



The Pro Sanctity Newsletter

Published by Pro Sanctity East

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New York
Summer 2012

Can I Trust Him?



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I'm sure you have heard it. Maybe even from people who used to call themselves "Catholics!" Many people today say that they have that sort of vague kind of faith; they say that they are "spiritual" but not religious. They have a hazy concept that God (or the "Universe") is out there somewhere.

The faith that we have as Christians is not just something passive, like a vague kind of trust in God. Instead, Christian faith is specific. We seek to know God Himself.

*Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, includes the following definition in its article on "Faith:" Faith is an act of trust or reliance. Rather than being passive, faith leads to an active life aligned with the ideals and the example of the one being trusted. It sees the mystery of **God** and his **grace** and seeks to know and become obedient to God. To a Christian; faith is not static but causes one to learn more of God and grow. It has its origin in God.*

That is a good definition. As Christians we do not have a vague, hazy notion of God. Rather we **KNOW** Him. In Jesus, God has revealed Himself fully. Our life as Christians is a journey to fuller knowledge of Him. We come to know Him through love of Him and of others and through the Church, which we believe that His fullest revelation of Himself, Jesus Christ, has left for us. In this Church, we have the sacraments, the means of grace and drawing closer to God.

That is called a life of holiness, to which we are all called: the **UNIVERSAL CALL**

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This Just In...

Jessica Kary , A.O.

New Center in Elkhorn

When Most Reverend George Lucas, Archbishop of Omaha, inaugurated and blessed the New Pro Sanctity Camp & Retreat Center in Elkhorn, Nebraska on Saturday, May 5th, he expressed his gratitude for its work and presence in the Archdiocese.

The new center was built after a fire on October 19, 2010, destroyed the horse barn that had served as the Pro Sanctity Center for 20 years. Among other things, it has been used as a site for Camp Fun & Faith for children, retreats for teens and young adults, and meetings for adults.

But God had a better plan in mind. His imagination is so much bigger than ours, and we are amazed each day with His creativity and Providence!

The present center will continue to serve the apostolate of the Movement and Apostolic Oblates.

(See pictures on page 3)

New Auxiliary Bishops for the Brooklyn Diocese

Congratulations to two priest friends of Pro Sanctity, Msgr. Raymond F. Chappetto and Msgr. Paul R. Sanchez, who were named by the Pope as Auxiliary Bishops for the Brooklyn Diocese on May 2nd. Bishop DiMarzio said they are parish priests at heart and are among the most respected priests in the Brooklyn Diocese.

May God bless and guide them.

(See picture on page 5)

Pro Sanctity East Newsletter Editors

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

Words from the Founder

Servant of God William Giaquinta

A Prayer of Trust in Jesus' Presence

BEHOLD, I AM WITH YOU


Lord, we gather here docile to your command.
We trust that you are in our midst, just as you promised.

Divine Master, enlighten our minds that we may begin to understand your mysteries and radiate them throughout the world.

Bearer-of-Fire, kindle in us a longing for the fire that overpowers our misery and becomes a blaze consuming the whole earth.

Divine Redeemer, draw us to the love of your cross and give us a passion for souls.

We wish to become holy, to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of souls, so that with them, in you, we may be consumed in the love of the Father and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



The Comedy Corner

A Tale of Absolute Trust

One night his mother told little Jonnie to go out to the back porch and bring in the broom.

He said, "Mama, I'm afraid to go out there. It's dark."

His mother smiled reassuringly. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark, Jonnie," she said. "Jesus is always there. He'll protect you."

Little Jonnie looked at his mother and asked, "Are you sure Jesus is out there?"

"Yes, I'm sure," she said. "He's everywhere, and he's always ready to help you when you need him."

Little Jonnie thought about that for a minute, went to the back door, and cracked it open just a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, "Jesus? Would you please hand me the broom?"

The Second Book of Catholic Jokes
Deacon Tom Sheridan

continued from p 1

As Catholic Christians, we are guided in this life of faith and holiness by the Church and her teachings. And we are led by spiritual guides like the saints who have gone before us on this journey. Think of our great guides: Bishop William Giaquinta and so many others!

If this is what people mean by being "religious," I'll take it. Because being religious

means following a path that had been walked many times before. It is tried and true. It is the Catholic Church and the Church is the ultimate gift from God because through the Church, God offers us the path which is knowledge of him ...not a vague "He is out there" kind of knowledge. He knows us and we can know him.

THAT IS FAITH!



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

News from The New York Board

At the last local board meeting, a letter from the National Board was read announcing that our local board, starting August 15th, will have as its new director Ms. Donna Spoto. The letter clearly outlined the process that was used in the selection of Donna and the acceptance on the part of Donna to take on this challenging role as our new director for a three-year term.

Angela DiPaola and Nina L. Riti had accepted the position of co-directors for the year which will end August 14th 2012.

It was with great joy and excitement that the local board welcomed Donna and look forward to working with her to continue the work of Pro Sanctity to spread the Call to Holiness to all. There were many ideas that were discussed including the start of the Formation School for all interested members and friends. This certainly looks like a really exciting time ahead. As always we need all the members' prayers and support for our success.



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The new center in Elkhorn, NE, will continue to serve the apostolate of the Movement and Apostolic Oblates. This 12,000 square foot building has an exquisite chapel, a large hall that can seat 300 at tables, two conference rooms, a large kitchen, a library which also serves as a tornado shelter, offices for Camp, the Movement, finances, archives, a spiritual direction room, and a volunteer workroom,

Ask Pro Sanctity

Is the Eucharist a Symbol of Jesus Christ?

Donna Spoto

In Jesus' time, table fellowship was very important. To be invited to the table and share in a meal implied that a relationship existed between those sharing the meal at the table. What better way for Jesus to continue to share in a relationship with us but by being present to us in a meal. At the Last Supper, he chose to use the physical bodylines of the bread and wine to offer himself in a bodily presence. He could have chosen to make himself present to us in any way he wanted, but

he chose to do it through the sharing of a meal.

Jesus' Eucharistic presence assures us of a very real and active presence among us and is a continual invitation to a personal relationship with him from his institution of the Eucharist to the present day. *"Originally, the disciples experienced their personal relationship with Jesus by sharing table fellowship with him. After the Resurrection, the Eucharistic meal became an experience of their personal relationship with the resurrected Christ. More specifically, the liturgical words over the bread and wine 'expressed what the personal relationship – the community at table – with Jesus meant to the primitive Church and continued to mean*

after his departure – namely, his real presence in the assembled community'" (Kubicki, 825).

We continue to experience this personal relationship with the resurrected Christ in the liturgy and the sharing of the Eucharistic meal today. The Eucharist is **NOT** a symbol of Jesus Christ. The bread and wine may **LOOK** and **TASTE** like a piece of bread and a cup of wine, but to use the Church's word – transubstantiation – **They are the Body and Blood of Christ.** This is Jesus' invitation to us to continue a real and personal relationship with him.

Kubicki, Judith Marie. "Recognizing the Presence of Christ in the Liturgical Assembly." Theological Studies, 65.4 (December 2004): 817-837.

"Our call to be holy invites us to 'go all the way.' Ask for the grace and strength to desire, and make every effort, to live this call totally and joyfully."

Servant of God Bishop William Giaquinta

The Personal Challenge

Nina L. Riti

"Our life as Christians is a journey to fuller knowledge of Him." Wow, if that is not a challenge, or another way of putting it, a life-long quest, I don't know what is. This is a quote from Msgr. Aguglia's lead article. Not only does it clearly present a challenge for all of us but Msgr. even reminds us of the love that God has for all of us by giving us the tools that will help us on that journey, *i.e.*, the sacraments.

If we faithfully partake of the sacraments that are abundantly available, then, as Jesus says in the Bible: "my grace is sufficient," will help us live the life that we were meant to live. These words will also help us to reap the rewards of joy and peace as an example of just some of the fruits that were promised when we partook of the final sacrament of initiation into the Catholic Church at Confirmation. In addition, recognizing that this is a challenge, Msgr. reminds us of the many examples our Church has for us when he reminds us to look to the saints as examples and models of faith-filled people whose journey was not easy, but who stayed on the path despite the difficulties. As you read "Saints for All Times" in this issue (see page 6) you will read about a young girl who despite the difficulties of her life journey, God sends people to help her...her mother who planted the seeds of faith and missionaries who watered the gift of faith to assist her on her journey. When we are challenged, let us remember God always sends us who we need.

I teach Religious Education to public school children and can see how easy the Church makes it for our young people to partake of these gifts compared to how difficult it was for Blessed Kateri to receive the first two gifts of initiation: Baptism and Communion. Despite the challenges that we face, the gift of FAITH that God gives us will see us through whatever is put before us.

Our Stories

Bishops elect
Raymond F. Chappetto
and Paul R. Sanchez
share a few happy thoughts
with Bishop Di Marzio at
the announcement of their
election. They will be
ordained July 11, 2012 at Our Lady of Angels Church, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, NY



Founder's Day celebration
at Mary Queen of Heaven
Church was both an inspiring
spiritual and social success



Top left is Msgr. Aguggia giving his thought-provoking homily, center the Filipino Choir whose music added to the sacredness of the event, top right: all four priests that concelebrated mass (from left) Msgrs. Aguggia, Gigantiello, Vaccari, and retired priest Msgr. John Burns, bottom left Msgr. Gigantiello incensing the picture of our beloved Founder, Servant of God Bishop William Giaquinta, center Gail E. Evans who sang a truly moving "Ave Maria."

Festival of Faith at Our
Lady of Angels Parish in Bay
Ridge, Brooklyn shows the
winners of the
Hula hoop contest.



Above right...no Pro Sanctity event ends without a time for good food (sandwiches, hot and cold drinks, and all kinds of desserts) so that good fellowship could be had by all.

Please remember in your prayers two dear and long time members of Pro Sanctity ...Arlene Grau from St. Fidelis and Delores LaCosta from Our Lady of Miracles who were called home by God the Father

Our Models ... Saints for Our Times

Compiled by Nina L. Riti



Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Lily of the Mohawks

"This wonderful crown of new beauty, God's bountiful gift to His Church, is completed by this sweet, frail yet strong figure of a young woman who died when she was only 24 years old: Kateri Tekakwitha, the 'Lily of the Mohawks,' the first to renew the marvels of sanctity of Saint Scholastica, Saint Gertrude, Saint Catherine of Siena, Saint Angela Merici, Saint Rose of Lima, preceding along the path of love, her great spiritual sister, Therese of the Child Jesus." These are the opening words of Blessed Pope John Paul II at the beatification ceremony of Kateri Tekakwitha, who soon will become the first Native American Saint.

Kateri (the Indian name given to her from the French "Catherine," which was the name under which she was baptized) was born in the Mohawk village of Gandauague in northern New York in the year 1656. She was the daughter of Kenneronkwa, a Mohawk chief, and Tagaskouita, a Roman

Catholic Algonquin. Her mother had been captured by the Mohawks and was saved from a life of slavery when Kateri's father married her, with whom she also had a son.

Roots of her Strong Faith

Her mother was educated by the French missionaries and thus the foundation of Kateri's strong faith began to take root. When Kateri was only four years old an epidemic of smallpox hit the village killing many, including her mother, father and brother, in addition to leaving Kateri with a severely marked face and seriously impaired eyesight. Her poor vision was the basis for the second part of her name...Tekakwitha, which in one of its many translations, means "she who bumps into things".

Her father's family took in Kateri. Despite her unbecoming features her adopted family, in keeping with Iroquois custom, though she was only eight years old, made arrangements with a young boy's family for Kateri to marry him. This, in addition, to her uncle's bitter feelings about Christian beliefs made life very difficult for her. Life continued to be hard for our young saint-in-the-making because when she was ten years old a war party attacked her village. The surviving Mohawks were moved to the present village of Fonda after peace talks were concluded. During the peace talks missionaries stayed at her uncle's tent and Kateri's religious training continued. She spent ten years in this village living in "the midst of carnage and debauchery" and yet she lived "a life of remarkable virtue... resisting all temptations."

Kateri becomes a Christian

When she was 18, Fr. Jacques de Lamberville came into her life and he continued her religious training in secret. Her uncle finally agreed and gave permission

for Kateri to become a Christian. This decision to become Catholic caused her to be ridiculed and scorned by her fellow villagers. People lied about her and falsely accused her of many things and even threatened her life. Despite all this abuse she practiced her faith unflinchingly and lived a life of remarkable virtue until it became apparent that she was no longer safe in her uncle's village. So in 1677, she left her village and embarked on a 200-mile journey through woods, rivers and swamps to the Catholic mission at St. Francis Xavier at Sault Saint-Louis. This journey took over two months. Because of this, it was agreed that this indicated her determination to follow her faith and proving herself worthy, she was allowed to receive her first Holy Communion on Christmas Day, 1677.

She radiated God's Presence

Kateri led a life of prayer and penitential practices. She taught the young and helped those in the village who were poor and sick. She always spoke kindly to everyone she met. Her favorite devotion was to make crosses out of sticks and place them throughout her journey as a reminder to stop and say a prayer. Her motto was "Who can tell me what is most pleasing to God that I may do it?" She loved to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and would kneel for hours on the cold chapel floors. She loved when people would ask her to tell them a story and she would tell one of the many stories she remembered about Jesus' life. The people loved being with her because they felt the presence of God through her. A priest asked the people one day why they would gather around her. They said that her face changed when she was praying...it became full of beauty and peace...as if she were looking at God's face.

Continued on page 7

Mark your Calendar 2012!

...Come and grow with us

Pro Sanctity Movement School of Formation

The Founder desired that every Pro Sanctity member receive theological, scriptural, spiritual, and apostolic formation. Pro Sanctity has designed a three-year formation program that highlights the treasures of the Church through the eyes of Bishop Giaquinta. Scripture, the Catechism, Church documents, and writings of the Founder will be studied contemplatively alongside practical tools for the interior life and the apostolate.

The Pro Sanctity School of Formation is for all Oblates, Cooperatives, Sodales, Animators, Board Members, and those who want to deepen their Catholic formation within the Pro Sanctity spirituality. The School of Initial Formation (year one) will come to New York in the Fall of 2012. More information will be provided soon about this exciting endeavor.

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.

Festival of Faith

for children 3 -9 yrs

Arts and crafts

O L of Angels, Bay Ridge

Saturday, Sept. 15

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Bible Sharing

Getting to know Jesus

Every Thursday

It will Begin Sept. 20th

7:30—9:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Miracles School

For more information of all the events, please call 718-649-0324

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha - continued from page 6

One of the priests advised her to take better care of herself, but she just laughed and continued doing exactly what she was doing. Her poor health, which was always a part of her entire life since the small pox, led to her death at 24 in 1680. Her last words were..."Jesus, I love You."

Moments after her death it was reported by the two Jesuit priests and all the other people who were in the room with her, that "her scarred and disfigured face miraculously cleared and was made beautiful by God."



Blessed Kateri is Patron of
ecology, the environment,
orphans, the exiled,
and World Youth Day



Apostolic Oblates
Pro Sanctity
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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.

Upcoming Events

Pro Sanctity Annual Picnic

Sunday, September 16, 2012

3:00 P.M.

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

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### ***The Pro Sanctity Movement***

***cordially invites YOU to join us to celebrate the***

### **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***