



Pro Sanctity Movement New York

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Witnessing to the Eucharist

St. Irenaeus was a Bishop in what is now Lyon, France in the 2nd century. He had heard the preaching of St. Polycarp who was a disciple of St. John the Evangelist. So there was a real connection to the apostles. That is important because it gives weight to St. Irenaeus' teachings.

He said, "Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking."



Pope Francis has lunch with the homeless



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So right from the start of the Church, we can say that Christians always believed the Eucharist was not just something we do, but something we are.

We are called to participate in the Eucharist at least on Sundays but each time we do, we must be changed by it. The Eucharist is who we are and so we live it, we don't just celebrate it (much less "go to it").

At the Eucharistic celebration,

we enter into the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus and as we do that we are transformed into persons whose very lives are ordered to and from the Eucharist.

From there we live out our lives as people who, having encountered the risen Jesus whose Paschal Mystery we have celebrated, now live out our lives - transformed by the power of the Eucharist

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This Just In...

Nina Riti

Pro Sanctity is having a convention in Sacrofano, Rome at the "Fratena Domus" from Nov. 29 to Dec.1. The theme of the convention is based on the book *Love is Revolution* by Bishop Giaquinta. The weekend will consist of five workshops that will be addressing the impact of five groups, i.e. on Society, our Culture, the work place, the Family and brotherhood. The goal of these five presentations is to give testimony as to how holiness can be witnessed in society today.

Angela Di Paola will be leaving for Rome to participate in the convention and will be representing us. Please keep her in your prayers for a safe and inspiring experience. We will be looking forward to her safe return and reporting back on what we know will be an uplifting encounter.

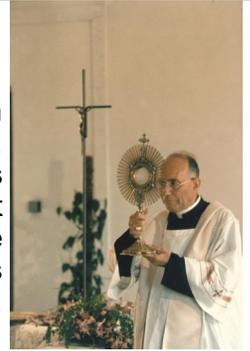


Pro Sanctity East Newsletter Editors

Rev. Msgr. Steven Aguggia
Angela Di Paola
Rosemary Darmstadt
Mona Edwards
Mariakutty Joseph
Nina L. Riti
Ann Sutherland

Words from the Founder, Servant of God, William Giaquinta

The Eucharist is the center of all spiritual life in the Church. All our work, our ministry, our prayer, the other sacraments, and the whole Church is centered on the Eucharist because the Eucharist is Jesus! It is how Jesus is with us, how he strengthens us, feeds us, and energizes us. It is Jesus to whom we direct our lives, our prayer, and our work.



Besides joining us to Jesus, it joins all of us together. As through the sacrament of Baptism, I become one with Christ, so too, with the Eucharist, I am immersed in him and in my brothers and sisters, and together we spiritually form a unique reality. How this happens is mysterious and cannot be seen physically, but if each one of us is transformed into Christ through reception of the Eucharist, we are a unity, we are a single body - the Mystical Body. Thus, any sin, any offense against charity, is a wound against the Body of Christ. If we believe in the Eucharist, we must love our brothers and sisters because they are Christ - not only at the time of Communion - but in a relationship that continues through grace.

On a personal level, the Eucharist transforms us into Christ, sanctifies our bodies and souls, deadens our passions, and plants the seeds of immortality and resurrection. On a collective level, the Eucharist constitutes the Mystical Body, gives us the grace of charity and the grace of the apostolate among neighbors and among those far away.

Every soul that approaches the Eucharist should experience this triple love-relationship that exists within the sacrament of the Eucharist: with Christ by whom we become a unity; with our brethren who already know and have become Christ through the Eucharist; and with our brethren who have not yet become Christ and whom we must inspire to become Eucharist.

-Adapted from Bishop Giaquinta's writings on the Eucharist

Pope Francis said...

"Every celebration of the Eucharist is a ray of that never-setting sun that is the Risen Jesus. Taking part in the Mass, particularly on Sunday, means entering the victory of the Risen One, being illuminated by His light, warmed by His compassion. Through the Eucharistic celebration the Holy Spirit makes us participants in the divine life that is able to transfigure our whole mortal being."

"He died out of love! And in the Eucharist, He wishes to communicate this, His paschal, victorious love to us. If we receive Him with faith, we can truly love God and neighbor; we can love as He loved us, by giving our life."

"If Christ's love is within me, I can give myself fully to others, in the interior certainty that even if the other were to wound me I would not die; otherwise I should defend myself. The martyrs gave their own lives in the certainty of Christ's victory over death. Only if we experience the power of Christ, the power of His love, are we truly free to give ourselves without fear."

"As we enter the church to celebrate Mass, let us think about this: I am going to Calvary where Jesus gave his life for me."

...at a General Audience on November 22, 2017

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into Eucharistic people. Think again of St. Irenaeus' words, "Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking."

We become what we celebrate, what we consume.

So how are we witnesses to the Eucharist in the world today? By being what we are called to be...persons transformed by the love of Christ as it is poured out for us in the Holy Eucharist.



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

Merry Christmas!



FROM THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Ann Sutherland

Servant of God, Guglielmo Giaquinta: The Journey to Sainthood Continues

Let us continue to pray for the thorough but expedient conclusion to the investigations into the life of our founder, Servant of God, Guglielmo Giaquinta. While the canonical process is underway, we must be vigilant and steadfast in our prayers for Bishop Giaquinta whose example of a "witness of holiness" has been and continues to be prevalent in the Pro Sanctity Movement.

Ten years after his death a resounding YES was made by the Bishops' Conference in Lazio, Italy, to name him as "candidate" for sainthood. After some preliminary investigations, our founder Bishop Giaquinta was proclaimed Servant of God on March 17, 2004.

The Acts held by the Tribunal that will be handed over to Congregation for the Causes of saints continues the in-depth process of examining his writings to determine if they are in keeping with the spiritual doctrine of the church. Members of the movement, including the Apostolic Oblates, spiritual advisers, associates and friends in our region and beyond, have been interviewed and have given mounting testimonies to verify what we already know. Our founder, through his thoughts and deeds left significant traces of sanctity that we try to follow as a movement.

We anxiously await the declaration of Bishop Giaquinta as Venerable, the second step in this diligent and thorough process, solemnly yet excitedly.

Adopted from presentation of the Postulator of the Cause of Beatification by Marialuisa Pugliesi

Ask Pro Sanctity... How can I be a witness today ?

Mona Edwards

Witnessing means reaching out to share our personal and true encounters with the Risen Lord to others. A great example of this is when Jesus found Philip while in the town of Galilee and told him to "Follow me". Then Philip in turn encountered Nathaniel and told him "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." But Nathaniel said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." (John 1: 43 – 46)

Jesus died on the cross for our salvation and after his resurrection he commissioned His disciples, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28: 19 – 20). God willed that we carry out his command to set out into the deep and be witnesses of His love for all of mankind, to each other, over all the nations. So therefore we have a responsibility to our brethren who are non-believers in Jesus, to lead them to seek Him out.

Ways in which we can lead others to Christ:

- 1) Finding out or encountering Jesus for ourselves--- through reading and edifying ourselves on Christ's Word.
- 2) Praying to the Lord---asking for the Father's guidance on the direction he wants you to take in witnessing to others.
- 3) Allowing or trust in God---to use your voice to speak His truth to others.
- 4) Be nicely persistent----don't give up when you encounter resistance.

"Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:16).

The Personal Challenge

Nina L. Riti

Are you a Witness? This entire newsletter is a challenge to all of us as to whether or not we are witnesses of Christ by the way we live our lives. Msgr. starts by saying "the Eucharist is not just something we do but something we are" After you partake in that great Eucharistic feast do we become what we just consumed? I read an article that reported the results of the responses from people questioned about what they believed after they had just received Holy Communion. 61% said they believed it was a symbol. That means only 39% believed it was the Real Presence of Christ. You can tell the way they approach the Priest and then take the Precious Body of Jesus...some act like they are getting M & M candy while some respectfully approach, bow and walk reverently away. Some return restlessly waiting for the end of mass and others return to their seats and silently embrace the union with their Savior allowing and welcoming the graces that come to help us on our journey. Msgr. concludes his article by challenging us to be "persons transformed by the love of Christ as it is poured out for us in the Holy Eucharist".

The powerful words of Bishop Giaquinta when he says "If we believe in the Eucharist we must love our brothers and sisters because they are Christ.. "How many of us have people we are not talking to and are angry with for whatever reason ...justified or not justified ...how can we forgive and accept them? Not easy... believe me ... when I am driving and someone cuts me off or does something stupid, the person I become is not Christ-like at all and this is a total stranger let alone someone I call friend or family...how do I witness my love for them after they have hurt or wronged me? Pray for the grace to Christ in them.

Pope Francis says "If Christ's love is within me, I can give myself fully to others..." so don't give up on people. Reach out to the people God puts in your life. If you feel you can't forgive now, pray for them and trust that God will show you the way. Pray that you will be more understanding of where they are coming from. In response to the query (above) How can I be a witness? we are given four suggestions...all of them are good but the last one "nicely persistent—don't give up when you encounter resistance" really struck home. Think about the time you were at a gathering and someone started talking politics or religion...can we respect the person, see Christ in the person and listen without getting angry but without giving up our beliefs — yet being able to peacefully present our view trusting that as Luke 21:15 says "I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict". In the end, just simply agree to disagree. Read St. John Newman's life that shows us how we can be "an example of honesty and dignity " and live by the Truth without being divisive.

Something is happening in our society that scares me, people are openly expressing racist, anti-Semitic, white supremacy ideas as right thinking, they are not even feeling ashamed of such erroneous thinking. Lying or "alternative truths" are acceptable. This is a time when we MUST be witnesses to the truth...Christ is the Truth and the Way and the Life.

Our Stories



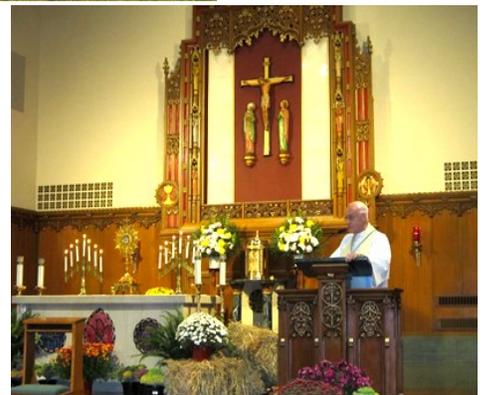
Left: Pro Sanctity members pause at the Cross located at the center of the shrine

Below: Bishop Chappetto's inspiring reflection on the Universal Day of Sanctification



Above & left: Sept 14th trip to Our Lady of Fatima Shrine with St. Fidelis' Pro Sanctity members

Below left: Msgr. Aguggia greets Pope Francis with Bishop Di Marzio during their trip to Rome for their visit *ad limina*.



Right & below: Music for the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament provided by Ms. Angie Amador inspired deep meditation for the participants



Left: Meet the Pro Sanctity Board that meets regularly to plan for all the events during the year. Pictured left is Msgr. Aguggia, Spiritual Advisor; far left is our Reginal Coordinator Ann Sutherland, standing behind Ann is Mona Edwards, Secretary, next to Mona is John Rossi, Treasurer, Alba Gutierrez, Ed Wallace and Angela Di Paola are Reginal Counselors



St. John Henry Newman

In the age when there is great need for attention on improving human dignity, we are celebrating the recent and timely canonization of someone who embodied this seemingly foreign phenomenon. Saint John Henry Newman's example of honesty, dignity and a witness to his faith is needed more and more today. He demonstrated that we can live by our personal truth without being divisive and disrespectful.

Today he is called Saint, but John Henry Newman was not always a Catholic. He was born on February 21, 1801 in London, England in an Anglican household. The Anglican religion was established in 1534 when King Henry VIII was refused a marriage annulment from Rome. As a result, there was a split and the Church of England (Anglican Church) was formed.

Ordained Anglican Priest

Newman was ultimately ordained an Anglican priest in 1833, he was not totally content that there was a lack of true integration of the Catholic elements and wanted restructuring of the Church of England to reflect true catholicity. He wrote published and unpublished literature mostly geared towards this topic. He was one of the founders of the Oxford Movement of the 1830s, which sought to revive certain Roman Catholic doctrines in the Church of England. He was truly a witness to his faith and his beliefs.

Becomes a Catholic

Newman eventually withdrew from the Anglican Church and became a Catholic, much to the chagrin of fellow church members, friends, and family and acquaintances. What few were unable to dispute were his fairness, understanding and thought process as he examined the theologies of both religions. This drew respect from many, because of his unwitting ability to stand by his convictions, thus enabling others who were wavering, to embrace their faith. Today Saint John Henry Newman is admired by both Catholics and Anglicans alike for standing up for his beliefs and following his conscience no matter the consequences. Both religions owe a debt of gratitude because of the way he guided the Anglican Church closer to

its Catholic roots and aided Catholics in having a renewed faith in the church. John Henry Newman died August 11, 1890.

He was beatified September 19, 2010 and canonized October 13, 2019. At the canonization of Saint John Henry Newman, Prince Charles of England declared: "Whatever our own beliefs, and no matter what our own tradition may be, we can only be grateful to Newman for the gifts, rooted in his Catholic faith, which he shared with wider society."

In his homily, Pope Francis explained that the Christian "journey of faith" like the one Newman experienced is an uphill climb. "Faith calls for journey, a 'going out' from ourselves, and it can work wonders if we abandon our comforting certainties, if we leave our safe harbors and our cozy nests," he said. "Faith increases by giving and grows by taking risks."

Saint John Henry Newman's feast day is celebrated on October 9th.



Newman's personal coat of arms as a cardinal. The Latin motto, *Cor ad cor loquitur*, translates as 'heart speaks unto heart'.

Mark your Calendar for 2020!

...Come and grow with us



PEACE...

QUIET...

GOD ...

Moms you give so much of yourself every day to your family, friends, and neighbors. Take a time out and come spend some quiet time with God. Put your to do list on hold for a couple of hours and give yourself the gift of peace, quiet and God's blessing.

February 8th from 10AM-2PM

St. Kevin RC, Church, 45-30 195th Street Flushing, NY 11358

To sign up or for more information contact

Carla 914-588-6872 cmdcc@verizon.net or

Angela 347-587-0297 angeladipaola@verizon.net

RETIRO EN ESPAÑOL

Abril 25 y 26, 2020

Predicador: Rev. Leonel Pacheco

Seminary of Immaculate

Conception

Huntington, NY 11743

OUR LADY OF MIRACLES

Gospel of St. Matthew (DVD)

Every Thursday: 7:30 PM-9:00 PM

1st & 3rd Sunday of each month

86th Street Brooklyn, NY 11236

ST. FIDELIS PARISH

Conozcamos a Cristo

11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Fr. Simonetti Center East

in the Madonna Room

CONOZCAMOS A CRISTO

Wednesdays: 7:00 PM-8:30 PM

Sat., Dec. 14th, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

St. Andrew Apostle, Center

Bay Ridge—Brooklyn, NY 11209

Call: 718-848-3206

CONOZCAMOS A CRISTO

Tuesdays : 7:00 PM-8:30 PM

Our Lady of Fatima Convent

25-56 80th Street

East Elmhurst, NY 11370

Call: 718-848-3206

ST. KEVIN PARISH

After a short break we will resume with the DVD study of the Acts of Apostles, by Jeff Cavins.

Friday morning group will begin on **Jan. 3rd** after the 9 AM Mass, and the **Monday** night group will meet at 7 PM on **January 6th**, and **Jan. 13th**, and **Feb. 10th**.

**For more
information about
all events
please call
718-649-0324**

**Pro Sanctity Movement
National Convention**
July 31-August 2, 2020
Pro Sanctity Retreat Center
in Elkhorn, Nebraska

ALL SAINTS, ALL BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Apostolic Oblates
Pro Sanctity
45-30 195th St.
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.



The Members of Pro Sanctity invite
YOU to come and Celebrate the

Feast of Our Lady of Trust
Eucharistic Adoration /Marian Hour

Sunday, February 23, 2020

"Glorious Things are Said of YOU"

Rev. Msgr. Steven J. Aguggia

Pro Sanctity Spiritual Advisor and Judicial Vicar of the Diocese

3:00 p.m. Our Lady of Miracles Church, Brooklyn NY 11236

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**Pro Sanctity Weekend Retreat**

**May 1—3, 2020**

Retreat Presenter: Msgr. Jonas Achacoso, JCD, Adjutant Judicial Vicar  
Don Bosco Retreat Center, Stony Point, NY

For more information, please call 718-649-0324