



# Pro Sanctity Movement New York

Published by Pro Sanctity East    [prosantitynewyork@verizon.net](mailto:prosantitynewyork@verizon.net)    [www.nyprosantity.org](http://www.nyprosantity.org)  
**SUMMER 2022**

## Listening ...Walking Together

*Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 1 Cor 3:16*

The Feast of Pentecost concludes the Easter Season and remembers the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary. The day is more than just a commemoration of an event in the history of the Church. It is a celebration of the on-going presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. The Holy Spirit enlivens the Church, invigorating her and giving her the impetus to continue to



Synodality listening & Walking



do what the Apostles did: go out and preach the Good News, proclaiming the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

The Church is alive. The Holy Spirit who created the Church on that first Pentecost Day, transforming the Apostles into missionaries and evangelizers continues to do the same today.

We are the Church. When we think of “the Church” we may be tempted to think of the Pope, Bishops, Priests and Religious, the Parish ministers and those who work for the Church. While those are most definitely part of what makes up the Church, we

also need to broaden our vision and remember that we are all the Church. So, the Holy Spirit works in all of us and in each of us.

That means we all grow together and together we walk that road of holiness.

The Church, through the inspiration of the Holy Father Francis, has embarked on a journey of understanding of the concept of “synodality.”

That term refers basically to a spirit of collaboration among all the Church’s members so that the whole Church moves along on that road to

**Continued on page 3**

### IN THIS ISSUE

- This Just In.....p 2**
- Words of the Founder...p 2**
- Pope Francis said..... p 2**
- Coordinator’s Report... p 3**
- Ask Pro Sanctity.....p 4**
- Points to Ponder.....p 4**
- Come Grow With Us.....p 5**
- Saints Our Models.....p 6**
- Keeping the Equation...p 7**
- Save the Dates.....p 8**

## This Just In...

Ann Sutherland

On April 23 members of the local board, i.e., Ann Sutherland, Regional Coordinator, Our Lady of Miracles, John Rossi, Treasurer, St. Fidelis, Mona Edwards, Secretary, Our Lady of Miracles, Ed Wallace, Counselor, St. Kevin, and Alba Gutierrez, Counselor, St. Fidelis, met with Sonia Chiavaroli, our newly installed International President who was calling in from Italy and presided at our meeting in St. Kevin's. In addition, present from Italy were Miss Caterina Fava, International Vice President of Pro Sanctity to General Moderator of the Apostolic Oblates and Miss Mirella Scalia, member of the General Council of the Apostolic Oblates, who met at Pro Sanctity Center in Queens, NY.

The presentation and the discussion was centered around Synodality "**Listening and walking together**" and how we can study and incorporate this concept in our theme for the 2022-2023 year. The group focused on the question: "How does this walking together happen today?" The sharing that followed was in-depth and detailed. A subsequent meeting yielded many more inputs and you will be apprised at a later date.

### Pro Sanctity East Newsletter Editors

Rev. Msgr. Steven Aguggia  
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Teresa Marracello Bajor  
Cathy Palermo  
Nina L. Riti  
Ann Sutherland

### Words from the Founder



Servant of God William Giaquinta

### From Writings of Bishop Giaquinta

The Spirit is the love that unites the Father to the Son and is the very soul vivifying the Church. We, as members of that Church, are above all, a people who have been made one family through the sanctity that is the love of God. We also, as the New People of God, were born from the love of our Mother the Church, who herself, was born from the love of Christ who slept the sleep of death on the Cross.

We are not simply a group of people joined together in various categories, but as living members of the Church. For, as Bishop Giaquinta never ceased to say: we are all brothers and sisters. This means we are responsible for one another and cannot love God without desiring that our brothers and sisters love him too!

Only when we realize that the Church as the People of God must signify that it is also a Community of Love, can we begin to live its real and revolutionary meaning.

Adapted by Rosemary Darmstadt

### Pope Francis Said

At the opening of the Synod in October 2021, Pope Francis asks us to journey together that we may experience a Church that receives and lives a gift of unity and is open to the voice of the Spirit. For, as he firmly said, "If the Spirit is not present, there will be no Synod." He also said he was certain the Spirit will guide us and give us the grace to move forward together and listen to one another. The Synod offers us the opportunity to become a listening Church – to listen to the Spirit and to listen to our brothers and sisters speak of their hopes and of the crises of faith in the different parts of the world, and of the need for a renewed pastoral life. The Holy Spirit leads us where God wants us to be, not to where our own ideas or personal tastes would lead us.

As the Holy Father continues to speak about the Synod he cites the importance of the diocesan phase because it involves listening to the totality of the baptized and stresses that no one is to be left out – not only among those present, but for the whole of the Church.

Pope Francis also said that we need the ever-new breath of God to create synodality in a Church that God expects in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

During the progression of the Synod let us continue to pray: *Come Spirit of love, open our hearts to hear your voice! Come, Holy Spirit of holiness, renew the holy and faithful People of God! Come Creator Spirit, renew the face of the earth! Amen.*

Compiled by Rosemary Darmstadt

Continued from page 1

holiness. Each member of the body is essential and contributes to the whole. That means each one of us has something to contribute. We all have a part to play, whether it is by having an official ministry in the Church, or a vocation to a life of marriage and family, the single life, living our life of prayer for the Church as a Pro-Sanctity member.

Individually we contribute. Together we move forward.

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;*

*there are different forms of service but the same Lord;*

*there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.*

1 Cor 12: 4-6

The Holy Spirit dwells in the Church, in her members and so we are all called to listen to the Spirit's voice and respond with all we have and are! Our challenge

is asking ourselves: How well do I respond?

*Article by:*  
**Msgr. Steven J. Aguggia**  
**Pro Sanctity Spiritual Advisor**  
**Chancellor Diocese of**  
**Brooklyn and Queens**  
**Pastor of St. Pancras**



**Bishop Brennan,**  
**the new Bishop of**  
**Brooklyn and Queens,**  
**launches the**  
**Eucharistic Revival**

On Corpus Christi Sunday, we will celebrate the gift of the Holy Eucharist as well as the start of the Eucharistic Revival, a three-year period of renewed focus on

**the Real Presence** of Christ at every Mass.

**Eucharistic Revival starts Sunday, June 19**

A special message from Bishop Robert J. Brennan to the faithful of Brooklyn and Queens announcing the start of the Eucharistic Revival on **Corpus Christi Sunday, June 19, 2022.**



## FROM THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR

**Ann Sutherland**

Dear Associates and Friends of the Pro Sanctity Movement, we recently celebrated the Feast of Pentecost and I hope that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we are all in better spaces than we were a year ago. The feedbacks I receive indicate that the Pro Sanctity Movement has been instrumental in helping members to learn and grow in our faith and I thank God for the spiritual doors that continue to be opened for us.

Just recently we lost two of our most stalwart members. Pamela Perkins and Melanie Peter were members from the Canarsie group. Their voices of song and prayers and reflections helped to make our meetings richer and deeper. We miss them greatly.

I am happy to report that all Synodality questionnaires were completed by all groups and submitted on time. Thank you for your hard work and commitment.

Back in March, Angela and I had a telephone conference with Joan Patton and Greg Weiss from the National Board and submitted a report on our activities over the past three years. As we prepared the report, we were surprised at the accomplishments we had made throughout this time despite our challenges. None of these would have been possible without your help and inputs. We thank you and look forward to our next year of prayer and praise and enlightenment. I invite you to return to the community participating face to face in all the activities that you were forced to partake in at home via phone or zoom meetings.

I thank you for your ongoing support of the Pro Sanctity Movement. On behalf of the Apostolic Oblates of New York and the members of the board, I wish you a safe and happy summer.

All the Best!



How do We Listen as we Walk Together in Holiness?

*“Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.” (Luke 24: 13-16)*

In this story, we see that two of Jesus’ disciples were walking and discussing the day’s events, namely Jesus’ Crucifixion. And because they were so caught up in grief over it, they were not open to recognizing the Spirit of Jesus between them.

As followers or believers of Christ, we need to always keep Him at the center of our lives. Individually, one needs to fill oneself with prayers, with scriptural readings and teachings, of Christ’s Words.

So that when we come together with others, who may or may not share our ideals, we will be better able to walk, talk, and listen actively to each other. Because Christ is at the center of it all.

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3: 16-17)*

*“Individually we contribute. Together we move forward.” (Msgr. Aguggia)*

## Points to Ponder

Nina L. Riti

***Ponder - to consider something deeply  
and meditate upon it***

*As you read this newsletter I ask you to ponder on the thoughts of each of the news articles. Msgr. Aguggia reminds us that “the Holy Spirit enlivens the Church, invigorating her...to go out and preach the Good News proclaiming the gospel message of Jesus Christ”. This makes me think of the message of St. Francis when he urged us to go out and preach the gospel and if necessary use words. So ponder how you are doing that in your daily life. For example, as you stand in line at the supermarket and see someone with one or two items do you let them go ahead or ignore them. When you are driving your car and someone cuts you off ...do you become an angry truck driver using a language I can’t say, or do you say a prayer for him ? Are you seeing and hearing the many messages the Holy Spirit is whispering to you daily but you are too busy to respond.*

*Ponder the Words of our Founder and Pope Francis as they remind us of the role of the Holy Spirit and who we are and what we must do. If we remember that we are brothers and sisters and need to include all of God’s children on this journey, not only the ones we agree with, and need to find a way to welcome them back to a Church they feel failed them.*

*In Ask Pro Sanctity we are reminded of the scripture reading of two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus. They were so sad and upset, discouraged and disheartened. I could go on describing how they felt but I am realizing that this is how we might be feeling about the time we are living in today with the problems we are facing in our homes, in our Church, in our society. We are NOT on this journey alone. Pope Francis asked us to partake in a Synod...a synod is about people getting together to **listen** to each other and share how we can **walk together** on this journey. Whatever church you attend, partake in the synod questions. I was completing the questions in my church with a friend. When she finished reading the questions she sighed, said why bother, and walked out.*

*Unfortunately, she is typical of how many people feel. Ponder on what you can do to help open dialogue so people can feel they are heard and welcomed back to our community.*

# Mark your Calendar for 2022 – 23

...Come and

grow with us



Open the Gifts

St. Kevin Parish

**Festival of Faith**

For children age 4 to 8

July 11 to 15, 2022

Monday—Friday

8:45 am to 12:00 noon

St. Kevin Parish Center

**GAMES CRAFTS  
FUN and MUSIC**

Registration -more info

Antoinette Oliva 347-204-6558

Shelly Oliva 718-539-1718

Agnes Rus 714-309-6651

agnesrus44@gmail.com

Leela 402-709-8180

Mariakutty 347-263-0047



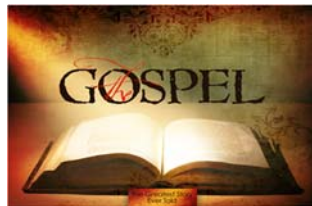
Fr. Myles Murphy shares a cup of coffee with the PS members after a very inspiring reflection on O.L. of Trust Celebration at St. Kevin church. May 22.



PS members enjoy the gathering at O.L. of Trust celebration



## Reflection on the Gospel of Saint Luke



Pro

**Sanctity Group of  
Brooklyn**

Conference call on

Monday, Thursday,  
7:00 pm

Call No. 339-207-8069

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**Pro Sanctity Spanish Group  
of Brooklyn & Queens**  
Conference call on

Monday to Thursday  
At 8:15 pm

Call No. 339-209-4970

**El group P.S.  
Conozcamos a Cristo**

**Saint Fidelis Parish**  
Presenta en Espagnol

**"Symbolon"  
in DVD**

In the Madonna Rm  
First and Third  
Sunday  
of the month

11:30 am  
after the Mass

For information call  
Gloria 718-848-3206  
Alba 917-683-4670

# *Our Models ... Saints for Our Times*

By **Cathy Palermo**



## **Catherine Doherty**

Catherine Doherty was a woman of deep faith who followed Christ in poverty and compassion, a social activist and founder of the Madonna House Apostolate. A pioneer of social justice and a renowned national speaker, she was also a writer of hundreds of articles, best-selling author, and a dedicated wife and mother.

### **Early Life**

Catherine Fyodorovna Kolyshchikina was born in Russia on August 15, 1896, and baptized in the Russian Orthodox Church. She grew up in the aristocratic privilege of Czarist Russia, traveling throughout Europe with her parents. At age 15, she was married to her cousin, Baron Boris de Hueck, an arranged marriage. Soon after World War I broke out, Catherine became a Red Cross nurse at the front lines, experiencing the horrors of battle firsthand. On her return to St Petersburg, she and Boris barely escaped the turmoil of the Russian Revolution with their lives, nearly starving to death as refugees in Finland. It was during this ordeal that Catherine made a promise to God that if she survived she would give her life to Him. Eventually they escaped to England where Catherine joined the Catholic Church.

In 1921 the couple migrated to

Canada where she gave birth to their only child, George. For the next few years they experienced extreme poverty and a deteriorating marriage due to her husband's infidelity. Eventually they would divorce. Catherine decided to move to New York City and work various jobs to provide for herself and her son. Her intelligence and gift of public speaking led her to become a lecturer. Her talks became popular all across Canada and the US. Soon she became wealthy again. But at the same time she felt a deeper calling to serve God. Her answer came through a passage that leaped at her every time she opened the Bible. "Arise, go and sell what you possess, give it to the poor and follow Me." It became clear to her that she had to leave everything and follow Christ.

### **Friendship House**

With the Bishop's blessing she began to live and serve the poor in the slums of Toronto in the early 1930's. There she founded the first Friendship House. It provided shelter for the homeless, meals for the hungry, books and literature for the young. In 1938, Catherine started another Friendship House in Harlem, New York, living with and serving African-Americans. Because of her particular vision for the movement and interracial approach she encountered much persecution and resistance. Once at a lecture in Savannah, she was nearly beaten to death by a group of white Catholic women. Eventually, due to division within the organization and opposition to Catherine's ways of doing things, Friendship House was forced to close.

### **Madonna House**

What seemed like the end of the road turned out to be the most fruitful period of Catherine's life. In

1943, After having received an annulment Catherine married Edward Doherty, a celebrated reporter. He shared her love for God and supported her work with the poor. Together they started the community of Madonna House in rural Toronto in 1947. This grew into a family of lay men, women and priests who were dedicated to our Lady and with permission from the Church, lived together in poverty, chastity and obedience. Catherine and Eddie took the same promises. Within a few years, Bishops were asking Madonna House staff to open more houses in their dioceses, to live the Gospel of Love through soup kitchens, prayer houses, houses of hospitality and friendship. Today there are 22 missionary field-houses throughout the world.

### **Little Mandate**

While raising her son and being a faithful wife, Catherine also wrote many books, gave hundreds of lectures, and wrote articles. She always spoke for help for the poor. She followed the "Little Mandate" which she felt was given to her by Jesus. Sell all and give to the poor. Take up your cross and follow Jesus in poverty. Be simple and child-like. Let your life tell of Jesus. Do things well for God. Help your neighbor always. Know that God is with you. God will be your rest.

### **The Duty of the Moment**

Catherine Doherty died on December 14, 1985 at the age of 89. Since then the cause for her canonization as a saint has been officially opened in the Catholic Church. Catherine was one of the great women of the twentieth century who had a very practical loving spirituality that brought healing to many wounded and poor people. She taught that the way to holiness is through the "duty of the moment". She described it as "what you should be doing at any given time, in whatever place God has put you." Whether it is serving the homeless in the community or a simple, mundane task at home or at work, do each thing to the best of your ability and with great love for God.



# Keeping the Equation...

## Part II

By **Teresa Marracello Bajor**



In the last newsletter we talked about keeping God in the Equation and referred to the people in the *past* that we find in the Old Testament and in this newsletter we are going to look to the *present* and people that inspire us today.

What courage! What great examples of fighting to keep God in the equation.

It's utterly remarkable to me how much love for the Lord these Biblical examples had. As far back as Old Testament times, God was being replaced by idols. The steps they took for the Lord required great courage and would cause most of us to ask if we would have been as brave. I chose these examples to remind us that, if we trust in God, He will never fail us. Most of us aren't ready to take such bold steps. And, that's ok. To make a difference in today's world, any step forward, whether big or small, can help.

As St. Teresa of Avila reminds us,

“Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which He looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,

Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.”

We can't just sit on the sidelines! God is counting on us to keep him alive in the minds and hearts of those around us. So, how we can overcome such a powerful force in today's society? What can we do?

First, pray for guidance. Ask the Lord for the strength and courage to step out and do your part whether big or small. God knows what you are capable of. Even if you think you are too weak.

Then, take action! Here are some ways you can reflect God's love in the world and bring others to know Him

Lead by example. Live your faith. Wear your joy. Others will see it and want to know what you have that is bringing you so much joy and peace.

Be open about your beliefs. Be open about how your faith has had a positive impact on your life. Don't be afraid to create waves.

Nourish yourself with Scripture. So much strength can come from knowing God's Word personally.

Participate in a Bible Study or similar. Surround yourself with like-minded people so you don't feel that you are alone in this 'battle.'

Help shape the future. Train for and teach CCD.

Support people in public office who have similar values and who fight for Christ when it

comes to legislation.

Use Social Media to spread God's Word and to spread positive stories.

Make a decision to be

God's hands and voice on earth

As the Founder of Pro Sanctity encouraged, '1+1 = many.' Many small steps will create momentum and power transforming people who will join in and fight to keep God in the equation.

### Is it a choice?

“Lord show me the way: it doesn't matter if you want me as a mother or a nun, what really matters is that I always do YOUR Will”. This was the yardstick Maria Cristina Cella Moccellin lived by her entire life. She prayed for guidance and the gifts of the Holy Spirit helped her chose to marry Carlo Moccellin and become wife and mother. She believed “everything is gift, even a disease, because if lived in the best way it can really help us grow.” So when she was pregnant with her third baby, Riccardo and was told she had cancer ...again she had to make a choice...again she prayed and chose to postpone chemo until after her baby was born. Sadly, after the baby was born and Maria could begin chemotherapy the cancer had spread and caused her great suffering and pain. She wrote “I believe that God would not allow pain if He did not want to obtain a secret and mysterious but (a) a real good.”

A month before she died she wrote “Dear Riccardo, you need to know that you are not in the world by chance ... the Lord wanted your birth despite all the problems there were...” Again discerning God's will and doing it is not easy but it is a choice. The year she died she wrote “Although my health is precarious I AM HAPPY! She ends the letter saying “I am ashamed to ask the Lord for anything else, for us the miracle is already here: if HE loves us and we love each other nothing else matters”. And so remember what scripture says “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances” 1 Thess 5:16-18



Pope advances case of sainthood for mother of three

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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 in Prayer the



## Universal Day of Sanctification

The legacy of Servant of God Bishop G. Giaquinta

**"Listening & Walking Together"**

**Saturday, November, 2022**

**St. Kevin Church**

**195th Street & 45th Avenue**

**Flushing, NY 11358**

**More Details Later**

**\*\*\***

**Pro Sanctity Weekend Retreat**

**October 14-15-16, 2022.**

**Immaculate Conception Seminary**

**440 West Neck Road**

**Huntington, N.Y. 11743**

**For more information, please call 718-649-0324 or 347-587-0297**