

Good News

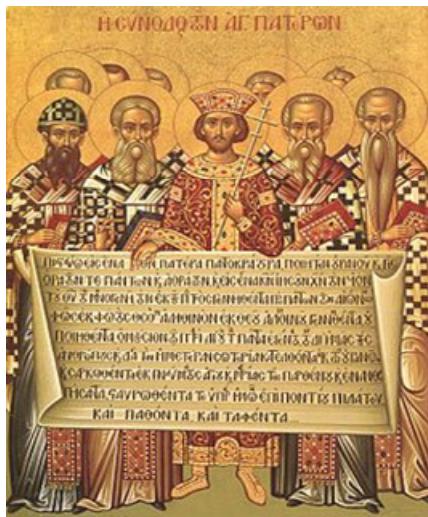


The Pro Sanctity Newsletter

Published by Pro Sanctity East

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Icon depicting Emperor Constantine (center) and the Fathers of the First Council of Nicaea of 325 as holding the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed of 381

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History

Each Sunday, we recite the Creed or Profession of Faith at Mass. Often we do that without thinking too much about what it is that we are saying or why. This series of articles will explore the Creed and, hopefully, will be an opportunity for us to take some time out and think about what we are professing.

In this first article, we will explore **the “why” of the Creed**: why we have a Creed and a little of its history.

The Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed, which we usually use at Mass, is the statement or profession of faith as expressed by the Fathers of the Council of Nicaea, which was held in the year AD 325. The statement of Faith represents the Faith that was professed by the Christian Church since Apostolic times. It is used in the liturgy of both the Catholic and Orthodox Churches and in some Protestant communities.

The Creed was adopted because of a controversy in the

Church. A priest by the name of Arius in Alexandria, Egypt, taught that the Son (Jesus) was divine but that He had been created by the Father and so there was a time when the Son did not exist. The Fathers of the Council saw this as an error because it made the Son less than the Father (the creator is always greater than the creature). The correct belief of the Christian Church was that the Son shares the essence or being of the Father and was co-eternal with the Father. This crisis in theology prompted the need to declare the true faith.

In the year AD 381 a Council was held in Constantinople and the words of the Creed were refined and this is the version that has come down to us. The Creed we use is properly called the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed.

Recently, in the liturgy, we have experienced a new translation of the Creed which reflects better the wording and the thoughts of the original Latin and Greek versions.

Continued on page 3

This Just In...

Loredana Reitano, A.O.

Remodeled Chapel in India



Our Pro Sanctity Spirituality Center in Vidyanagar, Kerala, India is fascinating, welcoming, and totally faithful to the charism of our Founder and our apostolic commitment.

My recent trip to India was marked by a particular event: the reconstruction and inauguration of the new Chapel in our Spirituality Center. The chapel reveals the soul of our brothers and sisters in light and colors that envelop you in the mystery of Christ and his Church. The splendid icon painted by Father Jacob, dearest brother priest, runs to a high point in an architectural fugue that invites you to prayer and contemplation.

I wish to thank all those who contributed with generosity to the realization of a place that immerses us in God and unites us to our brothers and sisters. This place helps us to pray, meditate and also send us out to announce the good news.

Pro Sanctity East Newsletter Editors

Angela Di Paola
Rosemary Darmstadt
Mariakutty Joseph
Nina L. Riti
Agnes Rus
Donna Spoto

Words from the Founder

Servant of God William Giaquinta

Our Relationship with the Father and the Son

Following the example of Jesus, we too, can and must turn to the Father and say "My Father, Abba." Although we will continue to say "Our Father" because we are united as a community and as the Body of Christ, we must also establish a personal relationship with the Father and say, "My Father, I love You, I adore You, I think of You and I know that You love me and think of me." While the love of Jesus is unique because he is the only-begotten Son of God, he has configured us to himself, so that each of us may awaken to the reality that the Father loves me and follows me moment by moment.

Let us consider the Mass, not as we usually think of it, centered on the Cross of Jesus, but as a prayer to the Father in the name of Christ, with the Father as its focal point. In the consecration, the mystical presence of the Cross is always offered to the Father, and at the elevation, we can't imagine the assembly as the focus and not the Father. Jesus will not only forgive us for seeming to give him second place at the Mass, he will be delighted since all our prayers are in the name of Jesus.

Mind Teaser

Can you answer all of the following questions with the same seven-letter word?

1. What preceded God?
2. What is greater than God?
3. What is more evil than the devil?
4. What do poor people have?
5. What do wealthy people need?
6. You will die if you eat what?



The answer is on page 7

Pray for Life



"The life of every individual is part of God's plan. ...How can anyone think that even a single moment of this marvelous process of the unfolding of life could be separated from the wise and loving work of the Creator, and left prey to human caprice?" (John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, #44). Yet we know that the choice to abort an unborn child has been made millions of times in the U.S. alone. And it still goes on.

Please pray for an increase of respect for human life.

continued from p 1

The liturgy also permits the use of the Apostles Creed, which is an older Creed and less developed in explication of the Truths of the Faith. The Apostles Creed is commonly used in private devotional prayer, such as the Rosary.

It is important to understand that each word of the Creed was carefully selected and is there for a reason. That is why it is essential to understand

what the words mean. They express aspects of the Faith because we need to understand what we believe.

Jesus said to [the Samaritan woman], "... You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand." (John 4:22)



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

Part two of the Creed will be published in the next issue

From the Desk of the Director

Donna Spoto

On the Solemnity of the Epiphany we had the great joy of coming together as a Pro Sanctity family to celebrate not only the feast day but our Pro Sanctity family as well. Many long time members and quite a few new members were with us and those that could not be with us were certainly united and present with us through prayer.

Our membership celebration is a special day for us as we recommit ourselves to our baptismal call to holiness in daily life and to spreading the Universal Call to Holiness through the Pro Sanctity Movement. It is fitting that we celebrated on the feast of the Epiphany. We are reminded that just as the three magi brought precious gifts to Jesus that we too are asked to share our gifts and talents with each other always keeping in mind we do what we do always for the greater glory of God.

With this in mind, I ask you in the coming months to consider your own gifts and talents and if you feel you are being called to a more active role within the Pro Sanctity Movement. We will be looking at all of our core groups and committees as we consider how we can expand and grow to help spread the Universal Call to Holiness. If you have a particular gift or talent that you would like to offer through your additional gift of time to the Movement, we would love to hear from you. We will especially be looking at forming hospitality, technology, and liturgy core groups among other things. If you would like to discuss possibilities, please contact me at 718-649-0324 or via email at dsphoto403@yahoo.com.

Tools for Your Lenten Journey

Rosemary Darmstadt



Though we often think of Lent as a time to "give up something," and there is certainly nothing wrong with that as a way to purify ourselves in preparation for Christ's glorious Resurrection. Yet, if we search carefully in our spiritual tool-box, we can also find many positive things we can do during Lent in this Year of Faith:

- Attend Mass frequently during the week and pray for an increase in faith.
- Read a spiritual book that has special application to your life.
- With a few friends watch a movie that has a religious theme, then share your reactions to the film.
- Set aside 10-15 minutes a day to read the Scriptures and ask God what he is telling you through them.
- Even if your schedule is very tight, take 5 minutes at the end of the day to talk to God about the good and the not-so-good things that you did that day and ask for his guidance for tomorrow.

Approach Easter with joy and the faith that if you don't leave him, God will never leave your side.

Ask Pro Sanctity... What Is Salvation History?

Agnes Rus, A.O.

The coming of God's Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over the centuries. He makes everything converge on Christ: all the rituals and sacrifices, figures and symbols of the "First Covenant." He announces him through the mouths of the prophets who succeeded one another in Israel. Moreover, he awakens in the hearts of the pagans a dim expectation of this coming. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* # 522)

What is salvation history? Simply put, it is the history of God's dealings with men and women as we find in the pages of the Bible -- from the creation of the world in the Book of Genesis to the coming of the new heavens and a new earth in the Book of Revelation.[1]

The Vatican II document, *Dei Verbum*, expresses the focus and intent of Christ in God's master plan as: "God...wishing to open up the way to heavenly salvation, manifested Himself to our first parents from the very beginning. After the fall, He buoyed them up with the hope of salvation, by promising redemption (*cf. Genesis 3:15*); and He has never ceased to take



care of the human race. For He wishes to give eternal life to all those who seek salvation by patience in well-doing (*cf. Romans 2:6-7*). In his own time God called Abraham, and made him into a great nation (*cf. Genesis 12:2*). After the era of the patriarchs, He taught this nation, by Moses and the prophets, to recognize Him as the only living and true God, as a provident Father and just judge. He taught them, too, to look for the promised Savior. And so, throughout the ages, He prepared the way for the Gospel. After God had spoken many times and in various ways through the prophets, '*in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son*' (*Hebrews 1:1-2*). "*For He sent his Son, the eternal Word who enlightens all men...*" (*Pope Paul VI, Dei Verbum 3-4, 1965*)

Salvation History can be divided into time before Christ – the time of preparation and the time after Christ – the time of fulfillment. God the Father wishes to incorporate the entire world into Christ, His Beloved Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In our future articles we will present the unfolding of God's plan of salvation throughout the centuries.

[1] *St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, Oct. 4, 2008*



The Pope Tweets - In the future, Pope Benedict XVI joins Twitter fans around the world by tweeting in eight languages. For the first time though, he tweeted on his personal account on December 12, 2012, in Latin. What he said translates as "pray constantly, do justice, love goodness, and walk humbly with Him." The pope's Twitter handle is [@pontifex](#) (bridge builder—an ancient title for a high priest once held by emperors of Rome).



The Personal Challenge

Nina L. Riti

The Pope has declared this the **YEAR OF FAITH**. This newsletter has a twofold challenge to all. To listen to the **CREED** with "new ears" and to meditate on the profound message that is succinctly declared every Sunday by the congregation. Do we merely mindlessly recite the words without a reflection on the deep meaning we are declaring about our faith. Secondly, the Ask Pro Sanctity question above. How many of us are familiar with the term "Salvation History" and realize how it answers the deep rooted quest of our faith? The **WORD** - both Old and New, is a challenge each week to hear the message of God to each one of us and learn where we need to grow. Each Sunday, accept the challenge and embrace the richness when you declare the Creed and listen to the message of the Word of God to you.

Our Stories



PS Members deferred Friendship party and donated over \$1000 for victims of super storm Sandy



Our dear Msgr. Andrew Vaccari gives the Eucharistic blessing to the Pro Sanctity members at the Adoration Celebration prior to Membership Commitment Ceremony and our family Christmas party.



**Day of Prayer
for
Universal
Sanctification
Nov 6, 2012**

Above right Bishop Chappetto gives an inspiring homily to over 100 Pro Sanctity Members who attended this signature event despite the hardships that super storm Sandy caused.

Left...Our dear Bishop smiles with the Filipino choir and their music director Ed Contreras (far left) and Angela DiPaola (far right). We all enjoyed the hand clapping and inspirational music that they provided.



Festival of Faith children and parents gather around Fr. Roberto as he compliments them on their arts and craft project for baby Jesus

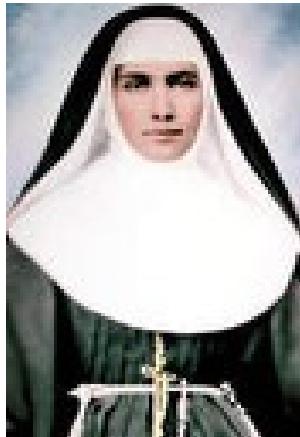


Bible Sharing groups ...

Above ..Members from Our Lady of Miracles in Brooklyn on Thursday night and Far left.. St. Fidelis on Sunday morning pause for the camera before continuing their bible sharing.

Our Models ... Saints for Our Times

Compiled by Nina L.Riti



Saint Marianne Cope

When growing up, many of us heard of Fr. Damien of Molokai. He was the Catholic priest who went to Hawaii and took care of the lepers there. This was a disease I heard about in Scripture where lepers were forced to cry out, "Unclean, unclean" so people could avoid them; I did not even know it was still around. The Hawaiian government banished all the people with this dreaded disease just like they did in Jesus time since no cure was known. Eventually, Fr. Damien, who was caring for them, became infected. So who took care of this priest known as the apostle of the lepers? The now St. Marianne Cope, beloved mother of exiles.

Her early life

Barbara Koob (later changed to Cope) was born January 23, 1838 in Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany to Peter and Barbara Koob. The family soon moved to Utica, New York. Being the oldest sibling Barbara suppressed her desire to become a nun, a vocation the family strongly opposed, and instead remained at home and became a factory worker to help support the family.

Her father later became an American citizen, which at that time granted automatic citizenship status to her entire family. Peter Cope died in 1862, at which time her youngest siblings were of age to help support themselves, thus freeing Barbara Cope to pursue her long-time desire to become a nun and she became Sister Marianne of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis.

Her life as a sister

She then became a teacher and eventually the principal of the newly established school for immigrants in the area. Eight years later, Marianne became a member of the governing council of her congregation. In this capacity, she was involved in the opening of the first two Catholic hospitals – one in Utica, NY and the other in Syracuse, NY. Both are still in operation today. She stipulated in the hospital charter that medical care was to be provided to all, regardless of race, creed or economic standing.

She also instituted cleanliness standards, such as washing hands after leaving a patient. Marianne was one of the first to recognize alcoholics as individuals with a disease, not people with a moral failing and unworthy of help, as many experts held at that time. By introducing these and other procedures and ideas, the spread of disease in the hospital was greatly reduced and they have become part of regular hospital procedures followed today.

Sister Patricia Burkard, who later held the same office as Sr. Marianne as head of her religious congregation, said, "She was a wonderful hospital administrator and really started the patients' rights movement and truly changed how people cared for the sick. She was clearly far ahead of the times."

Her life in Hawaii

Hospital administration was not to be Mother Marianne's journey and so in 1883, she responded to God's call and volunteered to travel to Hawaii with six other sisters to work with people afflicted with Hansen's disease – then known as leprosy. It was so feared that they were the only religious order out of 50 orders contacted to respond to a request for help by the Hawaiian government and a local priest, Fr. Damien De Veuster.

He eventually established a medical facility on the island of Molokai when the government banished those with the disease. Mother Marianne agreed to care for him and his patients. Upon his death, she took over the facility that cared for men and boys and established a separate area to treat girls and women. St. Damien's patients had been living in broken-down huts and were dressed in rags. Mother Marianne went about improving their lot. She raised money and started programs that gave those afflicted a more dignified life. She set up classes for patients and worked to beautify their island with gardens and landscaping. Patients got proper clothing and she gave them a better quality of life.

She couldn't cure them, but she could help them live better. She even took care of the healthy children of the women who had contracted the disease, since family members were afraid they would contract the disease even though the children were healthy. Thus she enabled them to receive religious and academic training and taught them various skills. She stayed on the island till she died on August 9, 1918 at the age of 80. To this day, none of the sisters have contracted the dreaded disease. Shortly after Sr. Marianne's death, Mrs. John F.

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Mark your Calendar 2013!

...Come and grow with us

Series on “Catholicism”

CD presentation by Fr. Barron & sharing.

at the Pro Sanctity Center in St. Kevin’s Parish, 45-30 195th Street, Flushing NY, 11358

THURSDAY evening: Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 & Mar. 7, 14, 21 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY morning: Feb. 8, 15, 22 & Mar. 1, 8, 15 9:30 a.m. after 9am Mass

Pro Sanctity presents Year of Faith

Formation – Spring Classes – for all who attended the Fall classes at
Pro Sanctity Center (located at St. Kevin’s Parish)

TUESDAY Afternoon: **4:00-6:00 p.m. & Evening 7:00–9:00 p.m.**
Feb. 26, Mar. 5, 12 & Apr. 9, 16, 23



Our Lady of Miracles School: 744 East 87th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236

THURSDAY Evening

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Feb. 28 & Mar. 7, 14 & Apr. 11, 18, 25

Spanish Bible Sharing

St. Fidelis Parish

Madonna Room

Feb. 3, 17 & Mar. 3, 17

First & Third Sunday of the Month

11:30 to 1:00 pm

Bible Sharing

Getting to Know Jesus

Every Thursday

Our Lady of Miracles School

Brooklyn, NY 11236

7:30 to 9:00 pm

Festival of Faith For children 3 – 9 yrs

Arts & Crafts and Fun & Faith

Our Lady of Angels Parish

Bay Ridge, Brooklyn NY 11209

Saturday, Feb. 16, Mar. 16, Apr. 20

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

For information call 718-649-0324

Answer to Mind Teaser

The 7-letter word is “nothing.”

Continued from page 6 - Bowler wrote in the *Honolulu Advertiser* “Seldom has the opportunity come to a woman to devote every hour of 30 years to the mothering of people isolated by law from the rest of the world. She risked her own life in all that time, faced everything with unflinching courage and smiled sweetly through it all.”

Talk about living one's faith!

Journey to Sainthood - The sisters immediately started work toward Sr. Marianne's canonization. She was beatified in 2005 and canonized in 2012. At her beatification mass Cardinal Martins said "her life was a wonderful work of divine grace." Speaking of her special love for lepers he said: "**She saw in them the suffering face of Jesus. Like the Good Samaritan, she became their mother.**"

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.

Upcoming Events

Our Lady Of Trust Celebration

Saturday, February 9, 2013

Mass 5:00 pm

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

23-25 Newtown Ave, Astoria NY 11102

Celebrant: Most Rev. Paul R. Sanchez

Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn, Vicar for Queens

And Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs

Refreshments will follow in the Guadalupe Room



Annual Pro Sanctity Weekend Retreat

April 26 - 28 , 2013

“Gazing on the Heart of Jesus”

Presenters: Msgr. Aguggia, Fr. Fonti & Jessi Kary
*Respectively: Local Spiritual Advisor of Pro Sanctity Movement,
Vicar for Priestly Formation, National Director of Pro Sanctity*

Don Bosco Retreat Center, Stony Point, NY

Reserve your single room soon... Private room with bathroom. From Friday dinner to Sunday noon.

Send reservation to Pro Sanctity Center 45-30 195th Street, Flushing, NY 11358