

Good News



The Pro Sanctity Newsletter

Published by Pro Sanctity East

prosanctitynewyork@verizon.net

New York

www.nyprosanctity.org

Winter 2015

Family: Cradle of the Faith

Almost seven million people gathered in Manila, Philippines, to hear the Holy Father, Pope Francis speak. He told them: "It is in the family that we first learn how to pray...That is why it is so important to pray as a family! That is why families are so important in God's plan for the Church."

The family is at the heart of human societies and the cradle of the Faith as the Holy Father said so clearly. Yet, the family is under attack by forces which would



IN THIS ISSUE

This Just In.....page 2

Founder's Words.....page 2

Giaquinta Fest.....page 2

Desk of the Director...page 3

Ask Pro Sanctity.....page 4

Personal Challenge....page 4

Our Stories.....page 5

Saints - Our Models....page 6

Grow with Us.....page 7

Save the Dates.....page 8

J P II on Family.....Insert

destroy this basic structure of the Church and of society. Some of these forces are subtle (like drawing our families apart by messages children receive on TV or social media) and some are not so subtle (like support for same-sex "marriage"). What can we do?

First, we pray and we pray hard. Prayer can accomplish great things. And we can pray as a family, as the Holy Father asks. This teaches our children the importance of prayer. Then, we can take steps to create environ-

ments that foster holy family life. Turn off the TV during dinner (? - God forbid!!!) or limit the cell phone usage and talk (? - Really???). We can also work actively to help create and develop different attitudes in society which are family-friendly and not destructive.

The family and the home have been called the "domestic church" which means that what is learned in church is lived at home and what is learned at home is lived in

Continued on page 3

This Just In...

Nina L. Riti

Our International Director

Vincenzo Florindi



As we mentioned in our last newsletter Vincenzo Florindi has been elected as the International Director of the Pro Sanctity Movement.

He became involved with Pro Sanctity when he was invited to join a Pro Sanctity Youth group in Pescara. His involvement and interest increased as he brought his many gifts, talents and expertise to the movement.

He comes to us after showing his great leadership and spiritual initiatives on the National level as the Director in Italy for the Pro Sanctity Movement.

Please continue to keep him in your prayers as he takes those gifts to the international level for our ever expanding Pro Sanctity Family.

Pro Sanctity East Newsletter Editors

Angela Di Paola, A.O.
Rosemary Darmstadt
Mona Edwards
Mariakutty Joseph, A.O.
Nina L. Riti
Donna Spoto
Ann Sutherland

Words from the Founder

Servant of God William Giaquinta

Excerpts from “*Family - A Community of Love*”

The family, by its very nature, is a natural place for self-giving love, and a mirror, even though very small, of the generative, creative, and redemptive love of God.

We should rediscover the social, missionary, and fraternal possibilities of our homes and families. Only thus can we give an authentic, meaningful "Yes!" to the call to sanctity, which is the total love of God and neighbor. For our holiness must be lived not only in the personal/vertical dimension between ourselves and God, but also in the family/fraternal dimension and as a whole society.

The family, therefore, acquires a new dimension in the work of redemption. As it gives love to all its members and receives from all, it expresses love for God and the family; this love, then, by its very nature, expands unhampered toward the Church and all humanity.

A family inspired by the principles of the universal call to holiness is more able to bring a maximum Christian outlook to every facet of its life and help others to do the same. Everything from world news to our personal concerns must be judged through the outlook of love of God and neighbor.



Giaquinta Fest

R. Darmstadt

It was 7 o'clock on the evening of November 7th 2014 and St. Kevin's Parish Hall was filling up with Pro Sanctity members and friends arrayed in bright jewel-like colors.

Why? Because we were gathering to observe the closing of the Year of Bishop Giaquinta's 100th Birthday - and in tribute to him, those who attended wore the color of their own birthstone.

We were honored to be joined by our Episcopal Moderator, Bishop Chappetto, and his guest, Archbishop Wilson of Australia. After Bishop Chappetto opened the festivities with prayer, Donna Spoto, Director of the Local Board, in conjunction with a Power Point presentation, recounted the Life and Legacy of Bishop Giaquinta

An enjoyable buffet style dinner was then served. Now, well fortified by Food for the Body, as well as Food for the Spirit, it was time to reassemble in 12 groups representing our birth month. This was an ideal opportunity to spend some time getting to know and work creatively with others to prepare a skit, a poem, a song, or any artistic portrayal that each group decided best conveyed the message of Bishop Giaquinta.

Continued on page 7

continued from p 1

the church. There is no separation. Our homes can and should be holy places where the love of Jesus is lived out with the people God has given us as parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents...

There are families with problems, challenges. They need our support and prayers. There are families torn apart by distance and

discord. How can we help them?

The Pope's visit to the US in September will be dedicated to the "family" at the gathering for Families in Philadelphia. This is a year dedicated to families. Our challenge this year is to do what we can to build up family life and strengthen the "domestic church."

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, be our guide!



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



The official hymn for the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia is "Sound the Bell of Holy Freedom." It concludes with the words "... call all families of the world to be fed by love incarnate; to proclaim God's holy Word; through the love of Christ our brother; in the Spirit make us one."

© World Meeting of Families - Philadelphia 2015

From the Desk of the Director

Donna Spoto

Happy New Year! I hope the year is filled with good health, happiness, and holiness for all.

The overall theme of our next four newsletters will be on the theme of Holiness in the Family. This is especially fitting since every three years the Church sponsors the World Meeting of Families and the next gathering will be held in September 2015 in the United States! Families from around the world will gather in Philadelphia with Pope Francis in celebration of the family.

The theme of the World Meeting of Families is "*Love is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive.*" A book has been published with this same title and offers a wonderful preparatory catechesis with ten monthly themes to be considered for the family: *Created for Joy; The Mission of Love; The Meaning of Human Sexuality; Two Become One; Creating the Future; All Love Bears Fruit; Light in a Dark World; A Home for the Wounded Heart; Mother, Teacher, Family: The Nature and Role of the Church; and Choosing Life.* This is a great document to use for individual or group reflection.

Pope Francis tells us, "*We are called to acknowledge how beautiful, true and good it is to start a family, to be a family today; and how indispensable the family is for the life of the world and for the future of humanity. We are called to make known God's magnificent plan for the family and to help spouses joyfully experience this plan in their lives, as we accompany them amidst so many difficulties.*" As Pro Sanctity members, let us reflect on Pope Francis' words and pray for holy families as well as the success of the 2015 gathering in Philadelphia.

***We also have good news from the Local Board. Monica Hejkal, A.O. has agreed to take on the position of local treasurer. We are very grateful for her 'yes' to serve, as she brings a great deal of Pro Sanctity experience.

How can I get my family to come together in prayer?

Everyone's family dynamic is unique, so we may want to begin by taking simple steps to get where we ultimately want to be. These are just some suggestions for what one may do to promote prayerfulness amongst one's family:



- 1. Invitation** - example: during mealtime invite members to voice something they are thankful for. Make it nonjudgmental
- 2. Be a Role Model** - allow your family to witness the presence or the centeredness of the Lord in your daily life, *i.e.*, by mass attendance, community activities, or your decision-making
- 3. Create Family Gatherings** - according to Father Patrick Peyton, also known as **The Rosary Priest** and promoter of the [Rosary](#) who once said that "The family that prays together stays together." **Parents have an obligation to be positive role models for their children. It is not just enough to attend mass daily, but also to live out what the Church teaches in our communities where we live, work and have fun.** Make it fun and stress-free—as a family decide the place and time. In the beginning and at the closing of a family meeting pray in thanksgiving for the gathering. Start simple
- 4. Attend Family Retreats** - retreats which foster personal and spiritual growth.

Remember, the Church body teaches and shows us as best as she can how to ascertain a life of holiness. The Church is the embodiment of what a family is. But we have to be present and open to receive the Church's teachings. Parents have to impart onto their children that the Church brings purposefulness, meaning and joy to their everyday life. Therefore, parents need to first fall in love with worshipping God in church so that they would be effective in imparting the love of God onto their children.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20.

The Personal Challenge

Nina L. Riti

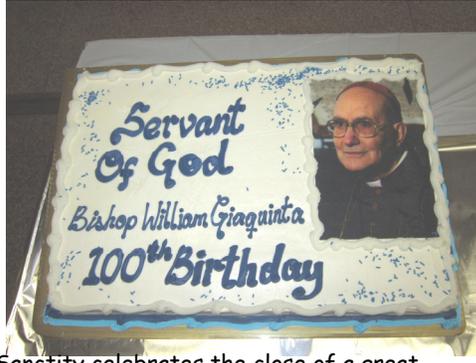
After reading the lead article by Msgr. Aguggia, the challenge presented to us screams out loud and clear, *i.e.*, strengthening and solidifying the family. I loved it when Msgr. reminded us that the family is the "Domestic Church". Everything starts with the family... our prayer life, our morality, our idea of right and wrong, our work ethic, learning to share, learning to help one another. I could go on and on. St. Angela Merici said "Disorder in society is the result of disorder in the family." What a true statement.

I remember when society supported that concept. Something called the "**Blue Laws**" (someone told me about them ...that was before my time), The "**Blue Laws**" required most businesses to be closed on Sunday. Sunday was the family day. The day we went to church, visited friends and family, and ate dinner together. It was a day of rest - the way God meant it to be. It was a day of connecting with the family. But today, Sunday is a day at the mall, more running around, trying to get things done...the family...we are too busy for that. I read about a family...Husband and wife both worked long hours to support the big house with a big back yard, two cars, a nanny to raise their kids.

Then the husband had a big wake-up call...he stopped and looked at his life and realized how empty it was. He sat down and talked to his family...they sold the big house, bought one they could afford on one salary. They let the nanny go, they sold the second car and the wife stayed home with the kids doing what Oprah calls the most important job a person can have...being a mother. Saturday night the kids took turns picking out the board game they were going to play. They prayed before they ate their dinner and thanked God for the day, the meal and each other. Sunday was a day they all went to church and did fun things together. Now he looked at his life and realized how full and rewarding it was. Now his Domestic Church was strong and the world he lived in was better for it.

What can you do to make your Domestic Church stronger?

Our Stories



Pro Sanctity celebrates the close of a great year honoring our beloved founder.
Upper left: Msgr. Aguggia welcomes everyone
Left: Donna Spoto narrates slide show about the Founder.



Right: Judges for the Birthday competition.
Left middle: Members enjoying presentation from birthday groups.
Middle left & center: Birthday groups in red, and blue smile for the camera.



Above right: February winners for the Birthday competition as they sing. This is the "Age of Giaquinta."
Below right: Giovanna and Angela welcome St. Kevin parishioners as they join the festivities.



Bottom center: Smiling faces are a sign of the groups enjoying the good food and good company on this special close of the Founders Year.



Above left: Plenty of good food as usual for everyone.



Center right: Mona leads October birthday group for their presentation while below left: Lucy leads the May birthday group in their valiant effort to win the competition.



Pro Sanctity group from St. Fidelis enjoys good food for the body after being fed with spiritual food for the soul.



Blessed Peter To Rot An Exceptional Family Man

"The family that prays together stays together..." This famous quote was coined by Father Patrick Peyton 1909 - 1992, an Irish-born Roman Catholic priest who passionately promoted the family rosary. It also articulates the life of Blessed Peter To Rot (pronounced "toe rote") of Papua New Guinea. Peter, born in 1912, was the third of six children born to Angelo To Puia (former chief of the village of Rakunai,) and his wife Maria Ia Tumul. Both his parents' converted to Catholicism during the evangelization of Papua New Guinea (a southern Pacific island), in the early twentieth century. Peter lived an exceptionally religious life as a young man, a husband and father.

With his parents' support, Peter attended Catholic missionary and Catechist schools at age eighteen, and at twenty-one years old, he returned to Rakunai, his original hometown, teaching catechism to the children, religious instruction to the adults, and visiting the sick, thus becoming the youngest catechist in this region.

A Model Christian Family

At age twenty-two, Peter married Paula Ia Varpit, a young

woman from a neighboring village. Theirs was a model Christian marriage. He showed great respect for his wife and prayed with her every morning and evening. The couple had three children, one of whom was born after Peter's death. He was very devoted to his children and spent as much time with them as possible. Peter was so devoted to his beliefs of family life that, not only did he live by it, he died a martyr because of his conviction.

In 1942, during World War II, the Japanese invaded Papua New Guinea and immediately imprisoned all priests and religious persons. As a result, Peter, a lay person, took on many new pastoral responsibilities. It was also his duty to escort villagers who wished to receive the sacraments, to a missionary who had escaped into the woods during the invasion.

Peter is Imprisoned

In the midst of this turmoil, the Japanese reintroduced polygamy in Papua New Guinea hoping to gain the support of several local chiefs. Peter To Rot opposed this law, and continued to promote the Catholic teaching on marriage. He expressed his disagreement with such practices by declaring, "I will never say enough to the Christians about the dignity and the great importance of the sacrament of marriage." Paula, on the other hand, feared that this type of declaration could have an adverse effect on their family, to which her husband replied, "If I must die, that is good, because I will die for the reign of God over our people."

His wife's fears came true and, because of his opposition to polygamy and his persistence in imparting the teachings of the Church, Peter was imprisoned and subsequently murdered in 1945.

He was given a chief's burial at the cemetery of Rakunai, next to the church where he had ministered. He is recognized as a martyr for the faith and his burial place is now a place of pilgrimage.

Beatified as a Martyr

On January 17, 1995, Pope John Paul II, a champion for the advancement of the family visited Papua New Guinea to celebrate the beatification of Peter To Rot. He described Blessed Peter To Rot in his death as one who was "...condemned without trial, he suffered his martyrdom calmly. Following in the footsteps of his Master, the 'Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world', he too was 'led like a lamb led to the slaughter'. And yet this 'grain of wheat' which fell silently into the earth has produced a harvest of blessings for the Church in Papua New Guinea!"

The legacy of Blessed Peter To Rot continues through Pope Francis, who we know as a strong advocate of the family. In his visit to Rio de Janeiro in 2013, he stressed that **the family is necessary for the survival of humanity, the essential cell of society and the Church, and the privileged place for transmitting the faith.** As recently as January 2015, in his address to the people of the Philippines, Pope Francis implored them to honor the family in its original tradition.



Mark your Calendar for 2015!

...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.

Festival of Faith

For children 3-9 yrs old

Our Lady of Angels Parish
Bay Ridge, Bklyn, NY 11209

Saturday, Feb 21, Mar 21

4–6 p.m. Call 718 649-0324

Bible Sharing

“Bible Timeline” DVD O.L. Miracles School, Bklyn, NY 11236

Every Thursday 7:30 to 9:00 pm

“Bible Timeline” DVD Pro Sanctity Center , Flushing NY 11358

Every Thus. 7–8:30 pm; Fri. 10 –11:30 am

Spanish-Bible Sharing: “Un Rapido Recorrido Por la Biblia”

St. Fidelis Parish, College Point, NY 11356—Madonna Rm.

Sunday Feb.1, 15, 22, Mar 8, 22 11:30—1:00 pm

Filipino Day of Prayer

Saturday, March 14

9:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

Retiro Pro Santidad

Viernes, Junio 5–6 –7

Pro Sanctity Center

45-30 195th Street, Flushing, NY 11358

For more information please call 718-649-0324

Giaquinta Fest - Continued from page 2

Competition was fierce and fun and the winner's prize was awarded to the Month of February who composed and sang a song to the tune of "The Age of Aquarius" changing it to "The Age of Giaquinta."

Another highlight of the evening was the warm words spoken by two Pro Sanctity members who had known Bishop Giaquinta personally. Gloria Florez said that he was kind and truly gave her a clearer picture of what God the Father must be like. She also remembered that Bishop Giaquinta had a good sense of humor and really knew how to laugh. Efié Wilbeck immediately saw that Bishop Giaquinta was a man of prayer with a deep devotion to the Eucharist. It was because he so clearly explained the meaning of the call to holiness for lay people that Efié and her husband, Roger, became active members of The Pro Sanctity Movement over 40 years ago.

Apostolic Oblates
Pro Sanctity
45-30 195th St.
Flushing, NY 11358

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FLUSHING, NY
PERMIT NO. 1461



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.

Saturday, March 21, 2015

Pro Sanctity Lenten Day of Prayer

9:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

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

Pro Sanctity Weekend Retreat

Theme: “I Must Be the First to Start My Inner Journey”

April 17-18-19, 2015

Retreat Master: Very Rev. Thomas G Pettei

Territorial Vicar for Queens

Immaculate Conception Seminary

440 West Neck Rd. Huntington, LI

For information please call 718-649-0324