

Good News



The Pro Sanctity Newsletter

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Paul - Who Are You?

By now we have all heard that the Holy Father, Benedict XVI, has declared this year to be the “Year of St. Paul.” It affords us all the perfect opportunity to

explore the writings of someone whom we might take for granted. After all, how closely do we pay attention to that “second reading” at Mass every week and how often does the priest or deacon actually preach from those texts? If we don’t think about St. Paul much, it’s certainly a shame and we are missing out because there is an incomparable richness there. Perhaps this year will allow us to delve further into St. Paul’s writings.

We know his story: a man who previously persecuted those who embraced the faith of Jesus Christ becomes one of its chief promoters. He is, in many ways, the first theologian and the first missionary. His ruminations on the faith and how to apply it to life touched the lives of the first Christians and still do. His missionary outlook made the growth of the faith possible and that growth is still evident and inspiring today.

So what does this teach us? First, that the Catholic faith is not something that excludes us from life or separates us from reality. We do not live in “another” world – a spiritual world set apart. No, instead

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***St. Paul in Prison
Rembrandt (1608-1669)
Stuttgart, Germany***

This Just In...

Graziella Catena, A.O.

Can you imagine the excitement on May 31 when the Pro Sanctity Family in India celebrated the opening of a new Apostolic Center in the city of Pune? Three eager Missionary Oblates - Flowery, Zeena, and Reny, moved from the center in Nerul, Mumbai (formerly Bombay) in order to carry on Bishop Giaquinta's vision of spreading the universal call to holiness.

Members of both communities, Nerul and Pune, joined together for that very special weekend in May when the Pune Center was officially named "Our Lady of Grace." Fr. Vellanickal, representing the Bishop of the Diocese, presided at the dedication ceremonies on Saturday. On Sunday, he celebrated a Mass at which the three Missionary Oblates were formally received and presented to the assembly with great rejoicing.

We ask that you pray for this new Pro Sanctity Center and thank God we have another haven of holiness on the road which started in Rome and continues to spread throughout Italy, India, Latvia, Belgium and recently in Holland.

The Personal Challenge...

Nina Riti

2008 is the year dedicated to St. Paul. There are many things, powerful things Paul wrote, all worthy of your contemplation since his message was as pertinent then as it is today. One of your personal challenges might be to read ALL of Paul's writings during this millennium that the Pope dedicated to him. But for now, I am just going to discuss one of my all time favorite scriptures by Paul. The time he challenged the Corinthians and described so beautifully for them what Love was...He said, "*Love is kind and patient, never jealous, boastful proud or rude. Love isn't selfish or quick tempered. It doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do. Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil. Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting. Love never fails!*"

That is beautiful. But to just read it is missing the powerful message of Paul. Are you *kind and patient* with family members, friends, co-workers (your boss and those above you, in addition to your peers and those under you), as well as the stranger on the road, especially if he is trying to pass you? Decide today to try to be more patient and act more kindly with all the people that God puts in your path. Are you *jealous* of others, their good fortune, what they have, what they do? Someone once said that when we are jealous we really feel that there won't be enough left over for us. TRUST that God has abundance planned for you and be happy for others in their good fortune. How can we be rude to anyone if we remember that Christ lives in them, no matter what they say or do, it is the Christ within them that we are really loving? *Love isn't selfish.* Do you share what you have; do you give and meet the needs of the people that God puts in front of you? Do you count the things you do and that others do? BOTH actions are best forgotten. It is not hard to rejoice in the truth when good things happen, but do we rejoice when evil happens even if we feel it is justified? What comes to mind specifically is capital punishment when you hear things like, "He deserved the death penalty" or "The death penalty is too good for him." These are the thoughts some people have, which I think are not in keeping with Paul's idea. Finally, are we truly supportive and loyal to the people that God puts in our path without hidden agendas and critical comments? So....



...Good Luck in meeting the challenge that Paul gave to the Corinthians over 2000 years ago and gives to us today!

(Continued from page 1)

we live in this world and we strive to transform it by building up Christ's Kingdom by the lives we lead. A theologian like St. Paul explained how to apply the faith to life. How we are called to live (morality and spirituality) is what St. Paul discussed in his letters. Today, these thoughts are the very basis of Christian morality and spirituality. Because of that they are the foundation of who we are today as Catholics.

Second, the missionary activity of St. Paul is not simply a part of our history. It impels us to spread the faith according to our state in life. Are we priests? Then we celebrate the sacraments and preach. Are we consecrated persons? Then we build the Kingdom of God through the example of our commitment and dedication. Are we faithful laity? Then we bring the presence of God into family life and the world. We are

“missionaries.”

Can this year of St. Paul change us? Yes, if we allow it to. Otherwise, it will be another special year consigned, after it is over, to the history of the Church. If we allow ourselves to be affected by the year's celebrations and opportunities for growth, we can continue the work of St. Paul, transforming the world into the place where the Kingdom of God grows.

*Rev. Steven J. Aguggia
Spiritual Advisor of the Local Board*

PS GOES TO WYD



Fortunate members of the Pro Sanctity Movement from the Central States experienced the thrill of their lives when they saw Pope Benedict XVI at World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia.



Pope Benedict looks to the youth of today as hope for the Church and the world. Witnessing the joy and enthusiasm our PS members brought back with them, we can expect that the Church and the world will be in good hands.



Tools for the Journey

Pope Benedict XVI has declared June 28, 2008 to June 29, 2009 as the Year of St. Paul in celebration of the 2,000th Anniversary of the saint's birth. The response by the Church, the media, and individual Catholics has been overwhelming. So much information has been made available during the first month of this celebratory year that space allows only a few examples:

- <http://www.osv.com/YearofStPaulNav/YearofStPaul/tabid/6133/Default.aspx> **Our Sunday Visitor's Website** on the Year of St. Paul contains more ways to celebrate than you can possibly do in a year. In addition to prayers, the Pauline Epistles, reading material, and much, much more, it includes a coloring book for kids, and a crossword puzzle. Even if you do nothing else, be sure to read the letters (epistles) of St. Paul in the New Testament.
- Magnificat has published **Praying with Saint Paul**, a delightful book which provides a brief excerpt from one of his letters, a prayerful reflection, and a short prayer for each day of the Year of St. Paul.

Rosemary Darmstadt

Ask Pro Sanctity

Nina Riti

I am a young adult seeking to respond to Pope Benedict's message of hope to the poor and needy. Do you have any suggestions?

What a great question, not only for you, but also for all young adults as well as our more mature older adults (in other words for all Christians). I used to be a last row, last seat Sunday Catholic. I came to mass on Sunday and ran out leaving everything I heard right there in the church. When the priest said the mass is over...and I responded, *Thanks be to God*, I thought it was my signal to leave and continue my life...same old, same old. I never realized what that really meant. It was a command that meant: now that you have heard the Word and partaken in the Eucharist, go and live your Baptismal commitment.

You are asking the question a lot sooner than many Christians. A dear friend of mine gave me a book in which the author asked basically the same question. Only he traveled to India and asked it of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Her answer was very simple, "...read Mathew 25:35-40." I will save you the trouble of looking it up, in case you don't know it by heart, but I am sure you do:

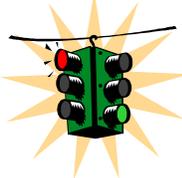
"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."
"...Lord, when did we see you.... The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"



How many clothes that you no longer wear are still hanging in your closet? How many unworn shoes are lying on the bottom of the same closet? A saint once said, "The shoes in my closet that I do not wear are the shoes of a poor man who has no shoes at all." And how about the food pantry? Did you ever think of bringing a bag of food or volunteering some time there?

However, before you do any of the above, fortify yourself by going to mass and partaking in the Eucharist. Pope Benedict tells us that receiving the Body and Blood of Christ intensifies and deepens our belonging to the one who died for us. Communion always and inseparably has both a vertical and horizontal dimension: it is communion with God and communion with your brothers and sisters.

Growing old is inevitable... growing UP is optional



RED LIGHT

GREEN LIGHT

You probably spend a lot of time in your car - taking the kids to school, going to work, etc. On your next trip, while waiting for the red light to change, mentally ask for forgiveness for some sin or hurt you have caused. At every green light, give thanks for a blessing in your life.

Laugh every day... it's like inner jogging

Mind Teaser

Fill in the blanks to learn more about St. Paul

1. Paul went on missionary journeys with S__S.
2. The Basilica named for Paul is St. Paul Outside the W__S.
3. Paul was converted on the Road to D____S.
4. Paul is called the A____E to The Gentiles.
5. Paul made T__E missionary trips.
6. Paul was born in T____S.
7. Before he became Paul, his name was S__L.
8. The feasts of Sts. P__R and Paul are celebrated together.
9. Paul wrote many letters. They are called E____S.
10. In 1Thessalonians 5:17, Paul tells us to P__Y constantly.

Answers are on page 6

Our Stories

Words From the Founder

Spirituality and Social Responsibility

Adapted from Love is Revolution By Bishop William Giaquinta

Too often we tend to think of spirituality as a strictly private affair between ourselves and God. The great danger that results from this attitude is failure to promote spirituality. We may not hesitate to speak out for morality or religion, but we keep quiet about something so personal as spirituality. We must ask what meaning God, or anything supernatural, has in the daily lives of people who “just go to mass on Sunday.”

If we want to save the world, we must convince people to love God and neighbor totally, “as I have loved you.” We cannot, therefore ignore the spiritual formation of others. It is our responsibility. For some time, mankind has recognized that no person is an island and each of us must be involved in the spiritual hunger, physical hunger, sickness and sin of everyone else. Now we must go a step further and realize we are brothers and sisters in our personal relationship with God. Whatever one of us does affects all the others. For no one can say that what happens anywhere else in the world does not concern him.

We must reach out with a charity that respects the personal dignity of others and not with charity offered with compassion that demeans them. It is easy to allow ourselves to dabble in the spiritual life. When a cause costs nothing, many are disposed to help out, but to give all without limit is the sort of demand that turns people away. If we want to help, let us not give crumbs of our time and energy, or ask “what’s in it for me”? If we want to be truly generous, let us not limit ourselves to easy, comfortable situations, but try to be present wherever we may be useful, without cutting back on our efforts because we foresee few or no results.

Have you checked the NY Pro Sanctity Website lately ?

*Look for upcoming events,
an inspirational quote of the day,
plus much, much more...*

*Make it a habit to check in at
www.nyprosanctity.org*

Answers to the Mind Teaser

1. SILAS
2. WALLS
3. DAMASCUS
4. APOSTLE
5. THREE
6. TARSUS
7. SAUL
8. PETER
9. EPISTLES
10. PRAY

“All who cross
your path
are your
brothers
and
sisters.

Approach them
as though
you have
always
known them.”

+ Bishop Giaquinta

Comedy Corner Eve’s Steep Price

God noticed that Adam was lonely and said to him, “Adam, I am going to give you the perfect companion. She’ll cook and clean and listen, she’s perfect.”

Adam replied, “Sounds good, but will she cost me an arm and a leg?”

God said, “No, only a rib.”

Mark Your Calendar 2008!

Saturday, November 1st

Celebration of the Universal Day of Sanctification - See page 8

Monday, November 3rd

Workshop: Annulment & Family Life

7:30 PM at Our Lady of Miracles Parish Center

Presenters: Rev. Steven Aguggia, Spiritual Advisor of Pro Sanctity

Ms. Ana Puente, Coordinator of Marriage Ministry

Women on the Journey

Personal Growth - Mind, Body and Spirit

Sunday, December 7 - 3:00 to 5:00 PM

MONTHLY ADORATION

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

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

September 12, October 10, November 14 & December 10.

FESTIVAL OF FAITH

for children 3-9 years

Arts and crafts

Saturdays, Oct. 11, Nov. 15, Dec. 13

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

7:00 PM - Madonna Room - September 19, October 17, November 21.

~~~~~ 2009 ~~~~~

### **What do you know about St. PAUL?**

*Join us for a 7 night encounter with this great spiritual guide!*

When: Monday at 7:30 - 9 PM

*Jan. 19, 26 - Feb. 2, 9, 23 - Mar. 2, 9.*

Where: Pro Sanctity Center - 730 East 87th Street, Brooklyn, NY

#### PRO SANCTITY ANNUAL WEEKEND RETREAT

*March 20 - 22*

*Don Bosco Retreat Center - Stony Point, NY*

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

*718-649-0324*

