - 9:00 PM***

### **SPANISH MINI RETREAT**

***St. Fidelis Parish - 124th & 15th Ave, College Point - Queens***

***7:30 PM - Madonna Room - Friday March 13, April 17, May 15.***

***For information call Maria E. 1347-368-4102, Margot 718-353-9014***

***All programs will be taking place at the Pro Sanctity Center, 730 E. 87th Street, Brooklyn, NY, unless otherwise specified  
718-649-0324***

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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.*

## *COME and CELEBRATE FOUNDER'S DAY*



*Of the Servant of God  
Bishop Guglielmo Giaquinta*

*"In the Heart of the Church"*

*Saturday, June 13, 2009*

*Liturgy at 11:00 AM*

*at Our Lady of Miracles Church  
757 East 86th Street, Brooklyn, NY*

*Main Celebrant: Rev. Francis J. Hughes  
Pastor of Our Lady of Miracles Parish*

*Refreshments will be served in the Fr. Simonetti Parish Center*